

## S28 Day Paddles - Lakes

### Newnans Lake Paddle Information Sheet

**Description:** This 6,000 to 7,500 acre (depending on water levels) is mostly undeveloped and is lined by Bald Cypress and Gum. It sits on top of a large bed of phosphate rich clay that gives the water a grayish tint. After several years of drought, some high school students found some ancient dugout canoes on the north side of the lake. A full scale archeological search was begun, and over 100 dugout canoes and their remnants were found, which turned out to be the worlds largest concentration of 500 to 5,000 year old dugout canoes ever found. This is a great birdwatchers area. Wildlife include eagles, ospreys, and great blue herons, and whistling ducks among many other birds. Alligators and otters can also be seen. This lake, along with the Prairie Creek paddle, comprise the Potano Trail., named after a local Indian group.

**Skill Level:** Advanced, due to distance

**Distance/Approximate Time:** 12.5 Miles/6 Hours

**Launch Site:** Earl P. Powers Park Ramp

**Special Considerations:** This is a fairly large lake, and can get rough on windy days. . There aren't many places to get out and stretch your legs, so take advantage of the several boat ramps around the lake.

#### 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.