The Waters Of Lafayette County

The Pecatonica River offers over 90 miles of gentle canoeing on both the east and west branches - the longest unrestricted flow of water in the state of Wisconsin. The water moves at 2½ miles per hour, occasionally dropping over small rapids. The river meanders in large loops back and forth across a beautiful broad valley, and some claim that "Pee-ka-to-lol-a-ka" is the Winnebago word for "crooked river". Scenic bluffs tower above some sections of the river. It may be necessary to maneuver around and over occasional fallen trees which provide shelter for raccoon, muskrat, beaver, deer and a wide variety of birds that make their home along the river. It is not uncommon to see beaver cuttings along the bank; great blue herons gracefully rising from the water or a mother wood duck hurrying her ducklings along.

The Pecatonica yields its share of excellent game fish every year. The muddy banks are quite deceptive, as most of the river bottom is gravel. Catfish, walleye, and occasional northern are the main game fish taken from the river. Many of the best fishing spots are accessible only by canoe.

The Pecatonica River, whose name means "place of many canoes" starts in Iowa County and flows through Lafayette County into Illinois. The canoe will enjoy beautiful scenic farm pastures, marshes and woods filled with many species of wildlife. The river will be a pleasant 2 day trip going through Lafayette county.

For history buffs, the Pecatonica River flows through historic southwestern Wisconsin. This area received the first white settlers to the state in the 1820's and 30's, coming in search of lead. Due to the importance of water power in the settlement of the county, numerous significant sites and events occurred along the river. There is also abundant evidence that the Pecatonica valley was inhabited for hundreds of years before the coming of the white man.

Yellowstone Lake is a 455 acre man made lake and is open year round for canoeing, boating, swimming, fishing and snowmobiling. The park offers camping, biking, hiking, cross country skiing and picnicking. Many of the campsites offer electricity hook up for those who prefer this convenience. There is an area of the lake that is a no-wake area, perfect for the canoe enthusiasts.

Canoe, row boat and paddle boat rentals are available at the lake for those who do not have a canoe or boat. Yellowstone Lake is regularly stocked with game fish and offers good fishing opportunities for those who enjoy fishing. Fishing license and trout stamp is required. Please review the fishing regulations for the lake to enjoy the best fishing experience.

Fever River is 29.4 miles long 28 feet average width 1.2 feet average depth base flow is 22 cfs (cubic feet per second) This is an enjoyable one day canoe ride. The Fever river is considered to be the best small stream for smallmouth bass fishing in the area. There is also 14 miles of public fishing easement along the river for more fishing enjoyment.