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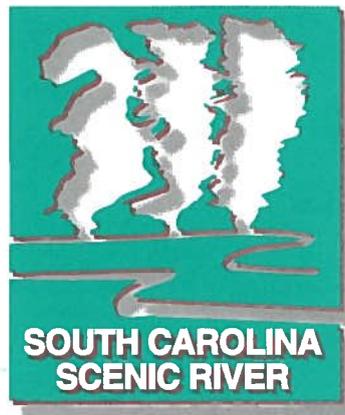


# Palmetto Trails

GUIDE SERIES

THE SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM'S

# FAVORITE *Canoe & Kayak* TRAILS OF SOUTH CAROLINA



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HERITAGE INFORMATION FUND

**SCANA**

## Scenic Rivers Program

The South Carolina State Scenic Rivers Program is charged with protecting unique and outstanding ecological, cultural, recreational, and scenic resource values of our state's rivers. State Scenic Rivers are designated by the General Assembly after being determined eligible by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and after local support for designation is demonstrated. The method of scenic river protection is through a cooperative, voluntary management program, which involves landowners, community interests, and the SCDNR working together for common river management goals through a local scenic river advisory council. Designated State Scenic Rivers include the Ashley, Broad, Little Pee Dee, Lower Saluda, Lynches, and Middle Saluda.

## Scenic Rivers Trust Fund

The South Carolina Scenic Rivers Trust Fund supports the Scenic Rivers Program and river conservation in South Carolina generally. Funds are used for the acquisition of conservation easements along designated scenic rivers as well as for other purposes, including production of information on river conservation needs.

*For information contact:*

**South Carolina Scenic Rivers Trust Fund**  
**SCDNR, 2221 Devine Street, Suite 222**  
**Columbia, SC 29205**  
**(803) 734-9100**

<http://water.dnr.state.sc.us/water/envaff/river>



[www.palmettoconservation.org](http://www.palmettoconservation.org)

*For membership information contact:*

**1314 Lincoln Street, Suite 213**  
**Columbia, SC 29201-3154 • (803) 771-0870**

*This project was made possible by the SCANA-Heritage Information Fund which is maintained by the Palmetto Conservation Foundation.*

*"The Scenic Rivers Program's Favorite Canoe & Kayak Trails" was researched and written by John Dantzier.*

*Thanks to Jim Schmid, SC State Trails Coordinator, for his invaluable contribution to the production of the Palmetto Trails Guide Series.*

## Introduction

Any listing of the twelve favorite canoe and kayak trails in South Carolina is bound to stir up debate, because different paddlers prefer different kinds of experiences. We have chosen twelve water trails which are suitable for paddlers from beginner to intermediate status. Once you have cut your teeth on these trails, there are no limits to the experiences you can have on South Carolina's waterways. South Carolina water trails feature ancient groves of cypress, blackwater, whitewater, saltwater marshes, oxbow lakes, trout, turtles, herons, alligators, eagles—in short, opportunities for you to create the best paddling experiences you can find in the world.

The river trails in this guide take you to creeks, rivers, and swamps. Please understand that the trail descriptions are necessarily general and limited by the available space. Be sure to check with the sources of information listed in this guide to get more details and obtain a better understanding of a specific river. River conditions are always subject to change; it's never the same river twice, so take caution and be prepared—then you will have great fun!

If you require paddling lessons, transportation, canoes, or guides, South Carolina has excellent outdoor outfitters who can enhance the safety and quality of your trip. Take a trip with them and learn how to paddle. Guided outings for most of the canoe and kayak trails in this book, are given almost year-round.

The South Carolina Professional Paddlesports Association (SCPPA) is a nonprofit organization of canoe and kayak outfitters and guides who embrace the highest professional business practices and conduct.

When planning your trips, you'll find SCPPA outfitters very dependable resources ready to assist you in creating a lifetime of memories with a touch of adventure. Whether you are beginning or experienced, young or old, you'll have endless fun exploring South Carolina's many waterways.

**For a current list of SCPPA members visit their website at:**

[http://sun.adventuresports.com/canoe/sc\\_ppa](http://sun.adventuresports.com/canoe/sc_ppa)

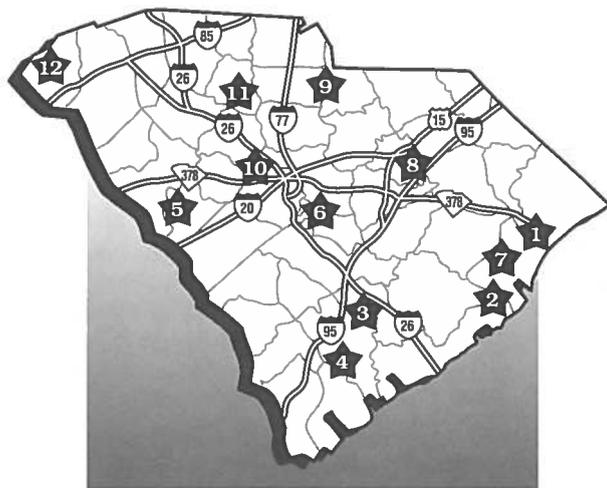
## Tips

The following is a list of precautions that can make your river trip safer and more enjoyable.

Everyone in the party should wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket and secure other safety gear to the boat (e.g., flashlight, compass, first-aid kit, emergency blanket, waterproof matches). On longer trips, you may need to bring extra food and extra water in case you have to camp overnight unexpectedly. Do not drink river water unless you have purified it with tablets, filtering, or by boiling it at least ten minutes. Carry rain gear. Everyone should bring an extra set of clothes or at least an extra pair of shoes. Put all your gear in a waterproof bag. Relax and have fun, but stay alert.

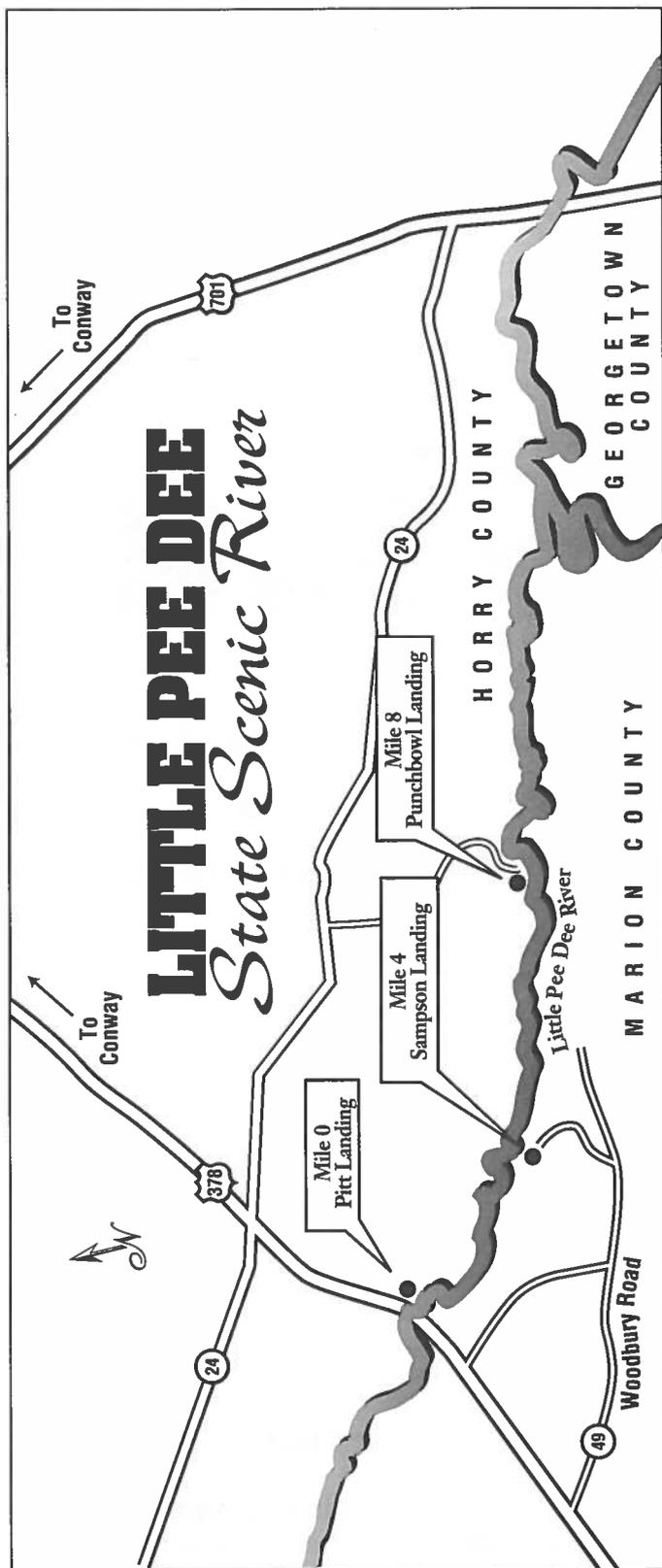
- ▲ File a float plan with a family member, friend, marina, Coast Guard, or the SCDNR. It should tell where you intend to go and approximately when you will return. You can get a free float plan form from: Float Plans, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29412 or call (843) 762-5041.
- ▲ Avoid strainers, which are trees that have fallen into the water. Strainers can trap boats and swimmers as river currents push them into a dangerous tangle of submerged tree branches.
- ▲ In whitewater, avoid keeper holes. These hydraulics look like waves and are caused by the action of the current on a rock. They have a dangerous tendency to keep objects or people under water.
- ▲ Alcohol and water don't mix. If you're going to drink alcohol, save it for camp.
- ▲ Keep away from the tree-lined banks of the river. Trees can catch a boat or hold hidden dangers like hornet's nests. Strainers, mentioned above, are typically found at river bends along the outside bank.
- ▲ Plan well. Typically canoes travel at about two to three miles per hour. Water levels will affect your speed. Make sure you have a shuttle ready at the end of a trip and tie car keys to your person. Know the access points; many landings are difficult to see and easy to miss from the water.
- ▲ Cold water can kill. Wearing polypropylene, wool or a dry suit can slow the dangerous effects of icy water.

