



Donald M. Thieme, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Physics, Astronomy,
Geosciences, and Engineering Technology
1500 North Patterson Street
Valdosta, GA 31698-0050

dmthieme@valdosta.edu
<https://mypages.valdosta.edu/dmthieme/>
229-219-1345

Thursday, December 5, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am very pleased and excited about the proposal by WWALS to develop the Troupville River Camp. The property in question is at the juncture of the Little River and the Withlacoochee River, two large tributaries to the Suwannee River watershed. As we discussed with John Quarterman in a recent field visit to the property, there are many questions in my own research and that of Dr. Can Denizman which can be pursued through fieldwork and continuous data collection from areas on the property.

The two rivers which meet at the proposed Troupville River Camp are very different in both channel sinuosity and sediment being delivered to their floodplains. Upstream along the Withlacoochee River, the surface flow sometimes connects with both shallow groundwater and the Upper Floridan Aquifer through karst conduits in both siliceous and carbonate sedimentary rocks. We have been investigating these connections in recent research using geophysical methods which include both electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) and ground-penetrating radar (GPR).

I am planning to work at the proposed Troupville River Camp property this spring with students in my course on Environmental Soil Science (GEOL 3710). I plan to train my students in soil description while sampling these floodplain soils and then complete some basic laboratory analyses which should be useful in planning future use of the landscape.

Along with Dr. Denizman and other colleagues in the Department of Physics, Astronomy, Geosciences, and Engineering Technology, I will be collaborating with WWALS on the development of the Troupville River Camp project. We discussed how to harvest LiDAR data on surface topography with the surveyors and engineers working for WWALS. We will help WWALS use this data to identify areas of possible prehistoric and historic cultural activity and select areas where subsurface coring or trenching may yield useful information about environmental change in the Upper Suwannee River watershed.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Thieme, Associate Professor
Physics, Astronomy, Geosciences, and Engineering Technology