

James River

Float trips, for which the Ozarks are famous among smallmouth bass fishermen, reputedly originated at Galena on the James River. John boats 18-24 feet long and 4 feet wide were used long before canoes and kayaks became popular and are an amazingly maneuverable craft for their size. Some anglers still prefer the stability they provide for casting while standing, and the comfort of folding arm chairs which they can carry. Before the days of Table Rock Dam, a five-day float of about 125 miles was available from Galena to Branson, but now little, if any, of the river is floatable below Galena. However, one of the fine fishing floats always has been the 22-mile section from "Hooten Town" to Galena and this may still be floated even with john boats. In high or medium water, paddlers can run another 40 miles above this as well as some of the larger tributaries. Most of this water provides fine fishing.

Difficulty: I; a few places on upper river rate up to III due to obstructions.

Gradients: general —
4.5; Hwy.
125 to Lake
Springfield
— 6.3; dam
at Lake
Springfield to
Hwy. 14 —
4.3; to Galena
— 4.

Counties: Greene,
Christian,
Stone.

0.0 Joe Crighton
Access on right, on
Farm Road 193
upstream of Kinser
Bridge/Farm Road
164. Gravel ramp.
2.7 Hwy. 60 Bridge.
Lake Springfield
backs up water
beyond this point.
2.9 Farm Road 181
Bridge. No access.
3.2 Lake Springfield
Southwood Access
(Springfield City
Utilities) on left

downstream from Hwy. 65 Bridge. Off Hwy. 65, take Evans Road to Southwood Road.

5.3 Public park and access on right.

5.5 Kissick Dam. Fair access.

5.6 Tailwaters Access (Springfield City Utilities) on right, off Hwy. 65 to Evans Road to Kissick.

9.0 Hwy. 160 Bridge. Fair access.

11.9 Owens Bridge.

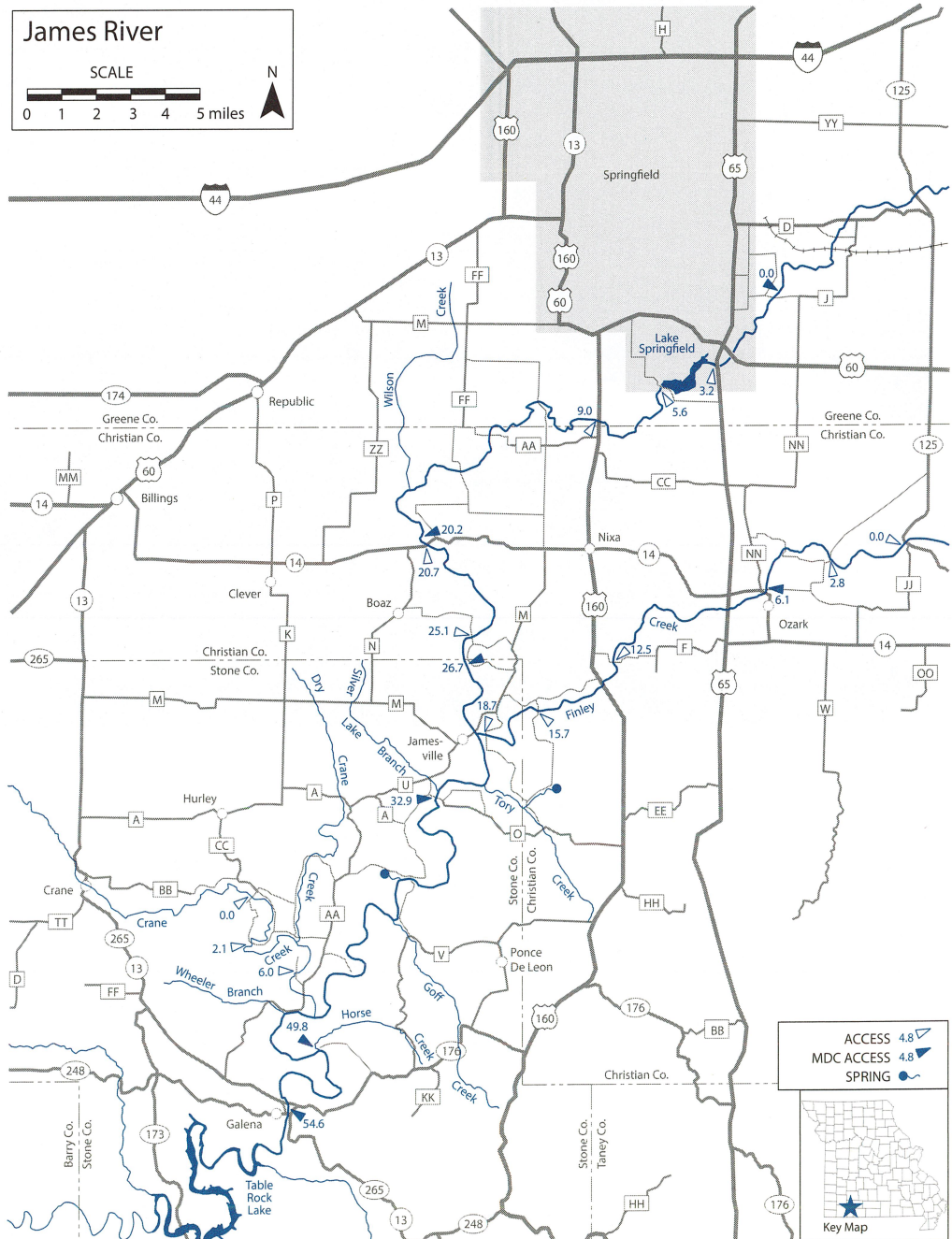
13.5 Shallow rapids caused by rock ledge, with brush and logs at bottom. Walk or line!

