As the water leaves Canandaigua Lake it travels for 38 miles from the north end. The initial flow (south to north) drops through dams and waterfalls. This paddle starts when the water calms a bit, north of Manchester and travels east through Phelps. Here, the Canandaigua Outlet is “less unruly” according to our experts, Sue and Rich Freeman. You’ll travel alongside the Thruway in many locations, however, you are more often in remote wooded areas where you can enjoy the birds above and the fish below. Sometimes, at low water levels, you may need to push or walk the stony stream bed. Our online directions help with the details. This route has several launch options, depending on how far you wish to travel.

Launch on west side of the Rt. 96 bridge in Manchester. Take out point is at Stryker Rd. There is a 4 car parking area south of the bridge. This is approximately 8 miles from the start. For a longer ride, continue to Fisher Rd., just after going under the NYS Thruway about another 8 miles. You can park near here and water access is upstream on the right. You can continue to Lyons from here, but the take-outs become much more difficult.

Another launch site is on the corner of Rt. 96 and Co. Rd. 6. There is a 50 ft drop to water level, upstream on the right. Requiring more portage.

Nearby: Cheerful Valley Campground, Phelps
Events: Wild Water Derby, Manchester

Read this Book:
Rich and Sue Freeman are trusted authors of several Finger Lakes outdoor adventure books. Ranging from hikes to bike trails to snowshoeing and of course, paddling, they provide great resources for all kinds of people with all kinds of adventure interests. Visit them at www.footprintpress.com to learn more.