## Showcased Trails



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# LITTLE PEE DEE

## State Scenic River

The Little Pee Dee River offers a wondrous blackwater canoe trip ending only a handful of miles from the world-famous Grand Strand. The Little Pee Dee runs from north-eastern Marlboro County near the North Carolina border to its confluence with the Great Pee Dee River at the southern end of Marion County. The Lumber River, which rises in North Carolina near Southern Pines, adds a considerable volume of water to the Little Pee Dee near Mullins.



The last fourteen miles of the Little Pee Dee, from US 378 down to the Great Pee Dee, has been designated a State Scenic River. Part of this section is described in this guide. The Little Pee Dee along this stretch features many side channels and oxbows, so be sure to keep to the main channel by following the current. This canoe trail is appropriate for beginners so long as you're careful.

Named after the Pee Dee Tribe which lived here before European settlement, the Pee Dee was the river originally mentioned in Stephen Foster's ever-popular song, "The Old Folks At Home," before someone persuaded him that "Way down upon the Swannee River" sounded more mellifluous.

Hardy paddlers can continue past the confluence with the Great Pee Dee, ending up about 11 miles downstream at the US 701 bridge, 14 miles SE of Conway.

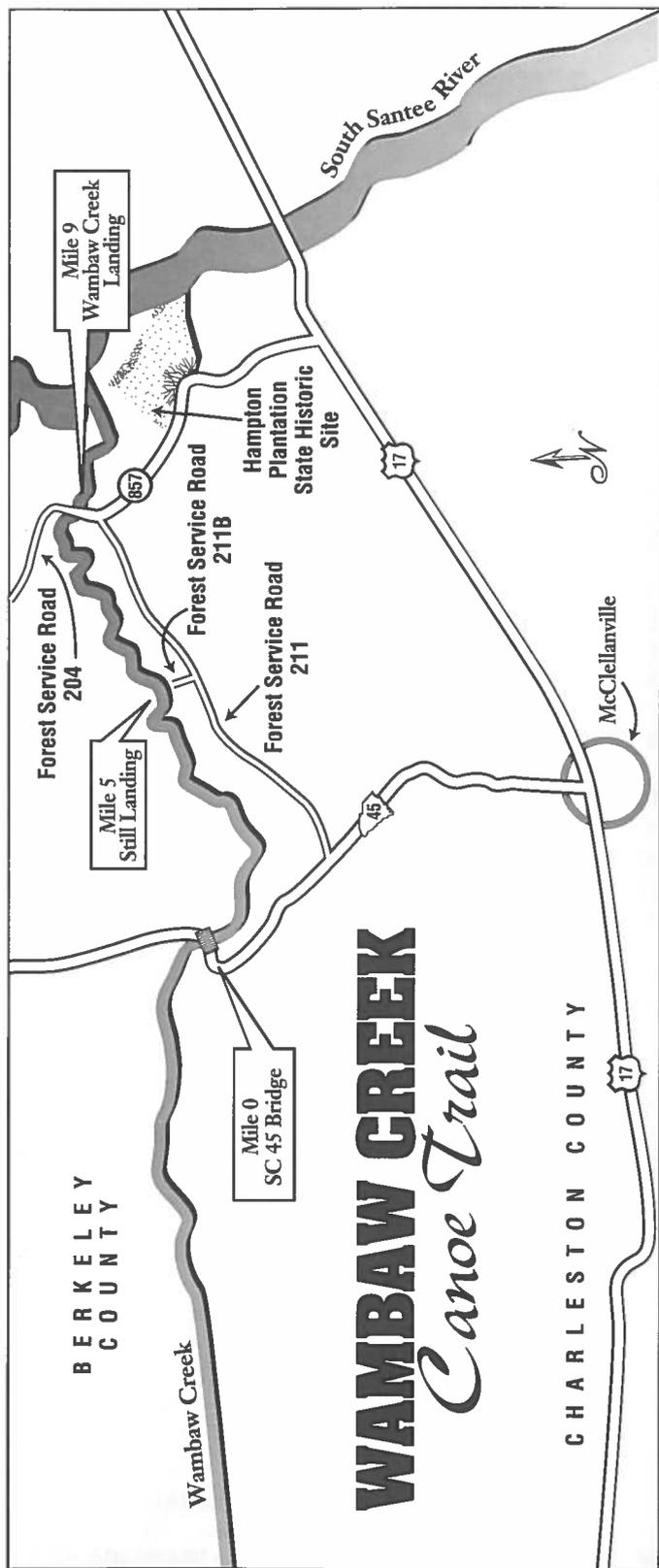
**LENGTH:** 8 miles.

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

- Mile 0** - Pitt Landing—10 miles SE of Conway on US 378.
- Mile 4** - Sampson Landing—This landing can be reached from SR 49 (Woodbury Road), which is 2.1 miles W of Pitt Landing and the US 378 bridge over the Little Pee Dee. Head S on SR 49; take the second left turn to reach the landing.
- Mile 8** - Punchbowl (formerly Punchpole) Landing—This landing lies on the Horry County side. From the US 378 bridge, go 1.8 miles E, turning right on SR 24. After 4.3 miles on this road, turn right onto a dirt road. Punchbowl Landing is at the end of the road, about 3 miles away.

**For More Information, Contact:**  
Wildlife Action, Inc.

P.O. Box 543 • Mullins, SC 29574 • (843) 464-8473



# WAMBAW CREEK Canoe Trail

This tide-influenced creek, a tributary of the Santee River, is an easy flatwater float through the vast swamps of the Francis Marion National Forest, named after the legendary Revolutionary War hero who secured his fame by evading the British in these swamps. Today, Wambaw Creek is a specially designated Wilderness Area within the National Forest, but in the 1700s, settlers using the labor of African slaves converted parts of the swamp for rice fields and timber harvest. Wambaw Creek was used for the transportation of these goods; you can still see the long-abandoned rice dikes and canals.



The trail starts officially at the SC 45 bridge between Charleston and Berkeley Counties and ends at Echaw Road (Forest Service (FS) Road 204). However, since Hurricane Hugo, the first 2-3 miles are not passable. You may find it best to start at Still Landing.

**LENGTH:** 9 miles

#### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0** - SC 45 Bridge—Throw-in landing. At the present time fallen trees are preventing passage for the first 2-3 miles. Check with Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center for current conditions.

