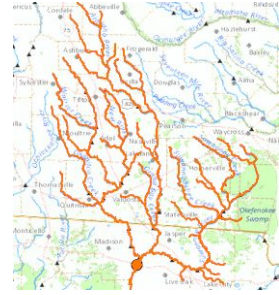


**WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.**  
the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Affiliate for the  
Suwannee, Withlacoochee, and Alapaha Rivers  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity  
PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632  
[wwalswatershed@gmail.com](mailto:wwalswatershed@gmail.com)  
[www.wwals.net](http://www.wwals.net)



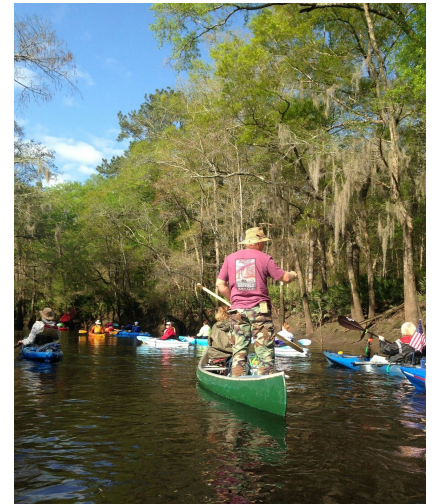
April 2016 Tannin Times

### ***The WWALS Committees (or how we get stuff done).***

There are many ways that you can become more involved in WWALS activities. We are organized with a committee structure and members can be active in a variety of ways without necessarily having to go on outings. Of course we have an outings committee, and water trail focused committees, but we also have membership and public relations. There is a committee that deals with issues in our watershed that includes advocacy to make sure that our rivers are boatable, swimmable and fishable. Those members interested in being considered for a committee position should fill in a [WWALS Membership Interest Form](#). Additionally, the **WWALS Board** will have a *quarterly board meeting* on **Wednesday, April 13th** at the Farm House Restaurant in Lake Park, GA at 7:30 pm. Board meetings are open and we would love to have you join us so we can hear your ideas. Questions about the board or how to participate on a committee should be sent to [wwalswatershed@gmail.com](mailto:wwalswatershed@gmail.com).

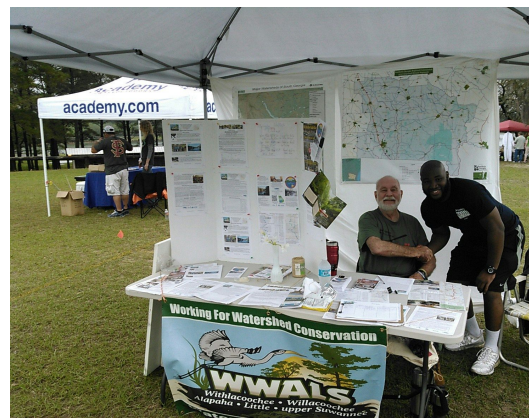
### ***Outing News and Updates***

A big thank you to Valdosta Parks and Recreation for granting access to the Langdale Park Boat ramp while the park is closed for renovation. On a beautiful Sunday morning, 19 boaters in 17 boats floated down to the park from the Staten Road Bridge. We had several new participants, with some swimmers and some appearing to be experts. At right, outing leader Chris Mericle stands in his boat to count attendees and boats.



### ***Community Outreach and Education***

March was a busy month for WWALS outreach as we had booths at the Rhythm and Ribs Festival in Tifton, the Azalea Festival in Valdosta and the Little River Fest at Reed Bingham State Park. Our outreach is working because some folks we gave information to at the Azalea Festival joined us the next week on our outing. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped get the word out.



## WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed

["It's the most votes I've ever gotten on anything,"](#) said veteran Sierra Club lobbyist Neill Herring. In conjunction with the Georgia Water Coalition, Flint Riverkeeper, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Georgia Sierra Club, SpectraBusters, and others, WWALS and its members called state representatives during the last days of the Georgia legislative session and urged them to vote **"No"** on SR954 until river drilling easements for the proposed Sabal Trail Pipeline were taken out.

RCS# 793

GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SR 954

REGULAR SESSION

03/22/16 3:22 PM

ADOPT

34 YEAS 128 NAYS 11 N/V 7 EXC

Please thank your representative for protecting our Piscola Creek, Withlacoochee River, and Floridan Aquifer; see: <http://www.wwals.net/?p=18465>

In Florida, WWALS members met with US Congressman Ted Yoho (FL-03) to discuss the dangers of the proposed pipeline crossing the sensitive karst surroundings of the Suwannee River and the Falmouth Cathedral Cave System. Another hike is scheduled for early May to the proposed pipeline site and surrounding areas, with more elected officials choosing to see for themselves. The [Hamilton County Board of Commissioners has requested that the Army Corps of Engineers](#) see for themselves the frequency and magnitude of local springs and sinkholes, especially those Sabal Trail didn't mention to FERC. Other local elected bodies can make similar requests. Sabal Trail's effects extend far beyond a single pipeline, to two offshoot pipelines including one to the Gulf, two continuation pipelines all the way to the Atlantic Coast, another to Jacksonville, five already-approved liquid natural gas (LNG) export operations including by rail, plus numerous power plants all not needed since the Sunshine State can go directly to solar power; see: <http://www.wwals.net/?p=18965>

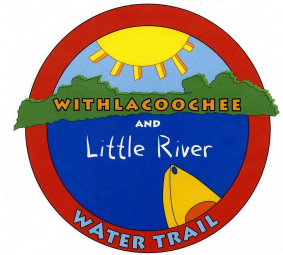
## Valdosta Wastewater

We continue to bird-dog the repeated sewage overflows: three more at the end of March, after two sets during February. Updates are collected here on Valdosta's progress on its \$300 million in fixes, and answers when we get them to some of our outstanding questions:

<http://www.wwals.net/issues/vww/>

## Water Trail Updates

The Hamilton County, Florida Tourist Development Council paid for a reprint of another 5,000 copies of the Alapaha River Water Trail Brochure, with a few updates such as the inclusion of the upper Suwannee River watershed in WWALS territory. The brochure has been well received throughout the region! We continue to work on details for the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail including drafting of the brochure and exploration of the rivers in our monthly outings.



## Upcoming Outings and Events

April 13 7:30PM	Quarterly Board Meeting - Lake Park Farm House Restaurant
April 23 8AM	Alapaha River: Hotchkiss to Mayday, 12.7 miles
May 21 8AM	BIG Little River Paddle Event: Red Roberts to Reed Bingham Lake
June 4 7:30AM	Withlacoochee River (Florida): Florida Camps to SRSP, 13.3 miles

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

