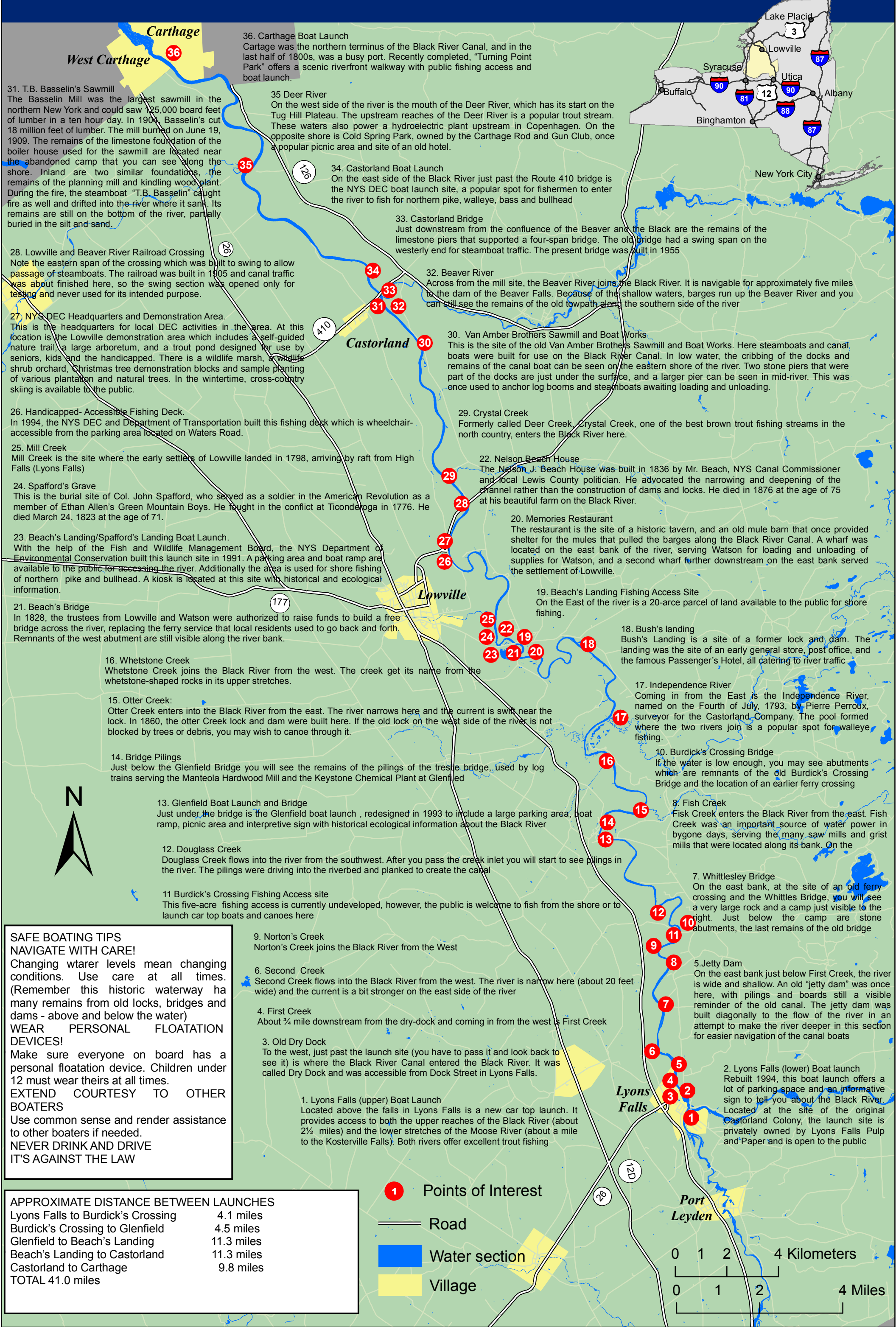


The Black River Canoe Trail



31. T.B. Basselin's Sawmill
 The Basselin Mill was the largest sawmill in the northern New York and could saw 125,000 board feet of lumber in a ten hour day. In 1904, Basselin's cut 18 million feet of lumber. The mill burned on June 19, 1909. The remains of the limestone foundation of the boiler house used for the sawmill are located near the abandoned camp that you can see along the shore. Inland are two similar foundations, the remains of the planning mill and kindling wood plant. During the fire, the steamboat "T.B. Basselin" caught fire as well and drifted into the river where it sank. Its remains are still on the bottom of the river, partially buried in the silt and sand.

