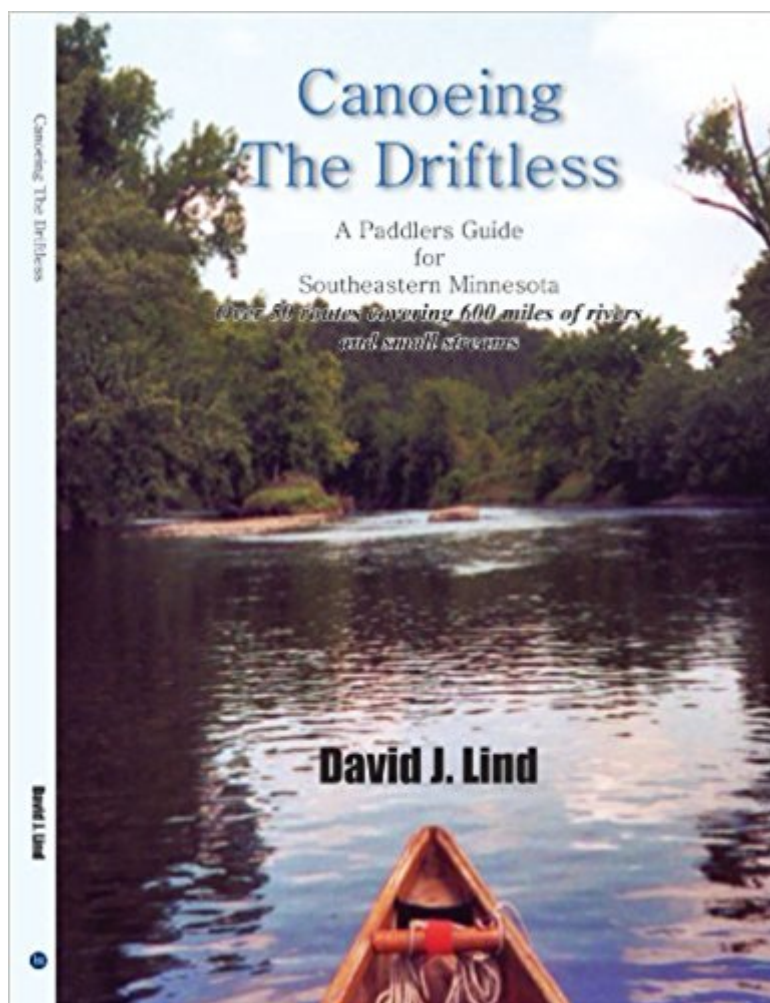


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# Canoeing The Driftless: A Paddlers Guide For Southeastern Minnesota



## Synopsis

Southeastern Minnesota is a paddler's dream. Throughout the forested bluff land terrain, called the "Driftless Area", there are both easy paddling routes as well as challenging, more difficult streams all offering beautiful scenic views and a variety of wildlife. Canoeing The Driftless contains maps and descriptions for over 50 routes covering 600 miles to help you plan your paddling trip. Information such as route length, difficulty, hazards, as well as points of interest, the best put-in and take-out accesses and shuttle routes are included to help in choosing a trip to fit your needs. Also included are "River Scenes" which have interesting information on history along the routes as well as some personal, sometimes humorous accounts of trips on the rivers. Canoeing The Driftless is written for all levels of paddlers, from the beginner to the most experienced paddler. For the beginner to intermediate paddler there are the main routes on the Cannon, Zumbro, and Root rivers, for the more experienced paddlers the routes on the Bear, Deer, Whitewater, and smaller branches of the Root River and Zumbro River provide more challenging runs.

## Book Information

Paperback: 148 pages

Publisher: AuthorHouse (February 23, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1414042043

ISBN-13: 978-1414042046

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.4 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,076,366 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Adventure > Canoeing #313 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Canoeing #831 in Books > Travel > United States > Midwest

## Customer Reviews

The author, Dave Lind, has canoed for over 50 years, beginning with Boy Scout canoe-camping trips on the Mississippi River and the Minnesota Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Dave has paddled extensively in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Northeastern Iowa, on both whitewater and flatwater routes. He has found that the streams of southeastern Minnesota, located in the "Driftless Area", are a paddlers paradise with scenic easy paddling routes, as well as challenging small stream routes that are not adequately covered in existing paddling books. Over the last ten years he has canoed

every route in this book taking extensive notes on each river trip.

Canoeing the Driftless? Not so much....I bought this book expecting to find a useful guide to paddling some rivers that, while quite close to my home in Northern Iowa, were unknown to me and poorly-referenced on the Web. What I found instead was an outdated beginners' guide to (apparently) talking about the streams rather than about paddling them. Examples: 1) Poorly-done maps. With maps like these, the paddler will have to search a long time to find the referenced access points. 2) Over-estimated trip times. I really cannot imagine paddlers (as opposed to floaters) actually averaging 2 miles per hour: yet that seems to be the norm for this text. 3) Questionable stream difficulty ratings. We tried several of the "moderate difficulty" streams and found them to be discouragingly over-rated. 4) Outdated references. Several locations in the book are described with reference to commercial establishments that no longer exist. I realize that the book is over 6 years old at this point, but references to such "short life time" places might well have been replaced by geographic or map features instead. 5) Water levels not mentioned. Since the USGS has river gages on many of these streams, it would make some sense to refer to those gages rather than to leave the readers guessing as to appropriate stream flow. The author has a good idea in putting up a website to support the book [...], but the website is incomplete and a bit useless, so the idea fails in this instance. I'd suggest leaving this book on the shelf. Al Donaldson

Good book for those who like to float known rivers and streams

This guidebook doesn't cover as many routes as others in this area, but it does cover a few that others don't cover. I would recommend using the MN DNR website since it covers all but about 3 of the routes described here. Paddling Southern Minnesota is a better hardcopy. Information is presented more logically and accurately elsewhere. The maps here are really dated and not useful. You can get up to date information on the few routes uniquely described in this guide from Facebook user's groups.

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