The Kitten Paddle

The weather looked favorable for a paddle on the Pecatonica River on Monday Oct 25. I sent my email notice out to the local paddlers and got 4 positive responses. We met at McNeil's Damascus Landing, the take-out and put all 6 kayaks on my trailer and all 5 paddlers in my truck. 6 kayaks, 5 paddlers??

When we arrived at the put-in, McConnell Bobtown Landing, we were met by 2 lonely, hungry kittens. The girls shared their granola bar with the kittens. Peggy volunteered to adopt the kittens. A friend was called to come pick up the kittens and take them to her farm.

All set. We launched our kayaks on the EZ Docks and headed out. We got a couple hundred feet downstream and Parry heard the kittens crying! The kittens were following us along the river bank!

The girls gathered up the kittens in their kayaks and took them back to the floating boat dock and waited for the friend to pick up the kittens. The guys continued down the Pec looking for trash. The trash was put in the sixth kayak. I pulled the trash kayak behind my kayak.

The girls caught up to us just 2 miles downstream. Happily, they reported that the kittens are safely on their way to the farm.

We collected a few bottles, cans, and a small, rusty propane tank. A smelly plastic bag was too heavy to lift into the kayak, so it was sent adrift in the middle of the river to be pulled out later downstream.