

Gordon MacQuarrie Pilgrimage & Tour

Paddle the Brule Canoe Float Tour

Sunday August 26 2018

Visit the Put-ins and Story Settings described by MacQuarrie in his Stories

River Guide: Damian Wilmot, is a famed local Brule Tour Guide, a restorer of Joe Lucius vintage canoes originally built on the Brule in 1911, which he uses on his unique private one-person tours of the Brule. Damain will donate his time and effort to the Barnes Museum for this MacQuarrie Canoe Tour Program.

Tour originator, host and Commentator: Steve Papp, MacQuarrie Fan, and leader of the Ducks Unlimited River Falls (Wisconsin) Chapter. A founding Barnes Museum Old Duck Hunter Association Circle Member, he will donate his time and effort for the Barnes Museum MacQuarrie Programs.

Date: Sunday August 26 2018

Meet at Stone's Bridge 10AM

Put-in: Stones Bridge

Take-out: 3PM

Duration: Four hours plus 1/2 hr for lunch break. Riverbank lunch provided

Tour Length. 9 miles

Registration fee : \$75. Your registration fee will be to support the tour expenses (canoe rentals, PFDs, lunch, hand outs, shuttle etc) and the Barnes Museum MacQuarrie programs. Additional donations to the Barnes Museum MacQuarrie Programs welcomed. A modest discount to this hopefully breakeven registration fee will be provided to the museum's ODHA Circle membership.

The canoe trip will take you through several of Gordon MacQuarrie "put-ins", starting at Stone's Bridge and ending 4 ½ hours later at Winneboujou Landing. You will be literally paddling and floating over the footsteps of MacQuarrie, Hizzonor and other characters in the physical settings for several of his stories. We will take you to specific sites described by MacQuarrie and provide a commentary or read a passage or two from his stories set at these locations.

The upper reaches of the river offer a calm, serene beauty flowing through a narrow and intimate setting with quiet pools and small lakes before tumbling over a number of fun rapids and chutes. The nine mile trip will take you through a mixture of flat water, lakes, riffles and light rapids. This section is popular with fishermen and a great section for beginner paddlers

The Bois Brule River, from Stone's Bridge, is arguably among the best canoeing and kayaking rivers in the Midwest. Consistent flow and a diverse character provides appealing trips for paddlers of all skill levels.

Canoes, paddles, PFDs, Lunch, and transport will be provided.

The Brule is a catch-and-release river

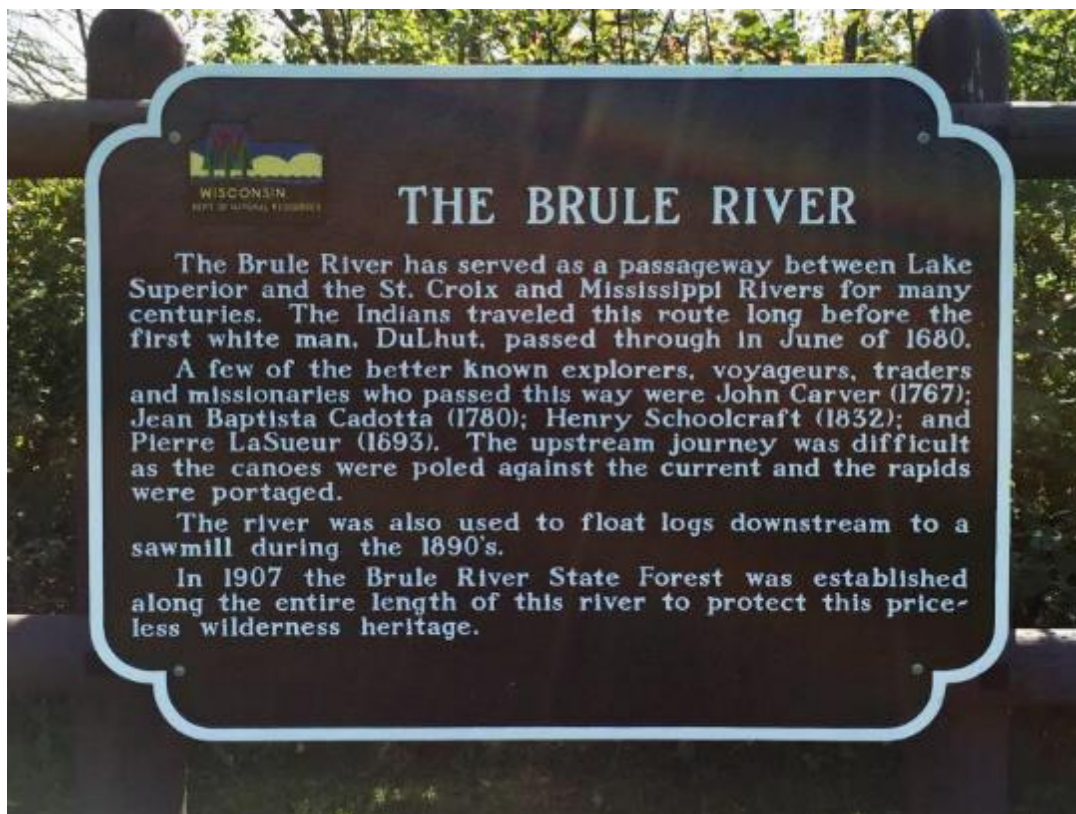
Here's what you should bring:

1. brimmed hat
2. Sunscreen
3. Insect repellent

Bois Brule River. From Stone's Bridge to Winneboujou Landing A Nine-mile Float Downstream Gordon MacQuarrie Tour and Pilgrimage Sunday August 26, 2018			
Data from Wisconsin Trail Guide. http://wisconsintrailguide.com/default.html			
Put-in: Stone's Bridge Landing Take-out: Winneboujou Landing Distance: 9 miles Approximate Time 4+ hours		Most Difficult Rapids : Class 1-2 Minimum Suggested Flow: 125 cfs / 1.4 feet Water Level Info: Brule River State Forest HQ Phone 715.372.4866	
Mile marker	GPS - NAD83 / WGS84	Feature Land mark	Description
38.4 Mile	46.43415,-91.67486	Stone's Bridge Landing River: A MacQuarrie Put-in <i>Hit The Drink, Big Fly- Big Trout</i>	The river is slow, calm and narrow for the first 2.5 miles with a silty riverbed. Dense thickets, tall grasses, and scrub pine cover the riverbanks. This entire stretch is intimate and scenic! Accessibility: The landing is on County Highway S at Stones Bridge. Trailer access, paved parking, trailer turnaround, pit toilets, water. An excellent developed landing.

36.6 Mile		McDougal Springs	Several spring-fed sloughs and backwaters feed into the Bois Brule. Scenic pine forest surrounds the river.
35.6 Mile	46.45272,- 91.63026	Rainbow Bend: A MacQuarrie Put-in	A named river bend, a popular spot to catch steelhead in the spring. The river forks around a small wooded island in the center with a third channel leading off to the right. Follow the current down the 'middle' channel as it bends to the north (left). After the island, the river bends to the right with a slough on river left. Cedars often overhang the riverbanks in this stretch, very scenic.
35.0 Mile	46.45873,- 91.62170	Mays Rips Rapids (Class 1): A MacQuarrie Put-in. Setting for The Kitchen Sink Fish	The river appears to come to a dead-end, look for the rocky constriction on river right. May's Rips are more of a rocky riffles than a rapids in low to medium flows. In this stretch, the Bois Brule is starting to show the remarkably clear waters that it is famous for.
34.6 Mile	46.46159,- 91.61746	Cedar Island Estate	The river forks around several islands about a third of a mile past Mays Rips. The main buildings of the Cedar Island Estate appears on the left shore. This is the largest of the fishing lodges on the Bois Brule, with several buildings and a couple of footbridges spanning the river. The lodge was once a popular vacation destination for many famous people including several U.S. Presidents. The first of several pitches of riffles begin under the 'Green Bridge', these riffles are known as 'Hungry Run'.
33.7 Mile	46.46885,- 91.60793	The Falls Rapids (Class 1-2)	At the north end of a large pool, the river constricts to less than 15 feet wide and shoots through Falls Rapids, a fun class 1-2. There are a couple of 'easy to hit' boulders down the left center. Scout or portage on the left bank. Big Twin Rapids are around the bend just ahead.
33.6 Mile		Big Twin Rapids (Class 1)	A little easier than Falls Rapids, Big Twin Rapids have fun wave action in medium flows. The rapids end at the south end of Sucker Lake. Be careful of fallen trees across the river!
33.4 Mile	46.47316,- 91.60414	Little Twin Rapids (Class 1)	After Sucker Lake, the river runs through a narrow constriction with a class 1 rapids. The river flows into Big Lake at the end of Little Twin Rapids.
		Big Lake	Big Lake is the largest of the "lakes" on the Bois Brule, roughly 0.85 mile long.
32.4 Mile	46.48623,- 91.59755	Wildcat Rapids (Class 1) A MacQuarrie Put-in).	At the north end of Big Lake the river narrows, bends right, then left and runs through Wildcat Rapids. The rapids end just before a grassy island, at the south end of Lucias Lake (A MacQuarrie Put-in).