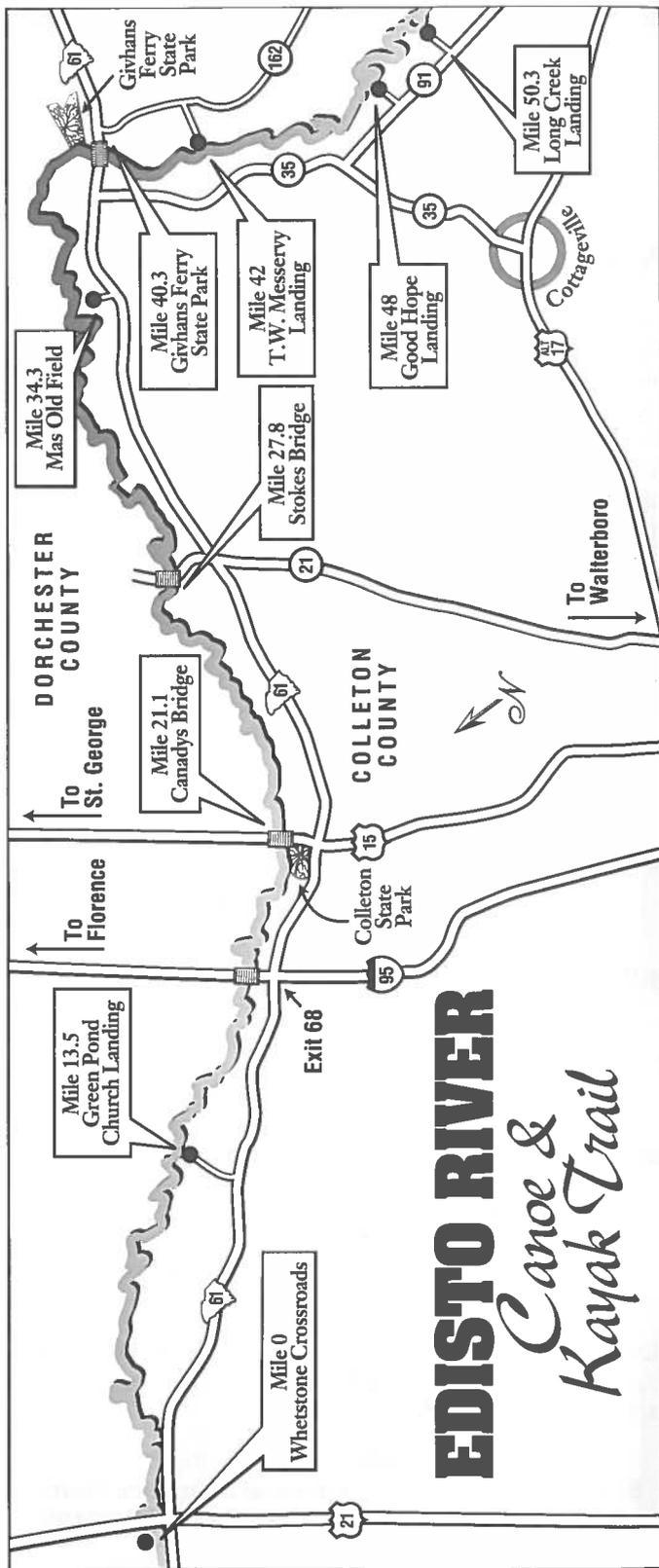
**Mile 5** - Still Landing—This is a public landing on FS Road 211B. From McClellanville, drive N on SC 45 approximately 5 miles and turn right onto FS Road 211. Drive approximately 4 miles, turn left onto FS Road 211B, and continue to the landing. Paddle as far as you can upstream, then turn downstream.

**Mile 9** - Wambaw Creek Landing—A public landing near Hampton Plantation State Historic Site on FS Road 204. From McClellanville, drive NE on US 17 approximately 5 miles and turn left onto Secondary Road (SR) 857. Just past Hampton Plantation SHS, SR 857 turns into FS Road 204. Continue to Echaw Landing.

**CAMPING:** While camping is permitted, very few suitable camping areas are available due to the swampy character of the stream banks.

#### For More Information, Contact:

**Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center**  
5821 US Highway 17 North • Awendaw, SC 29429  
(843) 928-3368



# EDISTO RIVER

## Canoe & Kayak Trail

This 50-mile canoe and kayak trail in southeastern South Carolina runs along the Edisto, the state's longest freeflowing river and one of the prettiest anywhere. The banks of the Edisto are lined with gigantic live oaks draped with Spanish moss. The buttresses of the mighty bald cypress and water tupelo rise out of the black water like grey sentinels of the river's secrets. The Edisto River, generally flat and gentle, is passable by canoes, but you may have to pull or lift over occasional logs. Fauna you may be lucky enough to see include water moccasins, white-tailed deer, eastern box turtle, American alligator, kingfishers, warblers, great blue heron, and egret. The river is abundant with redbreast sunfish.

The water trail is flat with a steady current, but the beauty and diversity of the flora and fauna and the closeness of the banks make for an interesting ride and afford great rest stops. Trees have a tendency to fall into the main current of the water, although the Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Commission keeps the trail as clear as possible. Approach all log-jams with caution as they can both trap canoes and harbor sunning reptiles.

**LENGTH:** 50.3 miles

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0** - Whetstone Crossroads—At the Sandy Island Bridge; a fee may be charged. From Waterboro, drive N on I-95 to Exit 68 (SC 61) and turn left onto SC 61. At the intersection of SC 61 and US 21 turn right onto US 21. The bridge is 0.2 mile.

**Mile 13.5** - Green Pond Church Landing—Public landing on the S side of the river. From Whetstone Crossroads, drive S on SC 61. Drive approximately 7.1 miles and turn left to Green Pond Church Landing.

(continued to page 8)

## **EDISTO RIVER** *Canoe & Kayak Trail*

*(continued from page 7)*

**Mile 21.1** - Canadys Bridge—Public landing with a concrete ramp on N side of river. From SC 61 at the turnoff for Green Pond Church Landing, go S 6.2 miles to the community of Canadys and turn left onto US 15; the bridge is 0.7 mile farther. Picnicking and camping available at Colleton State Park.

**Mile 27.8** - Stokes Bridge—Access/take-out is just below the bridge. From Canadys, continue SE on SC 61 for 5.7 miles, turning left on SR 21. The bridge is approximately one mile away.

**Mile 34.3** - Mas Old Field—Public landing with concrete ramp on S side of river. From SR 21, continue SE on SC 61 approximately 3.6 miles and turn left. The landing is at end of the road.

**Mile 40.3** - Givhans Ferry State Park—The landing is just above the SC 61 bridge. From the Mas Old Field turn-off, continue 4.5 miles to the bridge. Cross the river and follow signs to the Park. Camping is available at the Park.

**Mile 42** - T. W. Messervy Landing—This is a public landing with a concrete ramp on the E side of the river. From Givhans Ferry State Park, drive S on SR 162 approximately 1.5 miles and turn right onto the second dirt road.

**Mile 48** - Good Hope Landing—Public landing with concrete ramp on W side of river. From the Colleton County side of the river near Givhans Ferry State Park drive S on SR 35 approximately 6.5 miles and turn left onto SR 91. Turn left on the first dirt road and go to the landing.

**Mile 50.3** - Long Creek Landing—Public landing with concrete ramp on W side of river. From SR 91 near Good Hope Landing, drive S approximately 1.5 miles and turn left.

### ***For More Information, Contact:***

**Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail Commission**  
PO Box 1763  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
(843) 549-9595

### ***For camping along the Edisto:***

**Colleton State Park (843) 538-8206**  
**Givhans Ferry State Park (843) 873-0692**

## **River Conservation** *And You*

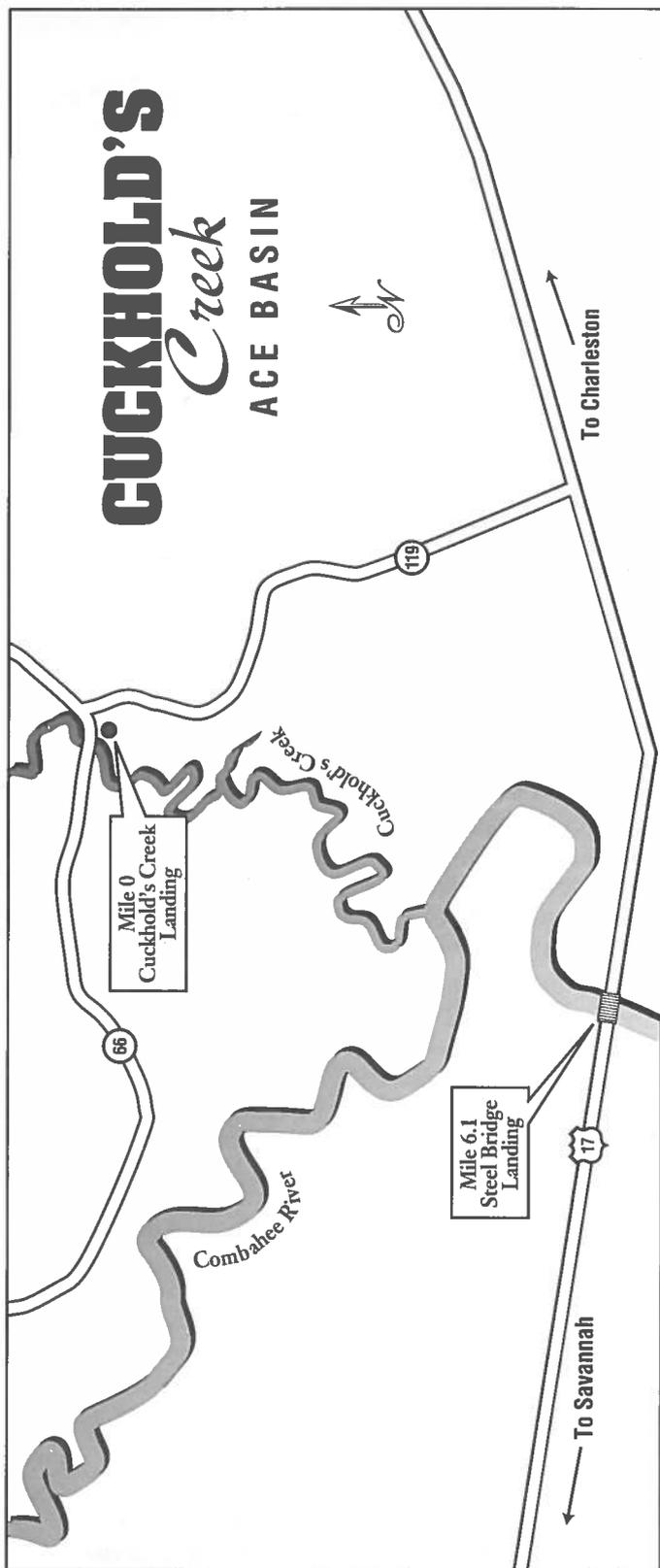
**R**ivers are complex and complicated features of our natural world. Taking care of these ever-changing watery environments requires partnerships and commitments from all of us who use and value our rivers.

