

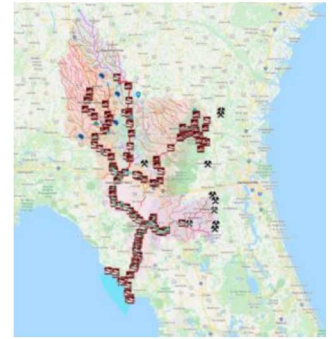
WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.

the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Member
for the Suwannee River Basin as



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November 2020 Tannin Times

WWALS Biota November 2020: Remembering biota past

In both Mesoamerican indigenous cultures and European Christian traditions, late autumn is a time when the dead are remembered, as seen in the Dia de los Muertos in Mexico and All Souls Day in many other western countries. It seems fitting, then, as November comes in and autumn is felt across the coastal plain, that we consider biota past.

Limestone underlies much of the WWALS watersheds and is visible as karst banks along many of the region's rivers. This rock is formed from skeletal fragments and waste products of ancient marine organisms, such as corals and mollusks, that accumulated over eons at the bottom of the shallow seas that covered much of the area for millennia. Pressure converted this debris to stone, comprised largely of calcium carbonate. Acidic water has dissolved channels in this soft stone, creating the incredible, Swiss cheese embankments along the lower Alapaha, Withlacoochee and middle Suwannee Rivers.



Mollusk shell imprint in karst formation along Withlacoochee River—photo by Bret Wagenhorst

If you look closely at the karst, you may find fossilized mollusks or imprints of their shells exposed on the surface—remembrances of past marine biota. As you paddle the WWALS rivers this November, remember the dead organisms that contributed to the stone wonders you see around you and count your blessings that in these COVID times, you are still alive to see them. —Bret Wagenhorst

3rd Annual Boomerang Winner is Jackson Buttery from Tallahassee: 1hr. 16 min. 42 secs.

We had [26 paddlers in 17 boats and at least 40 people in attendance this year, with](#) lots of new faces. The winner drove up from Tallahassee. Plus the number of vendors has grown, and we had a fourth outfitter join us at the ramp, along with more donations and sponsors this year from Olympia Bend and Life Outdoors and SBMS CrossFit. Considering the coronavirus and all, the Boomerang had a stronger showing this year, plus more vendors and a fourth outfitter, Madison Outdoor Adventures, along with Banks Lake Outdoors, NWXpeditions, and VSU Core. New sponsors included Olympia Bend, Life Outdoors and SBMS CrossFit. Thanks to those who cleaned up before, and for safety duties to Dan Phillips at the final turnaround and to Nathan Carter at the shoals.

Kayak Raffle Tickets Available

Just in time for holiday giving, [win a kayak by getting a raffle ticket](#) for \$5 or five tickets for \$20. Drawing is December 12, 2020, for an Emotion Stealth 11 sit-on-top kayak with paddle (\$600 value). It would be exceptionally helpful if everyone would get a ticket to support WWALS' education and advocacy, and you could win the kayak!



Kayak Raffle
Drawing - December 12, 2020
Emotion Stealth 11 Sit-On-Top Kayak with Carlsle Paddle
\$600.00 value
Suggested Donation \$5.00 for one ticket, \$20.00 for five tickets

#GeorgiaGives - December 1, 2020

November is our month of thankful reflection. We are thankful for all of you who give generously of your time and money. 2020 has been a challenging year, and we appreciate you all. It is also "Georgia Gives" Month, and we hope that you all will make a donation to either our general fund or one of our special projects at <https://www.gagives.org/organization/Wwals-Watershed-Coalition>. We need you all year round, and making a small monthly donation will make a big difference to our ability to be an advocate for the Suwannee Basin.

December Silent Auction

Recent events, including the Boomerang and Songwriting contest, had associated silent auctions. WWALS will have a silent auction in December, and we have paintings by both Julie Bowland and Eileen Box available. If you have items you'd like to donate, let us know. Otherwise, keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming auction at <https://www.betterunite.com/WWALS>