

## S23 Day Paddles - Inland Lakes

## Stella Lake Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** The lake has an island and four coves creating pristine and secluded paddling. There are large grass and lily pad patches. There are birding opportunities here including the elusive limpkin, wood duck, sand hill crane and bald eagle. A rookery is located near the put-ins on the opposite shore. It is a popular fishing lake.

**Skill Level:** Novice

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 5 Miles/2 Hours

**Launch Site:** Stella Lake Ramp

**Special Considerations:** This paddle is sheltered most of the time and windy conditions do not present a problem. The lake is subject to motorized boat traffic so take caution if you hear boats approaching.

### Skill Level Definitions

**Beginner:** New to paddling and may need tips and or instructions about paddling strokes, safety procedures, and entering/exiting kayaks. Comfortable on short trips of 1 to 3 miles on protected waters, when wind does not exceed 5 mph.

**Novice:** Paddlers acquainted with basic paddle strokes and can manage kayak handling independently in winds not exceeding 10 mph on protected waters. Comfortable on trips up to 6 miles.

**Intermediate:** Paddlers with experience in basic strokes and some experience on different venues, including some open water. Comfortable on trip distances of 6 to 10 miles, winds not exceeding 15 mph.

**Advanced:** Seasoned paddlers who possess skills and experience to paddle all venues and conditions. Experienced in self-rescues. Should be comfortable paddling more than 10 miles in a day.

**NOTE:** Great care has been taken to ensure this guides accuracy, but weather, tides, and water conditions can change rapidly and create hazardous conditions. These maps are for visual reference only, please consult NOAA Charts for navigation. Paddlers should have all proper safety equipment and check conditions before departure. All paddlers should always wear PFDs while on the water, and leave a float plan. There are inherent dangers in any paddle sport. There are special hazards along the Florida coast due to shifting tides, changing wind and weather, shallow waters, and treacherous bottoms with soft mud, rocks, and oyster bars. It is up to each paddler to be aware of these dangers, to accept and be prepared for the risks involved, and to be certain they have the skills to safely paddle in these conditions.