South Carolina is blessed with an incredible variety of rivers. A representative sample of our rivers are described in this guide. Even though some of these rivers are State Scenic Rivers, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and others flow through National Forest lands, we all must work together to ensure the long term health of these natural places.

Our hope in maintaining the natural beauty of land and water, and the rich variety of life it supports, rests upon our ability to work together and to create a shared stewardship ethic. Programs such as South Carolina Scenic Rivers utilize cooperation and education to build upon and create a stewardship ethic that leads to long-term appreciation for and wise management of our natural environment.

Nancy Newall, the poet and conservationist stated, "Conservation is humanity caring for the future." This definition of conservation is the essence of a stewardship ethic. As we float these beautiful rivers we must reflect upon our stewardship ethic. We need to share our appreciation of the rivers with others, share our thoughts on river management with river managers and get involved in river conservation.

The late Supreme Court Justice and outdoorsman William O. Douglas called rivers, "choice natural assets reserved for all the people." Share your love of rivers with others and it will help to assure that these special places will be here for future generations to enjoy.



# CUCKHOLD'S *Creek*

## ACE BASIN

The ACE Basin, at the southern end of the state, is considered to be one of the last great undeveloped watersheds in the eastern United States. ACE is an acronym for the Ashepoo River, draining the center of the basin, the Combahee (pronounced Cumbee), forming its western boundary, and the Edisto, forming the eastern boundary. Cuckhold's Creek flows into the Combahee above US 17.



This tidally influenced creek offers both scenic beauty and historic interest in the form of the rice fields and canals of the former Combahee Plantation through which it passes. Birding is excellent here, and the plantation house can be seen on the right-hand side. Launch on the early falling tide; tides here are 5-6 hours behind Charleston Harbor. (Consult tide tables or local newspapers.) Lovely white spider lilies decorate the banks in late spring and early summer.

As with most coastal rivers and streams, the channel of Cuckhold's Creek can be hard to follow. About 1.5 miles from the put-in, Folly Creek flows in from the east (left). The latter creek is big enough to look like a fork in the stream, so follow the current carefully. At 3.5 miles, Cuckhold's Creek flows into the Combahee. From here on, tides and winds can make for a challenging trip, while the landscape is dominated by cordgrass marshes.

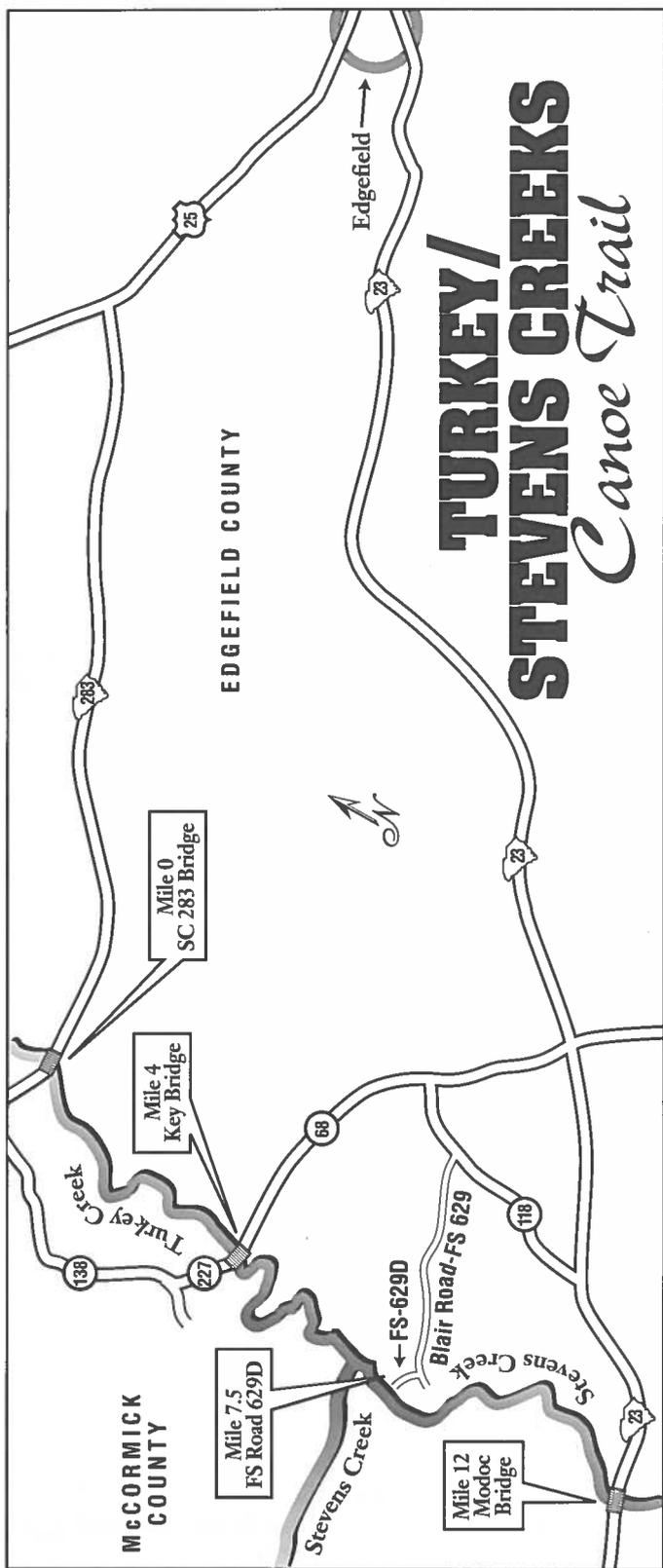
**LENGTH:** 6.1 miles

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0** - Cuckhold's Creek Landing—From Exit 42 (near Yemassee) on I-95, take US 21 South about 2 miles until it merges into US 17 Alt. Turn left at the latter, proceeding about 3 miles and turning right on SR 66. Follow SR 66 another 3 miles to its junction with SR 119, and look for signs.

**Mile 6.1** - Steel Bridge Landing—From Cuckhold's Creek Landing, turn on SR 119 and go S. After 4.5 miles, SR 119 dead-ends at US 17; turn right. The bridge over the Combahee is 3.5 miles farther; Steel Bridge Landing is on the far bank, to the right.

**For More Information, Contact:**  
**ACE Basin Management Office**  
**585 Donnelley Drive • Green Pond, SC 29446**  
**(843) 844-8957**



## TURKEY/STEVENS Creeks

Turkey and Stevens creeks form the boundary between Edgefield and McCormick counties and flow through relatively undeveloped woodlands on their way to the Savannah River. The Sumter National Forest borders much of these creeks forming a protective barrier from human encroachment into the river corridor.



The land along the river is floodplain forest interspersed with marshy areas and occasional steep hardwood bluffs. Turkey, white-tailed deer, and other wildlife favor these diverse environs. Quiet, reverent paddlers can be rewarded with up-close wildlife sightings. Catfish, bream, and bass can be seen swimming in the clear waters. Generally, the creeks run from 20 to 30 feet wide and from 1 to 6 feet deep with occasional holes up to 15 feet deep. Float time can vary upwards from 5-6 hours depending on the amount of water.

**LENGTH: 12 miles.**

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0** - SC 283 at Edgefield/McCormick county line. From Edgefield, drive northwest on US 25 approximately 4 miles and turn left onto SC 283, continuing to the bridge at the county line.