28. Lowville and Beaver River Railroad Crossing
 Note the eastern span of the crossing which was built to swing to allow passage of steamboats. The railroad was built in 1905 and canal traffic was about finished here, so the swing section was opened only for testing and never used for its intended purpose.

27. NYS DEC Headquarters and Demonstration Area.
 This is the headquarters for local DEC activities in the area. At this location is the Lowville demonstration area which includes a self-guided nature trail, a large arboretum, and a trout pond designed for use by seniors, kids and the handicapped. There is a wildlife marsh, a wildlife shrub orchard, Christmas tree demonstration blocks and sample planting of various plantation and natural trees. In the wintertime, cross-country skiing is available to the public.

26. Handicapped- Accessible Fishing Deck.
 In 1994, the NYS DEC and Department of Transportation built this fishing deck which is wheelchair-accessible from the parking area located on Waters Road.

25. Mill Creek
 Mill Creek is the site where the early settlers of Lowville landed in 1798, arriving by raft from High Falls (Lyons Falls)

24. Spafford's Grave
 This is the burial site of Col. John Spafford, who served as a soldier in the American Revolution as a member of Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys. He fought in the conflict at Ticonderoga in 1776. He died March 24, 1823 at the age of 71.

23. Beach's Landing/Spafford's Landing Boat Launch.
 With the help of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation built this launch site in 1991. A parking area and boat ramp are available to the public for accessing the river. Additionally the area is used for shore fishing of northern pike and bullhead. A kiosk is located at this site with historical and ecological information.

21. Beach's Bridge
 In 1828, the trustees from Lowville and Watson were authorized to raise funds to build a free bridge across the river, replacing the ferry service that local residents used to go back and forth. Remnants of the west abutment are still visible along the river bank.

16. Whetstone Creek
 Whetstone Creek joins the Black River from the west. The creek get its name from the whetstone-shaped rocks in its upper stretches.

15. Otter Creek:
 Otter Creek enters into the Black River from the east. The river narrows here and the current is swift near the lock. In 1860, the otter Creek lock and dam were built here. If the old lock on the west side of the river is not blocked by trees or debris, you may wish to canoe through it.

14. Bridge Pilings
 Just below the Glenfield Bridge you will see the remains of the pilings of the trestle bridge, used by log trains serving the Manteola Hardwood Mill and the Keystone Chemical Plant at Glenfield

13. Glenfield Boat Launch and Bridge
 Just under the bridge is the Glenfield boat launch, redesigned in 1993 to include a large parking area, boat ramp, picnic area and interpretive sign with historical ecological information about the Black River

12. Douglass Creek
 Douglass Creek flows into the river from the southwest. After you pass the creek inlet you will start to see pilings in the river. The pilings were driving into the riverbed and planked to create the canal

11. Burdick's Crossing Fishing Access site
 This five-acre fishing access is currently undeveloped, however, the public is welcome to fish from the shore or to launch car top boats and canoes here

SAFE BOATING TIPS
NAVIGATE WITH CARE!
 Changing water levels mean changing conditions. Use care at all times. (Remember this historic waterway has many remains from old locks, bridges and dams - above and below the water)
WEAR PERSONAL FLOATION DEVICES!
 Make sure everyone on board has a personal floatation device. Children under 12 must wear theirs at all times.
EXTEND COURTESY TO OTHER BOATERS
 Use common sense and render assistance to other boaters if needed.
NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE
IT'S AGAINST THE LAW

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE BETWEEN LAUNCHES

Lyons Falls to Burdick's Crossing	4.1 miles
Burdick's Crossing to Glenfield	4.5 miles
Glenfield to Beach's Landing	11.3 miles
Beach's Landing to Castorland	11.3 miles
Castorland to Carthage	9.8 miles
TOTAL	41.0 miles

36. Carthage Boat Launch
 Carthage was the northern terminus of the Black River Canal, and in the last half of 1800s, was a busy port. Recently completed, "Turning Point Park" offers a scenic riverfront walkway with public fishing access and boat launch.

35. Deer River
 On the west side of the river is the mouth of the Deer River, which has its start on the Tug Hill Plateau. The upstream reaches of the Deer River is a popular trout stream. These waters also power a hydroelectric plant upstream in Copenhagen. On the opposite shore is Cold Spring Park, owned by the Carthage Rod and Gun Club, once a popular picnic area and site of an old hotel.

