

PINE BARRENS TRIP

October 19, 20, and 21

Four hardy adventurers traveled to Atsion Campground in October. Included were Tina Ehrig, Priscilla Kistler, Greg Wojcik and Larry March. Originally we planned to do either the Mullica or the Batsto which are on the western side of the Pine Barrens. Unfortunately at that time we were in a drought and the water levels were too low to paddle. The other two rivers, the Wading and Oswego, which are on the eastern side of the Pine Barrens were also very low.

Rather than canceling the trip, our group decided to go tidal and Saturday found us on the Mullica River south of Batsto. Here the Mullica is much wider and the tide provided plenty of water. We paddled about five miles and took out near Lower Bank. There was some discussion about whether the tide was going out, coming in or was slack. Through the careful observations of one of our group (I won't mention his name) it was proven without a doubt that the tide was coming in. With our faster kayaks and the wind at our backs we easily were able to paddle against the tide.

On Sunday, starting at May's Landing, we paddled the Great Egg Harbor River, taking out at Estelle Manor Park. This trip had particular meaning for Tina since her father was instrumental in having the Great Egg Harbor River classified as a Wild and Scenic River. At the Estelle Manor Park is a beautiful and educational nature center named in honor of Tina's father, Warren Fox. If you are in the area it is well worth the visit to the Park. You can put your boat in at the two access areas. It is also a great place to go bike riding.

The Wilderness First Aid training that was offered by the Red Cross this fall came in handy on this trip. On Friday night, Greg accidentally tripped and fell on one of the metal fire rings at the campground. He had a badly bruised leg and a hematoma. Fortunately this did not prevent Greg from paddling but it could have been very serious. Ice and some ibuprophen helped prevent swelling and reduce pain.

In summary, we had great weather, and excellent food, including crabcakes and eggs for breakfast! It was fun to paddle on two new rivers. Larry March.



Our intrepid paddlers had a wonderful day on the Great Egg Harbor River.

We all enjoyed the tasty food on the Pine Barrens trip.

