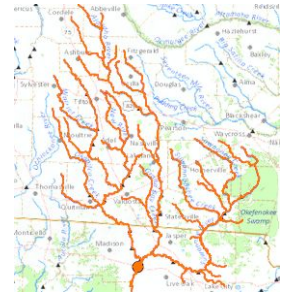


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## July 2016 Tannin Times

### ***Annual Meeting - July 13, 2016***

Mark your Calendar! The Annual Membership meeting is Wednesday, July 13th at 7:00PM at the IHOP in Adel. Members will receive and review the annual report, and we will hold the election of board members. All WWALS members are encouraged to attend and those who attend are eligible to vote in the election. The nominating committee met on Friday May 27th and discussed the slate of potential candidates and officers. Officers will be elected at the quarterly board meeting at 7:30 PM. If you are interested in becoming more active, [please fill in this questionnaire](#) and we will find the right spot for you on a committee or even on the board!

### ***WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed***

**Valdosta Wastewater** - It has finally happened! The long awaited Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant and Force Main have been completed by the City of Valdosta. So far no overflows or sewage spills have been reported despite some heavy rains in the Valdosta area. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Wastewater facility on Wetherington Road that is open to the public on Tuesday July 12, 2016 at 8 am.



**Southwings Flight** - John Quarterman, Chris Mericle, and geologist Can Denizman took advantage of a Southwings flight to get aerial photos of several issues affecting our watershed including multiple industrial farms, a phosphate mine, and a pipe storage yard in Columbia County, FL apparently for Sabal Trail. Southwings is a nonprofit conservation organization that uses volunteer pilots and small aircraft to protect the natural resources and ecosystems of the Southeast.



**Dead River Sink Dye Test** - John and Gretchen Quarterman and Can Denizman observed the SRWMD and FDEP

introduction of dye into the Dead River, just above the sink. Staff from both organizations, as well as students and interns spent a morning and early afternoon collecting flow data and then introducing dye into the river. Automated sample collection is in place at several locations where the dye is expected to emerge. We look forward to the report from SRWMD and FDEP about the results.



**CR\T EDP Permit Change Application** - Gretchen Quarterman and Phil Hubbard attended a public meeting about the proposed EDP permit change for CR\T Chemical on East Hill Ave. in Valdosta. It turns out that a permit change is needed even when additional regular testing is desired. The company didn't have any explanation as to why contaminants Naphthalene, 2-Methylphenol, Phenol have been detected, but after the permit change, all the wells will be tested for them.

## Outing News and Updates

Our June outing on the Withlacoochee River drew a sizeable group of paddlers! We paddled into a quiet and beautiful Madison Blue Spring, through interesting rock formations, and through several shoals, with a few swimming breaks along the way. We met new friends and enjoyed old friends as we made our way downstream to the Suwannee River. Thanks to Phil Hubbard who got photos of each boat going through Melvin Shoals. No mishaps occurred! Come join the fun on our next outing July 9th.



## Community Outreach and Education

**Grassroots Summit** -Please mark your calendars to attend the Grassroots Summit to Stop the Sabal Trail Pipeline on August 6, 2016 in Gainesville, Florida. WWALS and several other groups, including Gulf Restoration Network will be brainstorming with interested individuals who are working locally to stop this ill-advised pipeline slated to be installed from Alabama, through Georgia, and down through Florida in the most karst sensitive areas.

**Madison County Meeting** - John Quartermann and Debra Johnson spoke at the Madison Board of County Commissioners meeting to bring to their attention the proposed Sabal Trail Transmission pipeline and its potential threats to our springs, water supply, and safety. The commissioners are considering writing a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, asking for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement like Hamilton, Suwannee, and Marion County, Florida Commissioners and Georgia Congressman Sanford Bishop GA-02 have done.

**WATERKEEPER Alliance Annual Meeting** - John and Gretchen Quartermann attended the WATERKEEPER® Alliance annual meeting in Wilmington, NC in June. There they met with people from around the world who are working to hold polluters accountable and to make sure that our rivers and watersheds remain fishable, swimmable and drinkable. They learned from experts in many areas and heard from others who are battling industrial agriculture, fracking, pipelines, and more. (Photo credit: John Wathen, of Waterkeeper president Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Gretchen, and jsq.)



## Upcoming Outings and Events

July 9, 8AM	Withlacoochee River (Georgia): Nankin Road to Madison HWY, 9.1miles
August 13, 8AM	Suwannee River (Florida) Roline Launch to Cypress Creek Launch 7.5 miles
September 10, 4PM	Rivers Alive Cleanup at Berrien Beach

Check out the [WWALS Calendar](#) for more details.

