

2022 Outings

May 14 Birds, Boats, Best: Russell Park to Camp Hi
9:30 am *A paddle of 9.6 miles, or about 5 hrs*

In honor of World Migratory Bird day, **Dan Best**, naturalist emeritus of Geauga Park District, joins us to celebrate the birds and other denizens of this lush section of the Cuyahoga. We'll put in at the new boat launch at Russell Park and then make our way downstream, where Best will introduce us to the brilliant Prothonotary warblers that nest here--in large part due to his longtime work in this stretch of the river. We'll paddle through extensive wetlands and swamp forest; spring wildflowers in bloom will keep us company in drier areas.

Although there's one mild stretch of faster water before we get to Camp Hi, this trip is generally suitable for novice paddlers and families.



Photo: Chrissy McClarren/Andy Reago

June 18 River Day—Whiskey Island Walk
9:00–10:30 am

Join us on this June morning as we tour Wendy Park on Whiskey Island at the mouth of the Cuyahoga. We will learn about the human and natural history of this unique place, including the fight led by Ed Hauser to stop this urban greenspace from becoming a gravel dock. Meet at the Wendy Park sign just past the marina. Look for a RiverDay sign.

Contact John Kaminski at riverkeeper@protonmail.com for more information.



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June 18 **River Day—A Paddle with Bill Z.: Red Lock to Station Rd.**
2 – 4 pm *3 miles, or about 2 hrs*

Bill Zawiski of the Ohio EPA joins us for this fun and informative outing. After a quick start at Red Lock, we'll meander into a maze of braided channels and tree jams on our way to the historic Station Road Bridge. Along the way, Zawiski will discuss the ecological significance of dam removal on the Cuyahoga and why he and Friends of the Crooked River have worked to remove several to date: in Kent, Munroe Falls, and Cuyahoga Falls. We'll pass a number of tributaries--Spring Creek, Columbia Run, Brandywine Creek, and finally



Chippewa Creek—before we arrive at our destination: the site of the most recent dam removal, the Canal Diversion Dam near Rt. 82. If water levels are cooperative we'll paddle to the site itself, examine where and how the dam was taken out, and paddle briefly back upstream to the takeout; if levels are uncooperative, we'll take out and then walk downstream to have a look at the newly free-flowing river.

This trip is only for paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.

[Please note that this paddle and the walk above are separate events--you don't have to do both. But you're welcome to!]

Sept. 25 **Industrial Valley bike tour**
9 – 11:30 am



We will use the Towpath Trail to explore the Industrial Valley of Cleveland. 90% of the riding will be on the bike trail with a few short stretches on the street. Our pace will be leisurely as we make several stops to learn about the history of the valley, to read the wayside signage and to enjoy the spectacular views. The trail is mostly flat with a few steep hills. Steelyard Commons, 3447 Steelyard Dr, Cleveland, OH 44109. Meet in the back parking lot by the small Steel Heritage Center building. The building is in the northeast corner of the shopping center near the Five Guys restaurant.

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PADDLE: Cuyahoga St. to Bolanz Rd.
July 10 *10.1 miles, about 6.5 hrs*
9:30 am

This section of the Cuyahoga shows mixed use: wooded parkland with intrusions from agriculture, recreation, and commercial and residential development. Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the RAP (Remedial Action Plan) area start here. We will pass Valley View Area of Cascade Valley Metro Park, an impressive new park on the site of a former golf course. Akron's Waste Water Treatment Plant discharges into the river just upstream of a large, active heron rookery. A lively current with some Class I chutes add interest, and in-stream downed trees (strainers) demand caution. Tributaries include the Little Cuyahoga, Sand Run, and Yellow Creek. This is an immensely interesting, contrasting section of the river. For paddlers who can control a boat in moving water.

PADDLE: A Float in the Shipping Channel
Aug 14
9:30 am

We will plan a paddle in the shipping channel in Cleveland, home to rowers, SUPers, dragon boats--and 700-foot freighters. Details to be determined in coming weeks.