14.5 Blue Spring on left.

16.4 Nelson Mill Road Bridge. No access.

18.4 Wilson Creek on right.

19.5 Stone piers of old Delaware Bridge.



- 19.9 Spring branch on left.
- 20.2 [Delaware Town Access](#) on left, on County Road 14-31. ➡
- 20.7 Hwy. 14 Bridge Access.
- 21.5 Blue Hole.
- 22.5 Rock ledge at old ford site makes good riffle.
- 25.1 Frazier Bridge on Ficus Road. Access.
- 26.7 [Shelvin Rock Access](#) on left, on Shelvin Rock Road. Paved launching area. ➡
- 27.1 McCafferty Hollow Creek on left.
- 29.4 Jamesville Bridge. Hwys. M and U. No access.
- 29.5 Finley Creek, on left.
- 31.1 Tory Creek on left. Montague Spring, 2.5 miles up creek, reached via Route O from Hwy. 160. The spring has a flow of nearly 2 million gallons per day, is used to supply a private trout hatchery and is one of the largest springs in this river drainage.
- 32.6 Silver Lake Branch on right.
- 32.9 [Hooten Town Access](#) on right, on Hooten Town Road. Black bass special management begins and continues until 61.3, Highway 413 Bridge at Galena. Special regulations apply in this area. ➡
- 34.0 Hooten Hill, on right (high bluff).
- 37.5 Cole Pit Hole. No access.
- 37.9 McCall Bridge.
- 38.2 Old Stillhouse Hollow, which is spring fed, on right.
- 39.5 Goff Creek on left. No access. Fast run just below.
- 43.6 Private access on right side, off Route AA near O to church.
- 46.0 Crane Creek on right.
- 47.0 Wheeler Branch and Route AA on right. No access.
- 49.8 Horse Creek on left. [H.L. Kerr Access](#) on Horse Creek Road. ➡
- 51.5 Yocum's Camp on right. No access.
- 54.5 Hwy. 413 Bridge. No access.
- 54.6 [Ralph Cox Memorial Access](#) on left. East of Galena on Hwy. 248/265, south on Hwy. 413. ➡
- 54.8 Y Bridge at Galena. Supplies in town. Lake fishing regulations apply downstream from here. When Table Rock Lake is not at full reservoir, the river may be floated beyond this point. Inquire locally about conditions and accesses.

Finley Creek

This James River tributary can be floated in high or medium-high water. A floating-wading technique is better for lower water and fishing. There are dams to portage, but the pools they form are short. The gradient of the lower 18 miles is 6.5.

Difficulty: I; a few places rate up to III due to obstructions.

Gradients: general — 6.5.

Counties: Christian, Stone.

- 0.0 Hwy. 125 Bridge below dam of Lindenlure Lake.
- 2.8 Smyrna Road Bridge. Access.
- 4.0 Smallen Cave Branch on right. The commercialized Civil War Cave has one of the largest entrances in the state.
- 4.7 Riverside Road Bridge. No access.
- 6.1 Finley River Park on left and mill dam (Ozark). Portage.
- 7.6 Hwy. 65 Bridge. No access.
- 12.5 Dam at Riverdale. Portage. Access at bridge just below dam.
- 13.5 Hwy. 160 Bridge. No access.
- 15.7 Aspen Road Bridge. Access.
- 17.5 Craig Hollow Creek on left.
- 18.7 Two Rivers Road/Equine Valley Road Ford. Access.
- 18.9 James River.

Crane Creek

This James River tributary can be floated in high water, and it is a good fishing stream. The first two bridges upstream are sometimes used as accesses on the James River. The section described below has a gradient of 9.6. The five miles above this, starting at Hwy. 13 at Crane, has a gradient of 12 but is normally too shallow to be recommended.

Difficulty: I; a few places rate up to III due to obstructions.

Gradients: general — 9.6.

County: Stone.

- 0.0 Swinging Bridge Road. Span bridge makes for difficult access, just southwest of Route CC.
- 2.1 Low-water bridge on Langley Ford Road. Access.
- 4.8 Dry Crane Creek on left.
- 6.0 Low-water bridge on Oto Road, off Route AA. Access.
- 7.2 Route AA Bridge. No access.
- 8.2 James River.