

Film producers guide Kankakee paddling event

By SARA DEYOUNG | Posted: Wednesday, August 5, 2015 11:03 am

Over 80 paddlers took to the Kankakee River July 25 for the Northwest Indiana Paddlers Everglades of the North Event. NWIPA joined with the Newton County Park Board to organize the free event through the flooded riverbanks of the river. Jeff Manes and Pat Wisniewski, writer and producer respectively, of the Everglades of the North documentary accompanied paddlers on their tour of the Grand Kankakee Marsh highlighting points of historic and ecological significance. The native hibiscus flowers, also called swamp mallows were not in bloom, however the high water levels allowed participants to venture deep into the historic bayous and even witness fledgling eagles along their route.



Paddling event

The flooded Kankakee River allowed paddlers to travel deep into the forests surrounding the river.

After the paddling event, participants gathered at Luke's Restaurant in Sumava for lunch and a detailed presentation by Manes and Wisniewski about the Grand Kankakee and the importance of the river to this day.

The Northwest Indiana Paddlers and the Newton County Park Board are working with the Upper Iroquois Watershed Initiative for a paddle event Aug. 29 on the Iroquois River in Brook. Registration starts at 9 am and boats and a shuttle will be available for use. Reservations are requested and can be made online. T-shirts will also be distributed, along with coupons to area businesses. For more information and to make a reservation for this free event go to www.iroquoiswatershed.com

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