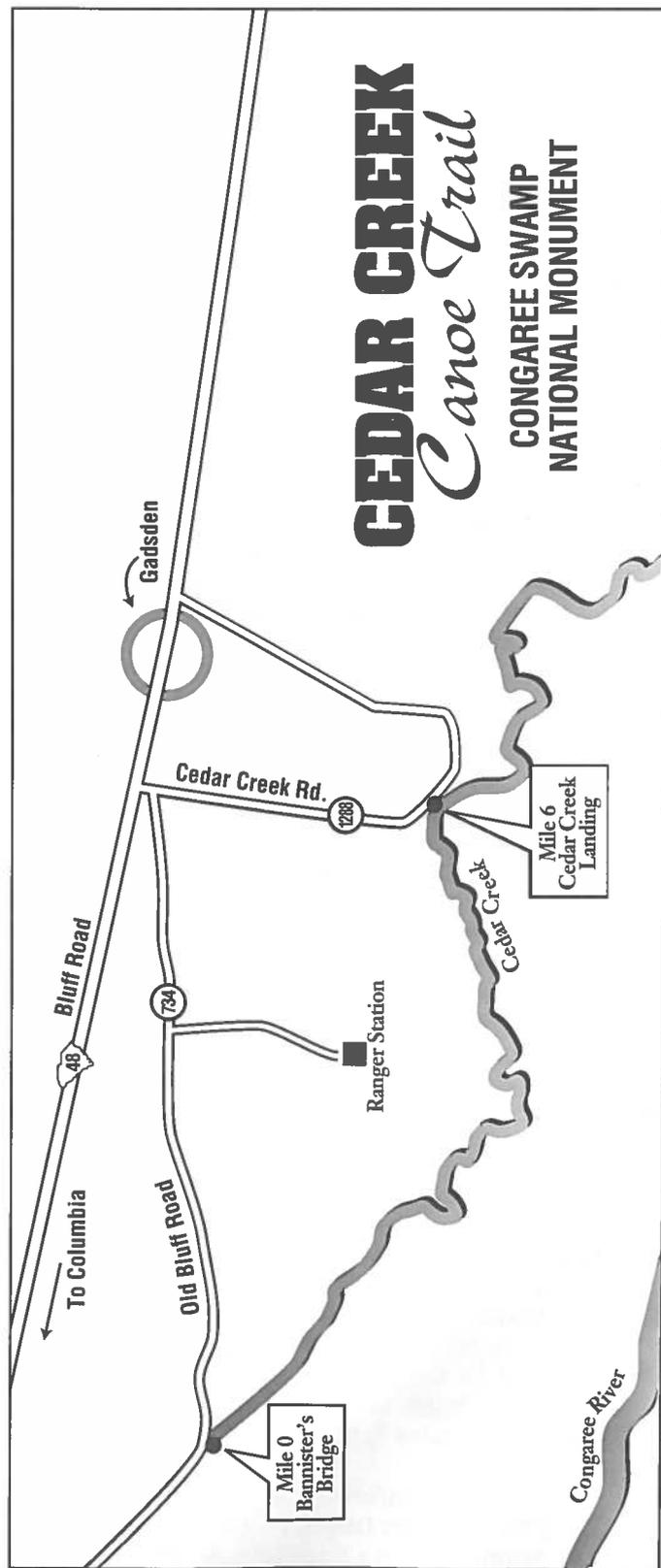
**Mile 4** - Key Bridge—From the first access point, continue northwest on SC 283 for 2.6 miles, turning left on SR 138. After 1.5 miles, there is a fork; bear left onto SR 227 (Key Road). Key Bridge is 2.6 miles farther. Steps lead to the water at the abandoned steel bridge next to the bridge currently in use.

**Mile 7.5** - FS Road 629D—Across Turkey Creek and the county line, Key Road changes to SR 68. Continue on it for 3.1 miles, turning right on SR 118 (Cold Springs Road). Proceed about 1 mile, turning right on FS Road 629 (Blair Road). Go about 3 miles, then make the first right (FS Road 629D) and go to the landing which is a throw-in.

**Mile 12** - Modoc Bridge—This is the last access/take-out and is on the left just above the bridge. From SR 118 at the turn-off for the previous landing, continue southwest about 2 miles to SC 23 and turn right. Modoc Bridge is 2.5 miles farther. Stairs lead to a paved parking area.

**For More Information, Contact:**

**Long Cane Ranger District • (803) 637-5396  
810 Buncombe Street • Edgefield, SC 29824-1021**



# CEDAR CREEK Canoe Trail

## CONGAREE SWAMP NATIONAL MONUMENT

Once a prime fishing and hunting ground for the Congaree Tribe, Congaree Swamp was designated a National Monument in 1976 and a International Biosphere Reserve in 1983. Slight elevation changes in the swamp create great diversity in flora and fauna throughout the floodplain forest.



Voyages into the vast domain of these record 150-foot bald cypress and towering 160-foot loblolly pines will make you question whether you've taken a wrong turn and ended up in prehistoric times. The creek bed is narrow and allows one to closely inspect the majestic cypress trees that line the main channel. Few have gone the whole length of Cedar Creek to the Congaree River and the 601 Bridge take-out. Adventurous paddlers will enjoy this wild trip, but it is decidedly not for beginners. Expect log jams and strainers.

Park rangers insist that paddlers check in to inform the rangers of your float plan in case a rescue is later needed. You can also get accurate directions and information on water conditions at the same time.

**LENGTH:** About 6 miles.

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0** - Bannister's Bridge—From Columbia, drive southeast on Bluff Road (SC 48) and turn right onto Old Bluff Road (SR 734), about 20 miles from I-77. Drive 4.3 miles and turn right onto a dirt road at the bridge. You can get directions for parking at the ranger station. This segment is narrow and frequently clogged with fallen trees; check with rangers for conditions or start at the next put-in.

**Mile 6** - Cedar Creek Landing—From Bannister's Bridge, continue on Old Bluff Road until it dead ends at Cedar Creek Road (SR 1288). Turn right. At approximately 2.5 miles, a pipe gate marks the gravel road that leads to a throw-in access.

### For More Information, Contact:

Congaree Swamp National Monument • (803) 776-4396  
200 Caroline Sims Road • Hopkins, SC 29061

# BLACK RIVER *East*

This is part of the second (eastern) half of the 81-mile Black River Trail. We have selected this section because it is one of the easier stretches of river to follow. The Black River is incredibly scenic. As the name would indicate, it is a blackwater stream. Live oaks drip with Spanish moss, and bald cypress and other buttressed trees are everywhere. The first 10 mile stretch is a great introduction to South Carolina swamps; a wonderful place to fall in love with blackwater paddling.



When water levels are average, the section can be paddled in one day. A brochure on the entire Black Water Trail produced by the Sea Grant Consortium and Tide Water Trails is highly recommended to ensure that you are traveling in the correct direction. (See contact information below).

**LENGTH:** 23 miles.

#### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

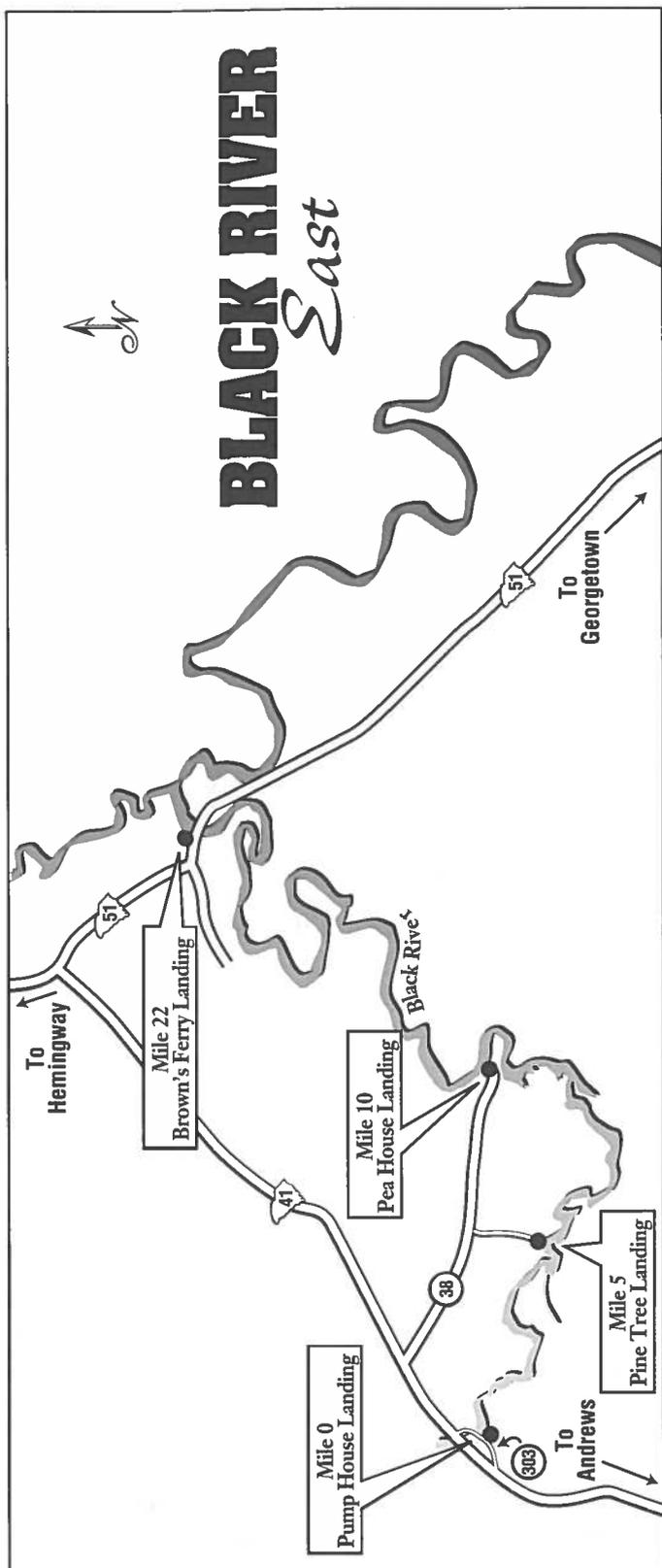
**Mile 0** - Pump House Landing (also called Red's Landing or Potatoe Ferry Landing)—Public landing with concrete ramp. From Andrews, drive N on SC 41 and at the railroad tracks turn right onto SR 303, then left onto SR 699. The landing is at the end.

