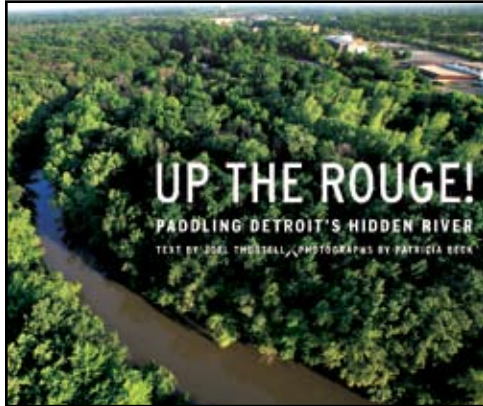




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An Unforgettable Trip Up the Rouge

There is no river quite like Detroit's Rouge River. Home to two steel mills; cement, gypsum, and salt operations; and the largest single-unit wastewater treatment plant in the country, the Rouge is too polluted for public recreation and, in some areas, too log-jammed for a motorboat. But *Detroit Free Press* reporter Joel Thurtell and photographer Patricia Beck decided to travel it by canoe to explore not only the river's industrial side but also its beautiful and hidden urban wilderness.

Up the Rouge! is the surprising and educational account of their journey, narrated by Thurtell and heavily illustrated with Beck's evocative and eclectic photographs. Thurtell and Beck logged more than sixty hours during the first week of June 2005 as they paddled their canoe up more than 27 miles of the Rouge from Zug Island at the Detroit River to Nine Mile and Beech roads in Southfield. Thurtell and Beck show that despite its environmental contamination, the Rouge is home to wildlife and that its very seclusion makes it a sanctuary. During their trek, the authors saw animals such as green and blue herons, snapping turtles, musk turtles, mallards, feral dogs, and the first adult female common mergansers ever recorded in summertime in Wayne County.

Up the Rouge! is a story about discovery, a tale of adventure, and an informative study of the environment. The series of articles in the *Detroit Free Press* on which this volume is based won the Water Environment Federation's 2006 Harry E. Schlenz Medal for Public Education. Anyone interested in environmental issues or conservation of Michigan's waterways will appreciate this unique and attractive volume.

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For more information on this book or to contact the authors, please contact Sarah Murphy, Promotions Manager, Wayne State University Press, (313) 577-6077 tel; (313) 577-6131 fax; murphysa@wayne.edu. To learn more about the Press, please visit wsupress.wayne.edu.

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