29.8 Mile	46.51330,- 91.60220	Station Rapids (Class 1)	A long and sometimes scrappy class 1 rapids and riffles with a quick current through several bends. Be careful of strainers!
29.5 Mile	46.51654,- 91.60344	Winneboujou Landing River:	After Station Rapids, the river flows through a long s-turn with the landing appearing on river left, after the second bend. After the landing, the river passes under the County B Bridge. Winneboujou is the name of an Ojibwa god; "the Great Hare". Accessibility: The landing entrance is west of the Highway B Bridge. Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround, pit toilets, water.



Pictorial Tour from Miles Paddled

<http://www.milespaddled.com/2016/09/bois-brule-river/>

Permission pending



Stone's Bridge Put-in

<http://www.milespaddled.com/2016/09/bois-brule-river/>



The Ordway boathouse marks the start of the historic Cedar Island Estate

Cedar Island Estate



Cedar Island Road Bridge



Sucker Lake



Little Twin Rapids



Little Twin shoots you into Big Lake



Winneboujoe Landing



Pic from Wisc trail Guide

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An UPPER BRULE CANOE TOUR

Description provided by Miles Paddled

<http://www.milespaddled.com/2016/09/bois-brule-river/>

The put-in at **Stone's Bridge Landing** is excellent. There are facilities and fresh spring water running from a pipe. It's a popular landing and was quite busy on this particularly beautiful Friday morning. Some paddlers were going there-and-back, some canoeing, some kayaking but most were getting a head start on trout fishing.

This section starts as pretty, placid marsh with pine trees lining the banks. The water is crystal clear – marsh grasses, green and long, sway downstream – and sandy bottom alternated with rocky bottom to modest boulders lying just below the surface.

It was slow, with almost no current, but that allowed time to gaze at the streambed below and look for trout (for which we spotted Brown and Brook throughout the day).

It isn't until after **Rainbow Bend** where the landscape starts to change, the river narrows a bit and hills appear in the periphery. Soon, you'll come upon the *Ordway boathouse*, which is the start of the *Cedar Island estate*. You'll paddle through the property which is quite modest

considering the wealthy politicians, businessmen and celebrities that once vacationed there. Its appearance is one of just pretty footbridges and well-kempt cottages.

Soon after the estate, and beginning the alternating interruption of lake, river, lake, comes **Falls Rapids**, a really lively run. Scout Falls from the left bank. It's a broad sweeping left curve and it's swift and narrow which might take the unsuspecting by surprise. It's rated a class I-II but to be honest, all classes at these levels felt on the low end (so a II felt like a I – they all felt easy and doable at these levels).

Next come a series of lake sections that are essentially separated or “crimped” by other light-whitewater sections. A highlight of which comes just after the smaller **Sucker Lake**. It's called **Little Twin rapids** and it's a completely unique run where at the end, you're literally spit out into a crystal clear lake by a wave of riffles. It's something I've never experienced before and it was simply awesome. The riffles immediately gave way to flat water – almost like someone shut off the faucet while drawing a very large bath. And that might be a pretty accurate description because **Big Lake** is just that... *Big*. But it's pretty, with some scattered boulders, and more of that crystal clear water. Really, it's the perfect time to just relax on a shallow lake while enjoying the broadest body of water you'll encounter the rest of the trip

At the end of **Big Lake** comes **Wildcat Rapids** which separates Big Lake from **Lucious Lake**. Eventually, the current picks up as the lake narrows into a river again and stays a consistent width the rest of the way.

While not overly-populated, we noticed that the landowners who are lucky enough to reside on this treasure take great care of their riverside cabins and boathouses. Of note, the cabins seemed similarly built – all quite attractive – as were the boat houses which could be perfect subjects for classic paintings and photographs of “up north”. Many were quite idyllic with red and green canoes attached to their docks (is there anything more perfect than those canoe colors? Especially when lined with wood?) just tempting guests to get in and get paddling.