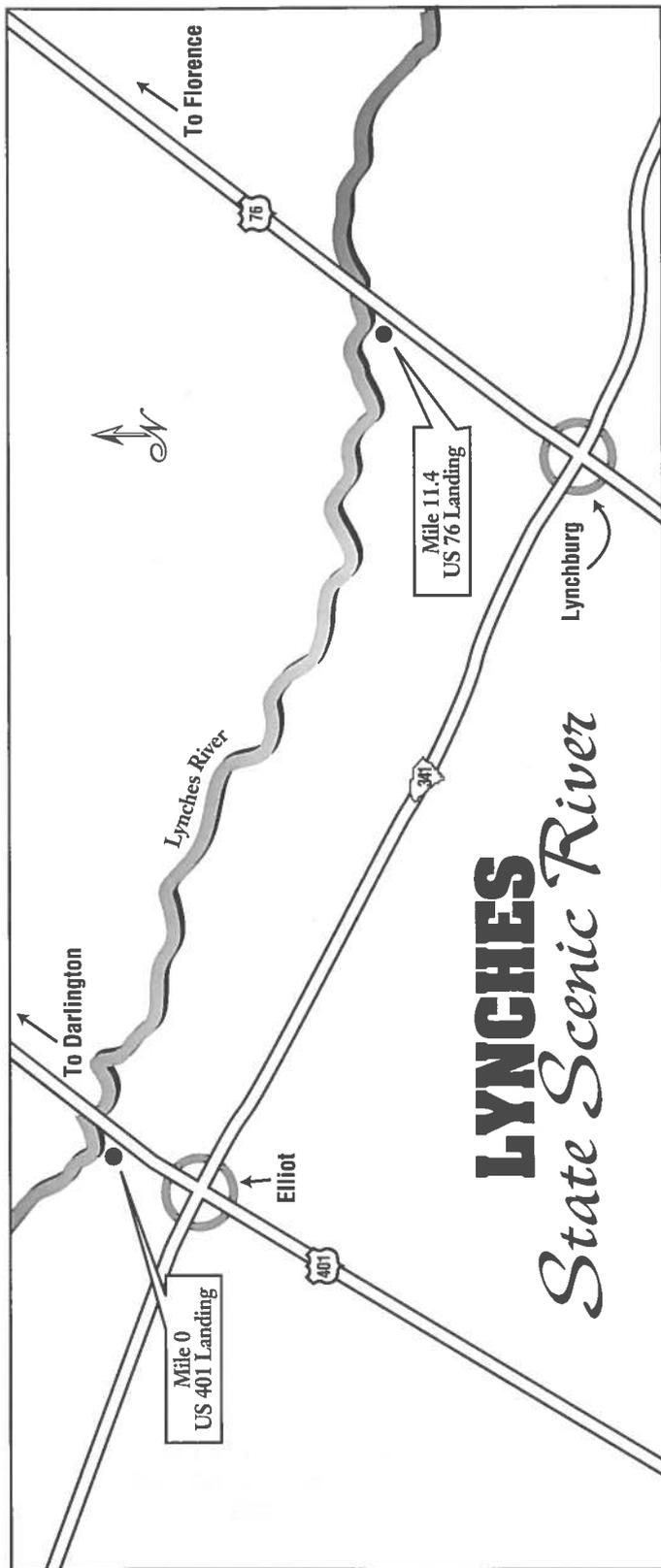
**Mile 5** - Pine Tree Landing—Public landing with concrete ramp on N side of river. From SC 41 and the railroad tracks (the previous turn-off), continue on SC 41 for 1.3 miles. Turn right onto SR 38 (Big Dam Swamp Road), go about two miles, turn right and go to the landing. Camping. Fresh water available from an artesian well.

**Mile 10** - Pea House Landing—Public landing with concrete ramp on N side of river. From Pine Tree Landing, return to SR 38, turn right, and go to the end. Camping.

**Mile 23** - Brown's Ferry Landing—Public landing with concrete ramp on N side of river. From Andrews, drive N on SC 41 and turn right onto SC 51. Head S for 4 miles and follow signs to landing. Camping.

**For More Information, Contact:**  
Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 1776 • Georgetown, SC 29442  
1 (800) 777-7705





## LYNCHES *River*

The Lynch River has been accorded State Scenic status over a 54-mile stretch from US 15 above Lee State Park to Lynch River State Park, the longest segment of any river to receive this designation. Much of the course of the Lynch passes through heavy and often difficult river swamp, but along the trail we describe, it runs between well-defined banks and is relatively easy to navigate. Still, it is recommended you not undertake it unless you have attained at least advanced beginner status, due to the number of strainers.



Along the Lynch, development pressure is slight and wildlife is abundant. Beavers, great blue herons, river otters, white-tailed deer, and wood ducks can be encountered. Along the trail described, pines, live oaks, and willows line the banks.

Due to the plethora of exposed logs, the Lynch is considered too difficult to run if the water level is below 4 feet at the gauge at US 52. (Flood stage is 14 feet.) To find out the water level without having to stop by the US 52 bridge, call the National Weather Service (see below), and ask for the river level on the Lynch River at Effingham.

**LENGTH:** 11.4 miles.

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0 - US 401 Landing**—From Exit 120 near Bishopville on I-20, take SC 341 S toward Lynchburg. After 3 miles, the road forks. Take the left fork, staying on SC 341. US 401 is 3.6 miles farther; turn left. The landing is on the left, 1 mile up the road, before the bridge.

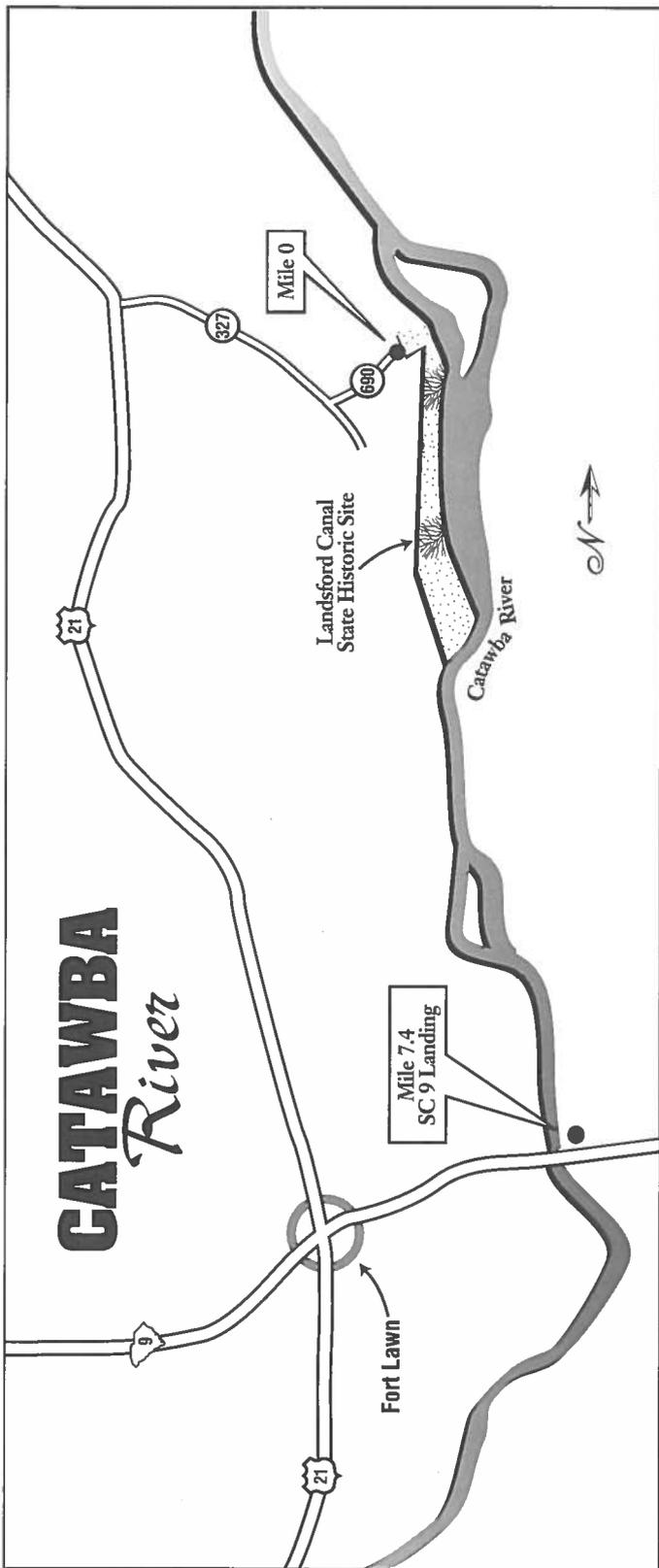
**Mile 11.4 - US 76 Landing**—From the previous landing, return to SC 341 and turn left. Proceed 5.6 miles to the junction with US 76 at Lynchburg, turning left. It is 2 miles to the river, the landing is on the left, before the bridge. Take out between the railroad trestle and the bridge.

