

Manistee River Currents

From The Banks At Chippewa Landing



Newsletter #32

Last Friday some of the Chippewa Landing Staff went on a three day trip that was long over due after talking about it all summer. What a great time spending time with the crew fishing and telling stories around the campfire in the middle of the deep woods along the Manistee River. We found some neat spots to camp and even caught a few fish for dinner.

Fall is one of my favorite times to canoe the Manistee River and camp at Chippewa Landing. The skeeters are gone, the colors are incredible, and you can get a good pick of campsites. It is quieter along the river and you may see deer, eagles, beavers and other wildlife that you missed in the summer. Trees along the river are beginning to change and last weekend there were already some brilliant Maples in their red colors against the dark green pine backdrops. As you drive down the hill to the landing you will find the road and campsites carpeted with bright yellow leaves that light up the under story of the woods.

Here are some things that I have learned over the years that can make your fall canoeing trip more pleasant; bring a camera and keep it in a zip lock bag. There is no better time to get wonderful color photos of the river.

Wear waterproof foot gear. A good rain coat is mandatory. Even if it does not look like rain, the rain coat will make an ideal wind breaker for when things cool down in the afternoon. Staying warm and dry is the key to an enjoyable fall canoe trip. Bring plenty of dry cloths in a good dry bag. Think wool, it can keep you warm even when moist.

Bring something warm to drink. Coffee, tea, or spiced cider in a thermos is a real river treat. An unexpected treat would be to bring a little stove burner along and heat up some water, cider, or soup during a shore lunch. Be creative.

Gloves, a warm hat, and a scarf are small and easy to pack and can make the trip more enjoyable if needed.

Remember, you won't be stopping and playing in the water as much so your fall trip may be a little quicker than a summer float.

Campfire food, think of something warm like chili, stew or a rich soup. S'mores are just as good around the campfire in the Fall as they are in the Summer.

And for all the hunters out there remember that Oak Grove camp is surrounded by state land and is in some great deer country. You can literally walk from your camp into the woods and start hunting.

Roland's Spiced Cider

One gallon of apple cider

6-12 cinnamon sticks

Small handful (20?) of allspice balls
Small handful of whole cloves

Combine all ingredients and heat the cider to boiling then simmer, covered, for at least one half hour. Serve in coffee cups and you can add your favorite libation like a little shot of brandy to keep the furnace warm. Buy your spices in bulk at a food co-op. Wrap them up nice with a little recipe card for gifts to friends at Christmas.

Chippewa Landing

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