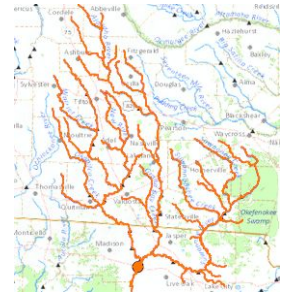


WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Affiliate for the
Suwannee, Withlacoochee, and Alapaha Rivers
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June 2016 Tannin Times

WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed

U.S. Congressman Ted Yoho FL-03 on May 15th 2016 [hiked with about 30 people](#) where Sabal Trail proposes to drill under the Suwannee River at Suwannee River State Park near Live Oak, FL. All saw in person many sinkholes along the route Sabal Trail failed to mention to permitting agencies. A staffer from U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office was also present as well as a county commissioner each from Suwannee and Hamilton counties, and several candidates for the Florida statehouse. The hike was a joint effort of WWALS, Gulf Restoration Network, Environment Florida, Sierra Club, Our Santa Fe River, SpectraBusters, Earth Ethics, Environment America, and Environment Georgia. The group asked Rep Yoho to send a letter to the the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) asking for a USACE site visit to see the discrepancies in Sabal Trail's information and for USACE to open a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for public comment. At the end of the event, Rep. Yoho said we had his commitment to get answers before the pipeline proceeds to questions about the discrepancies between what is being reported by Sabal Trail and what can be seen first hand. Three days later Rep. Yoho instead issued a press release that appeared to say all issues had already been handled. We await Rep. Yoho doing what he said he would do.



WWALS Ambassador Dave Hetzel and President John S. Quarterman met with Rep. Austin Scott GA-08 after a joint letter from WWALS and Flint Riverkeeper, and Scott indicated he would ask the Corps for a SEIS if other Congress members would. Unfortunately, Scott has since said that's "on hold". We await him taking it off hold and sending the Corps a letter.

Rep. Sanford Bishop GA-02 did [write a letter](#) to USACE asking for a SEIS and for that we thank him!

BIG Little River Paddle Event Wrap Up



Dwight Griner took home first prize for the fourth year in a row at the annual Big Little River Paddle race on May 21st. He received \$100 and an impressive trophy. Chris and Deanna Mericle took second and Tom Potter took third. [Medals were awarded](#) in several categories.



The fundraiser is a cooperative effort between WWALS and the Friends of Reed Bingham State Park in Adel, GA. Fun, friendly competition, and lunch was

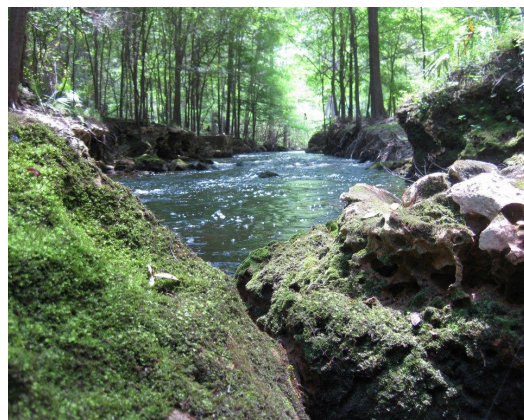
included!

Outing News and Updates

We've been having scheduled outings and impromptu outings and scouting expeditions and lots of fun. If you have a suggestion on a location you'd like to paddle, please let us know at wwalswatershed@gmail.com

Community Outreach and Education

WWALS and the Woman's Club of Live Oak organized the "Serenity at Lime Run Spring" [photo contest](#) for high school students, sponsored by First Federal Bank of Florida and various individuals. The photos are beautiful and [an award ceremony was held on May 23, 2016 to recognize the winners](#). First place winner was Randall Petty from Hamilton High School. Second place went to Ben Bowman from Branford High School. Third place was awarded to Jessica Bowman. Honorable Mention went to Mallory Stevens. The point of the contest was to raise awareness of the beauty and fragility of Lime Run Spring, a first magnitude spring at the Suwannee River State park that is threatened by the proposed Sabal Trail pipeline.



Bret Wagenhorst set up a WWALS table at the Tift Regional Medical Center Employee Wellness Fair on May 9th with the WWALS banner, information about the water trails, membership forms, and registration for the BIG Little River Paddle Race.

John S. Quarterman and Dave Hetzel attended the Georgia Water Coalition meeting in Covington GA and networked with water groups from across the state, shared information about our Alapaha River Water Trail, Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail, opposition to the Sabal Trail fracked methane pipeline, and learned from others about topics including legislative actions.

Annual Meeting - July 13, 2016

Each year, WWALS holds an annual meeting with the presentation and review of the annual report and the election of board members. All WWALS members are invited to attend and those who attend are eligible to vote in the election, July 13, 2016 at 7:00pm at the IHOP in Adel GA. The nominating committee met on Friday May 27th and discussed the slate of potential candidates and officers. 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!

Water Trail Updates

Good news from GDOT: signs we want to place at the Alapaha River Water Trail ramps are available at the price previously quoted. We can still use your donations beyond your membership (you can specify that your dollars go to signage if you want) to make the signs a reality, and you can help talk to your county Commission about sponsoring signs.



Upcoming Outings and Events

June 4, 7:30AM	Withlacoochee River (Florida): Florida Camps to SRSP, 13.3 miles
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

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

