

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
P.O. Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632

July Newsletter

WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed

WWALS Watershed Coalition was approved June 4, 2015 as a Waterkeeper® Affiliate by the Waterkeeper Alliance Board of directors. As a Waterkeeper® Affiliate, WWALS will work to patrol and protect our central south Georgia and central north Florida watersheds by combining firsthand knowledge of the watersheds with an unwavering commitment to the rights of the community and to the rule of law. WWALS President, John S. Quarterman said, "WWALS' aim as a Waterkeeper® Affiliate is to leverage Waterkeeper® Alliance's widespread network of Riverkeepers® and campaigns to assist with our advocacy for issues that extend beyond our local watersheds, for improved quality of life for all citizens, whether they rely on water for drinking, recreation, agriculture, or industry.

Waterkeeper® Alliance is a global movement uniting more than 240 Waterkeeper® organizations and Affiliates that focus on citizen advocacy regarding the issues that affect our waterways, such as pollution and climate change. At the core of every Waterkeeper® organization is a commitment to grass roots advocacy and an unfaltering belief that everyone has a right to clean water. Marc Yaggi, Executive Director of Waterkeeper® Alliance states, "Until our public agencies have the means necessary to protect us from polluters, and the will to enforce the law, there will always be a great need for people like WWALS to fight for our right to clean water." Learn more about Waterkeeper® Alliance at www.waterkeeper.org.

Community Outreach and Education

Board members John and Gretchen Quarterman attended a ½ day seminar offered by local area Chambers of Commerce in Valdosta. The ARWT Brochure was repeatedly used by the presenter, Bob Harris, as an illustration of an item that positively reflected its organization. Board members John S. Quarterman and Dave Hetzel attended the Suwannee-Satilla Water Council meeting in Douglas and learned what is going on in our region from the state and federal points of view, passing out ARWT brochures and advocating against the Sabal Trail pipeline.



Outing News and Updates

Our June outing from Sasser Landing to Jennings Bluff was well attended and lots of fun. The hike to see the Dead River sink was outstanding as always. Our July outing is scheduled for July 11th at 8AM. Breeze over mild rapids past sand beaches on the Alapaha River, from Lanier Park in Lakeland to US 84. It's long, but there should be no deadfalls. In most places the river may be so low you could stand up, but as always bring your personal flotation device. Back up location if water is too low or high is Banks Lake in Lakeland.

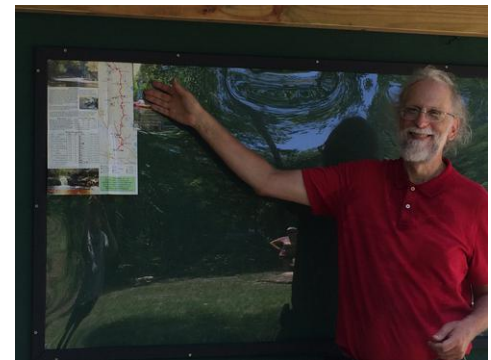


Water Trail News



The brochures for the Alapaha River Water Trail are printed and being distributed. They are eye-catching! We have gotten only favorable responses and requests for more. They are being distributed to Chambers of Commerce, Tourism Councils, outfitters, Georgia Visitor Information Centers, among other places. Hamilton County, Florida has placed kiosks at Gibson Park near the confluence of the Alapaha and Suwannee Rivers, and at Sasser Landing on the Alapaha near

Jennings. The ARWT brochure is slated to be displayed on both those kiosks. Funding and local assistance is needed to place ARWT road signs and kiosks at access points in Georgia.



WWALS is happy to announce the the next planned water trail is the Withlacoochee River Water Trail (WRWT), which will incorporate its main tributary, the Little River. A WRWT committee has been formed and has already drafted a [WRWT website](#) with draft interactive map, and soon maps, brochures, and signs that will help people plan a fun paddling adventure on the Withlacoochee and Little Rivers, which are abundant with wildlife and many shoals and springs! We are seeking interested members to join the WRWT committee to help with fundraising, maps, brochures, and signs.

Annual Meeting - July 8, 2015

Each year, WWALS holds an annual meeting with the presentation and review of the annual report and the election of board members. The meeting is scheduled this year for 7:00 pm July 8, 2015 at the IHOP in Adel GA. All WWALS members are invited to attend and those who attend are eligible to vote in the election. Officers will be elected at the board meeting immediately after.

Upcoming Outings

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| July 11 8AM | Lanier Park to Naylor Park |
| August 15 8AM | Gibson Park to Suwannee River State Park |
| September 26 9AM | Adopt-a-Stream - Trash Pick Up GA 135, Atkinson County side |

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