### For More Information, Contact:

**Lee State Park**  
 Route 2, Box 1212 • Bishopville, SC 29010  
 (803) 428-3833

### For water levels:

Consult the Blue Pages of your local telephone directory for the National Weather Service, or call (803) 822-8135 for the Columbia Forecast Center.



# CATAWBA River

This trail runs from Landsford Canal State Historic Site to SC 9. Land's Ford was an 18th Century crossing of the Catawba following earlier Native American fords. In the 19th Century Robert Mills conceived a plan to link the port of Charleston to the Mississippi River via a series of canals. Landsford Canal was built to bypass the rocky shoals of the Catawba. Railroads made the canal obsolete, however, and all that remains are the great stone locks of the canal.



The rocky shoals provide an excellent, but not too difficult, paddling experience. And in season, they feature perhaps the finest riverine wildflower display in the state. The Rocky Shoals Spider Lily is now rare, but the rocks of the Catawba shoals in early June explode into color as the lilies bloom in astonishing numbers.

However, take care when paddling this Eden. Opposite the put-in at Landsford Canal is not the east bank of the river but a large island. At the south end of the island, move to the left (east) side of the river to take advantage of greater water flow here. You should also call Duke Power prior to your trip (see below) for water release information pertaining to Lake Wylie Dam. If a large volume of water is being released (up to 11,800 cubic feet per second), the normally Class I rapids can approach Class II or III. Under low water conditions (and releases can be as little as 80 cubic feet per second), the river may not be runnable.

**LENGTH:** 7.4 miles.

#### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

**Mile 0** - Landsford Canal SHS—From Rock Hill, take US 21 S. About 2 miles past the county line, turn left on SR 327. The entrance to the park is 1.7 (SR 690) miles farther. There is no official landing; take the path to the river slightly upstream from the main picnic area.

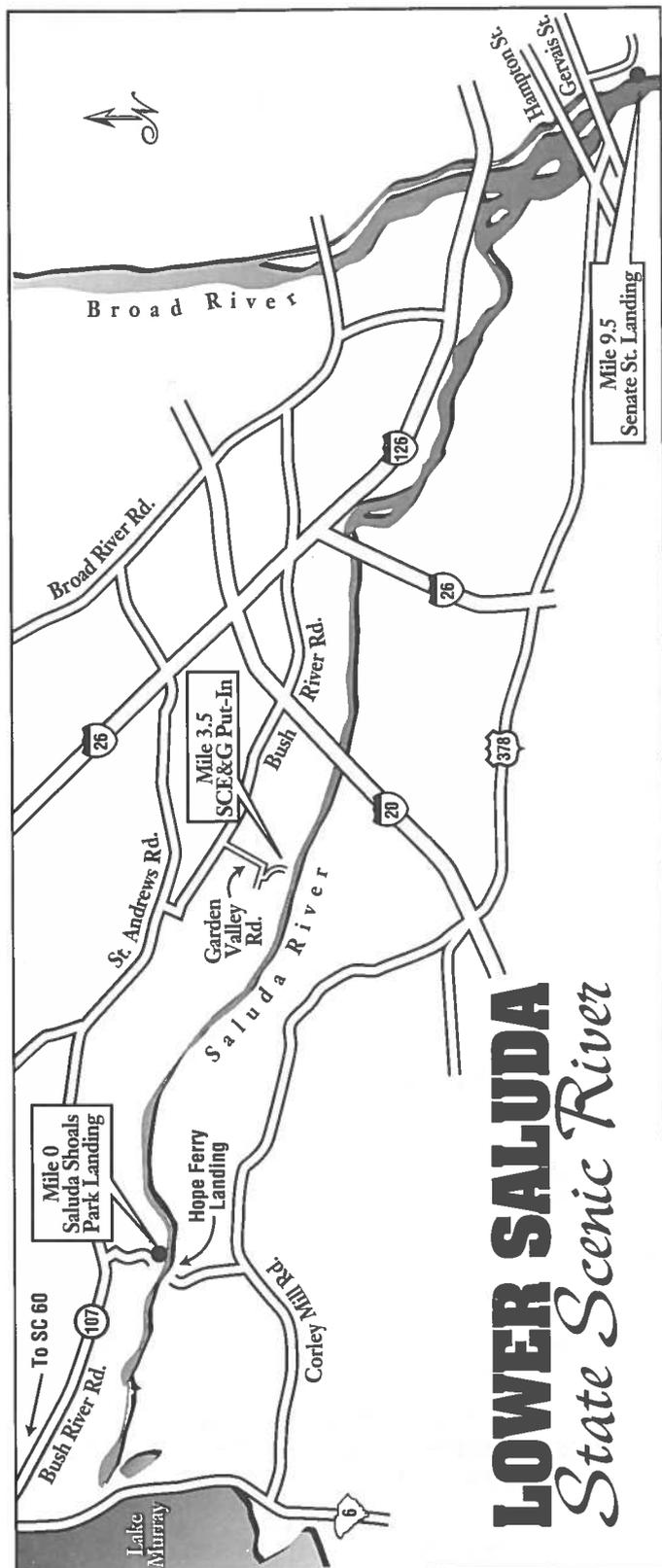
**Mile 7.4** - SC 9 Landing—From Landsford Canal, return to US 21, turning left. The junction with SC 9 is in Fort Lawn, about 6 miles S. Turn left on SC 9. The landing is on the farther bank to the left by road. By water, it is also on the left, before the bridge.

#### For More Information, Contact:

Landsford Canal State Historic Site • (803) 789-5800  
2051 Park Drive • Catawba, SC 29704

#### For water levels:

Duke Power • (704) 373-3208



## LOWER SALUDA State Scenic River

# LOWER SALUDA State Scenic River

Here's something you don't see every day: a great whitewater river smack in the middle of a major metropolitan area. Below I-26, it provides some of the best whitewater paddling in the state.



A free brochure on the Lower Saluda is available from the SCDNR (see below) and is highly recommended. The biggest thing to remember is that Mill Race Rapids, adjacent to Riverbanks Zoo, are dangerous and should be portaged. These rapids are about 1.5 miles downstream from the I-26 overpass, which is the second of two interstates you will float under. The portage trail is on the right bank at a powerline right-of-way.

Remember, too, that the water in the Lower Saluda comes from the bottom of Lake Murray and is cold year-round. Rapids on the Lower Saluda range up to Class V; you should wear life jackets at all times. Below I-26, the river is not recommended for beginners. However, local outfitters lead trips down the Lower Saluda with professional leadership, allowing less experienced paddlers to enjoy the river, too. Above I-26, conditions are mostly flat-water. The water level of the Lower Saluda varies widely.

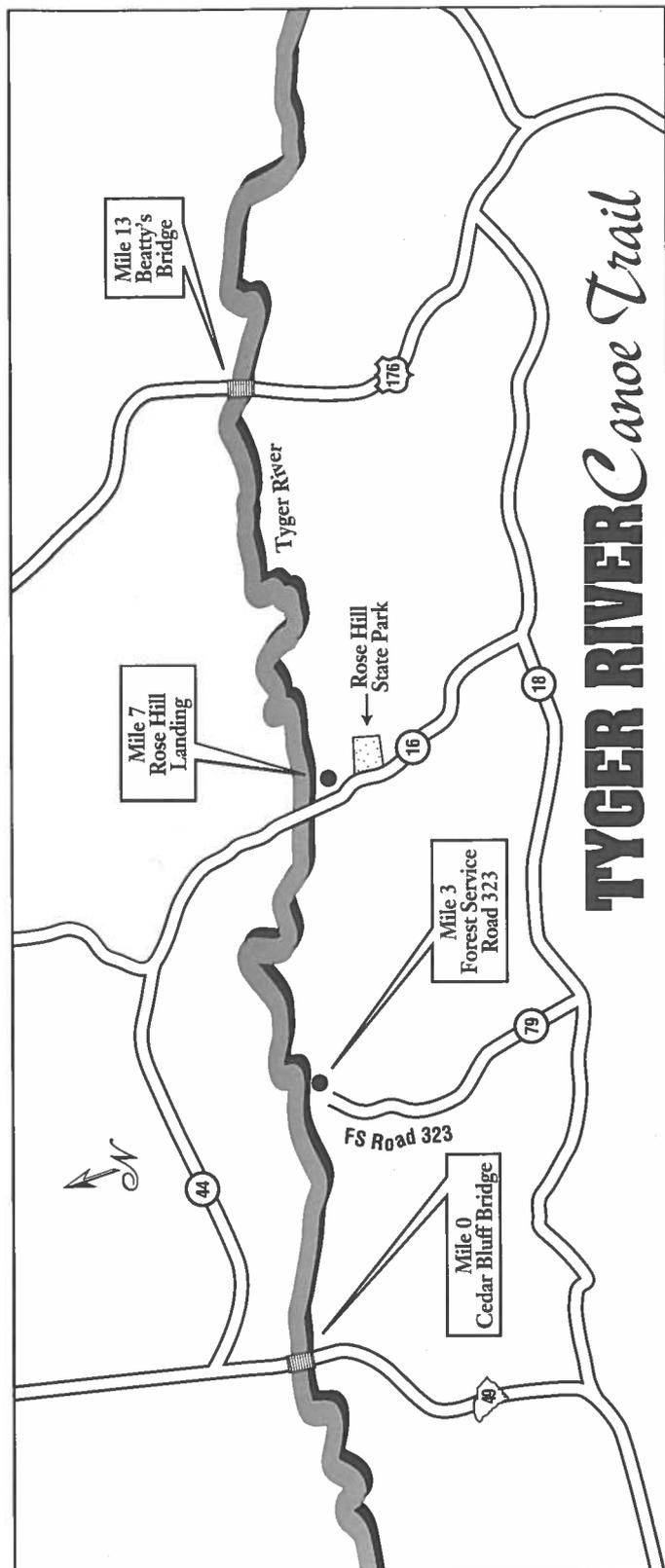
**LENGTH:** 9.5 miles.

#### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

- Mile 0** - Saluda Shoals Park Landing—On the N side of the river, this is just off Bush River Road (SR 107), about 2 miles east of SC 60, which SR 107 intersects just N of Lake Murray Dam.
- Mile 3.5** - SCE&G Put-in—From first landing, return to Bush River Road; turn right. Road merges into St. Andrews Rd. A red light after a mile marks the rebirth of Bush River Rd.; turn right. Turn right again on Garden Valley Rd. and drive another mile to landing.
- Mile 9.5** - Senate St. Landing—From the previous landing, return to St. Andrews Rd, turning right; follow it to I-26. Take I-126 to Columbia and take the Huger St. exit. Follow Huger to Gervais St., turning right. Turn left at the last street before the bridge and go 1 block. Landing is on the right.

#### For More Information, Contact:

SCDNR • Land, Water and Conservation Division  
2221 Devine St., Suite 222 • Columbia, SC 29205  
(803) 734-9100



## TYGER RIVER Canoe Trail

# TYGER River Canoe Trail

The Tyger is a lively narrow little river with a swift current, and a few riffles, a good ride for paddlers who want to explore the pine and hardwood Sumter National Forest. The Tyger River was named after the "tygers," or Carolina panthers that early explorers saw along the banks. White-tailed deer, turkey, great blue herons, and southern banded water snakes now stalk along these banks. Cottonwood, river birch, sycamore, and sweet gum trees form an arch over the narrow river.



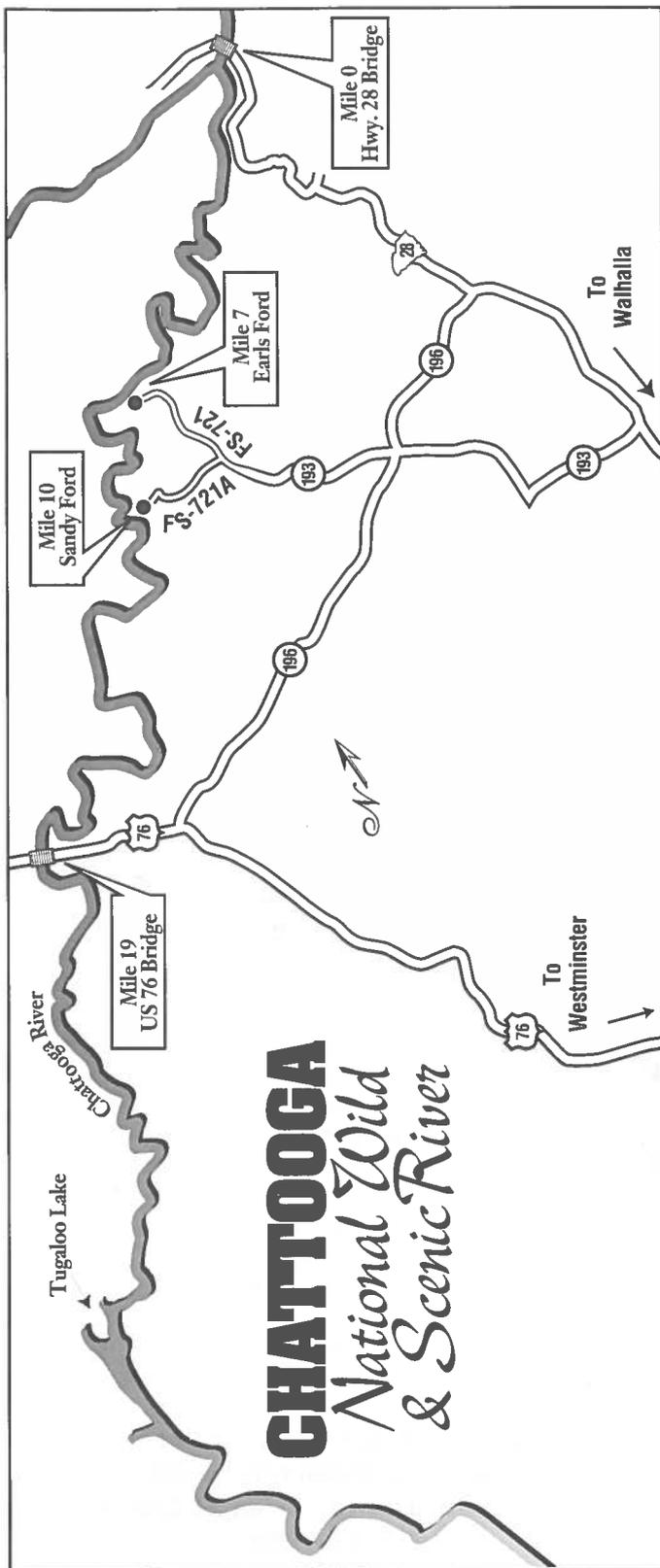
This trail runs through the Sumter National Forest in Union County and the river ranges from two to six feet in depth and from forty to seventy feet in width. The surrounding landscape is characterized by sloping banks, forests, and marshy bogs. The velocity of the river dramatically increases when there is flooding. Fallen trees may require you to lift boats over logs. This can be difficult and dangerous in high water. There is a significant chance of capsizing your boat or getting caught in a strainer so stay balanced and check for snakes sunning on the logs.

**LENGTH:** Approximately 13 total miles.

### ACCESS/TAKE-OUT POINTS:

- Mile 0** - Cedar Bluff Bridge—Canoe throw-in. Located on SC 49 in Union County near Union, SC. Camping on Forest Service land.
- Mile 3** - FS Road 323—On Minnows Bridge Rd. formerly the site of Minter's Bridge. Canoe only. Camping on Forest Service land.
- Mile 7** - Rose Hill Landing (Gist Bridge)—SR 16 crosses here near Rose Hill State Park. It has a small parking facility and a boat ramp. Canoes and johnboats. Camping on Forest Service land.
- Mile 13** - Beatty's Bridge—A newly built concrete boat ramp. It is located about six miles from Whitmire, SC on US 176. Canoes and johnboats. Camping on Forest Service land.

**For More Information, Contact:**  
**Enoree Ranger District, Tyger Office**  
**3557 Whitmire Hwy. • Union, SC 29379**  
**(864) 427-9858**



# CHATTOOGA

## National Wild & Scenic River

This designated Wild and Scenic River forms a boundary between South Carolina and Georgia for almost 40 miles in the Sumter National Forest. The surrounding area is a mountainous deciduous forest containing red oak, white oak, birch magnolia, and the ubiquitous mountain laurel thickets where ruffed grouse hide.

The lower 31 miles of the river are considered some of the best whitewater in the Southeast. Because of the power of this river, the Forest Service imposes regulations for its use. Many sections contain high levels of whitewater and should only be attempted by experts in closed-decked boats with proper gear. The river contains many dangerous hydraulics and undercut rock traps, which make it hazardous for beginners and experts alike. Plan the sections you travel with a critical assessment of your skills and equipment. A water-resistant map is available from the Forest Service, which describes the river in sections.

**LENGTH:** The trail described here is 19 miles. Approximately 30 miles of the Chattooga can be traveled overall.

### Access/Take-out Points:

**Mile 0** - Highway 28 Bridge—Also known as Russell Bridge, this is the beginning of Section II, which has 20 rapids and is open to boaters and tubers. From Walhalla, drive W on SC 28 to the bridge. Be sure to register at the self-registration station.

**Mile 7** - Earls Ford—This is the beginning of Section III and for experienced whitewater boaters only. Access is 0.2 mile from the parking area. Drive back toward Walhalla on SC 28 and turn right onto SR 196 and turn right onto Whetstone Road (SR 193). Continue on Whetstone Road (becomes FS 721) to the parking area.

**Mile 10** - Sandy Ford—A put-in here cuts 3 miles from Section III, but also bypasses two major rapids. From Earls Ford back track and turn right onto FS Road 721A and continue to the parking lot.

**Mile 19** - US 76 Bridge—The beginning of Section IV, for advanced paddlers only with good equipment. From Westminster, drive W on US 76 to the bridge.

### For More Information, Contact:

Stump House Ranger Station

Andrew Pickens Ranger District

112 Andrew Pickens Circle • Mountain Rest, SC 29664

(864) 638-9568