



WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

3338 Country Club Road #L336, Valdosta, GA 31605

wwalswatershed@gmail.com

www.wwals.net

March Newsletter

WWALS is excited to announce a winner in our contest among high school students in Echols, Lanier, Lowndes, Berrien, Atkinson, and Tift Counties in Georgia, and Hamilton County, Florida to design a logo for the [Alapaha River Water Trail](#). The logo will be used on the Water Trail website, on promotional brochures, and on information at access points along the river that will be posted on kiosks. Our judges for the contest include: Julie Bowland, Art Professor at Valdosta State University, John Fitton, member of the Lakeland Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Dennis Price, member of the Hamilton County Florida Tourism Council, and Chris Graham, Chairman of the WWALS [Alapaha River Water Trail Committee](#). Winners will be announced, prizes awarded, and the winning logo unveiled at the:

WWALS Alapaha River Water Trail Conference – FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SO INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

When: 1-4 PM – Saturday March 14th, 2015

Where: [Gaskins Forest Education Center](#)

3359 Moore Sawmill Rd

Alapaha, Georgia.

This **Alapaha River Water Conference** is **FREE** and will be followed by a short paddle trip outing on the Alapaha River with experienced or beginning paddlers welcome! Also, if you are not a member or have not renewed your membership for 2015, it's easy to join or do so online today at <http://www.wwals.net/donations/>. You do not have to be a member to come on this outing. If you like the experience, we recommend that you join to support the efforts of WWALS. We will drive about 10 miles from the conference site to the put in at the Hwy 135 Bridge and paddle upstream about 30-45 minutes and then return to the start. This trip is appropriate for novice paddlers, but will require some physical exertion since the first portion is against the current. Participants must bring their own boats and life jackets. There will be a limited number of spaces in boats for those who don't have boats (contact Bret Wagenhorst at 229-392-5513 if you need a space). All participants must know how to swim or tread water. This outing continues our exploration of the [Alapaha River Water Trail](#).

Please advise all your family, friends, and post to social media that **WWALS** has been approved on the "Amazon Smile Program" which means if you register us as your charity of choice at www.Smile.Amazon.com and they will donate a portion of the profits to **WWALS**.

The **Alapaha River Water Trail** connects about 125 miles of the 202-mile Alapaha River from US 82 in Berrien County, Georgia to the Suwannee River in Hamilton County, Florida. Its tea-colored tannin waters class it as a blackwater river, flowing below bald cypress, longleaf, slash, and loblolly pines, and majestic oaks, with great blue herons, snapping turtles, alligators, and fish. Mostly flat, the Alapaha River also contains rapids, many springs, and the Alapaha Sink and the Dead River Sink where it goes [underground](#) until it comes back up in the Alapaha Rise. Covering its entire flood plain in the rainy season, and less than a foot deep in spots during dry spells, the Alapaha River is a treasure and a challenge. The **Alapaha River Water Trail** also includes the Alapahoochee River, as well as many lakes, ponds, and swamps that are boatable year round.

WWALS is an advocacy organization working for watershed conservation of the Willacoochee, Withlacoochee, Alapaha, and Little River Systems watershed in south Georgia and north Florida through awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen advocacy.

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