34. Castorland Boat Launch
 On the east side of the Black River just past the Route 410 bridge is the NYS DEC boat launch site, a popular spot for fishermen to enter the river to fish for northern pike, walleye, bass and bullhead

33. Castorland Bridge
 Just downstream from the confluence of the Beaver and the Black are the remains of the limestone piers that supported a four-span bridge. The old bridge had a swing span on the westerly end for steamboat traffic. The present bridge was built in 1955

32. Beaver River
 Across from the mill site, the Beaver River joins the Black River. It is navigable for approximately five miles to the dam of the Beaver Falls. Because of the shallow waters, barges run up the Beaver River and you can still see the remains of the old towpath along the southern side of the river

30. Van Amber Brothers Sawmill and Boat Works
 This is the site of the old Van Amber Brothers Sawmill and Boat Works. Here steamboats and canal boats were built for use on the Black River Canal. In low water, the cribbing of the docks and remains of the canal boat can be seen on the eastern shore of the river. Two stone piers that were part of the docks are just under the surface, and a larger pier can be seen in mid-river. This was once used to anchor log booms and steamboats awaiting loading and unloading.

29. Crystal Creek
 Formerly called Deer Creek, Crystal Creek, one of the best brown trout fishing streams in the north country, enters the Black River here.

22. Nelson Beach House
 The Nelson J. Beach House was built in 1836 by Mr. Beach, NYS Canal Commissioner and local Lewis County politician. He advocated the narrowing and deepening of the channel rather than the construction of dams and locks. He died in 1876 at the age of 75 at his beautiful farm on the Black River.

20. Memories Restaurant
 The restaurant is the site of a historic tavern, and an old mule barn that once provided shelter for the mules that pulled the barges along the Black River Canal. A wharf was located on the east bank of the river, serving Watson for loading and unloading of supplies for Watson, and a second wharf further downstream on the east bank served the settlement of Lowville.

19. Beach's Landing Fishing Access Site
 On the East of the river is a 20-acre parcel of land available to the public for shore fishing.

18. Bush's landing
 Bush's Landing is a site of a former lock and dam. The landing was the site of an early general store, post office, and the famous Passenger's Hotel, all catering to river traffic

17. Independence River
 Coming in from the East is the Independence River, named on the Fourth of July, 1793, by Pierre Perroux, surveyor for the Castorland Company. The pool formed where the two rivers join is a popular spot for walleye fishing.

10. Burdick's Crossing Bridge
 If the water is low enough, you may see abutments which are remnants of the old Burdick's Crossing Bridge and the location of an earlier ferry crossing

8. Fish Creek
 Fish Creek enters the Black River from the east. Fish Creek was an important source of water power in bygone days, serving the many saw mills and grist mills that were located along its bank. On the

7. Whittlesley Bridge
 On the east bank, at the site of an old ferry crossing and the Whittles Bridge, you will see a very large rock and a camp just visible to the right. Just below the camp are stone abutments, the last remains of the old bridge

5. Jetty Dam
 On the east bank just below First Creek, the river is wide and shallow. An old "jetty dam" was once here, with pilings and boards still a visible reminder of the old canal. The jetty dam was built diagonally to the flow of the river in an attempt to make the river deeper in this section for easier navigation of the canal boats

2. Lyons Falls (lower) Boat launch
 Rebuilt 1994, this boat launch offers a lot of parking space and an informative sign to tell you about the Black River. Located at the site of the original Castorland Colony, the launch site is privately owned by Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper and is open to the public

9. Norton's Creek
 Norton's Creek joins the Black River from the West

6. Second Creek
 Second Creek flows into the Black River from the west. The river is narrow here (about 20 feet wide) and the current is a bit stronger on the east side of the river

4. First Creek
 About ¼ mile downstream from the dry-dock and coming in from the west is First Creek

3. Old Dry Dock
 To the west, just past the launch site (you have to pass it and look back to see it) is where the Black River Canal entered the Black River. It was called Dry Dock and was accessible from Dock Street in Lyons Falls.

1. Lyons Falls (upper) Boat Launch
 Located above the falls in Lyons Falls is a new car top launch. It provides access to both the upper reaches of the Black River (about 2½ miles) and the lower stretches of the Moose River (about a mile to the Kosterville Falls). Both rivers offer excellent trout fishing

1 Points of Interest

— Road

Water section

Village

