

Crow River Day Trip

By Michael White

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What a great day. Sunny, warm, high water, few bugs, lots of birds and good people. We had a late cancellation, so there were nine boats on the water, all sea kayaks. We saw a pair of osprey, a number of great blue herons, a colony of barn swallows under a bridge; and a colony of bank swallows along the river. A mature bald eagle flew back and forth over us several times as it tried to catch thermal updrafts. The current pushed us along at about 4 miles an hour, so we travelled 16 miles in about four hours. Put in was at Riverside Country park near Hanover; take-out at the confluence with the Mississippi at a DNR boat ramp with paved parking.

The high water was a hazard, and was pushy at times. Opportunities to land were very limited since the water extended bank to bank. The standing and downed trees in the water at the banks were also a concern all along the way.

The pot luck afterward was a lot of fun, and people stayed into the evening enjoying the view from the deck and the tree-filtered sun.

We are thinking that a fall foliage trip down the Crow would be a great addition to the schedule..