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Chattahoochee Bend State Park planning big weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS

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Kayakers, cyclists, hunters, fishermen, tent campers and recreation vehicle enthusiasts all enjoyed special adventures at Chattahoochee Bend State Park in western Coweta last weekend.

According to Georgia Department of Natural Resources officials, 20 kayakers with the River Keeper organization launched in the day-use area during an overnight adventure on the river. Paddlers report sighting one of several Bald Eagles that fly along the river.

The park offers platform camping in two locations on the river. River ramps upstream give the option of 10-mile, seven-mile, five-mile or two-mile floats to Chattahoochee Bend for a day trip or two to three night trips.

Eight bicyclists road from Grant Park in Atlanta with panniers loaded to stay overnight in the walk-in tent camping area. The 60-mile ride took them through scenic areas of Chattahoochee Hills and Coweta County.

Hunters brought out the family in RVs to enjoy local Wildlife Management areas or local hunting property that surrounds the state park on the opening weekend of deer hunting season.

Fishermen camped in the riverside platform camping area and grilled fresh catfish and bream caught near their campsite.

Adventurers from age 8 to 80 enjoyed the fall weather and bright colors on the park trail system as they hiked to the observation tower next to the river. The not-so-adventurous drove the scenic park roads to view fall colors, picnic and visit the park visitor center, which has a well-stocked camp store and gift shop. The store features unique outdoor-themed gifts, games and souvenirs.

For those wishing to plan their own adventure at Chattahoochee Bend State Park, campsites are still available for this coming weekend — and the weather is “awesome,” say state park officials.

Today, the Rangers will have a Friday night hike to search for firefly nymphs at 6:30. On Saturday there will be an 11 a.m. guided hike from the visitor center down to the Chattahoochee River. At 1:30 techies can enjoy a Geocaching Adventure.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make a fire without matches or a lighter? Primitive fire building skills will be taught at 3:30 p.m.

Young and old can do arts and crafts at 5 p.m.

Sunday wraps up the weekend with an 11 a.m. guided hike.

Chattahoochee Bend State Park is located in western Coweta County between Newnan and Franklin off Georgia Highway 34. Follow the signs from Powers Crossroads.

The park contains 2,910 acres along the Chattahoochee River. There are more than 5 miles of river frontage. Picnicking, playgrounds, hiking trails, boating access and camping facilities are available.

Campers can choose from riverside platform camping, walk-in tent camping, drive-in tent camping and RV camping. Groups and families may enjoy the Adirondack Shelters for camping.

Two picnic shelters can accommodate up to 40 people in the Riverfront day use area. Playgrounds, geocaches, 6 miles of hiking trails and a riverside 30-foot observation tower are available.

For more information call the park at 770-254-7271 or visit GeorgiaStateParks.org.

You can make reservations on the website or call 1-800-864-7275.

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