

WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed

Vote Yes on Georgia Amendment 1, [dedicating state fees and taxes to their intended purposes](#), as requested by resolutions of six of our counties and cities.

Outings Committee. In addition to the successful Boomerang, we also had [a dozen Full Moon paddlers on October 1](#), and thirty in costume on Banks Lake for the [rare Blue Moon](#) on Halloween (not to be seen again until 2039). More than 100 people cleaned up six sites for “Love Your Rivers” with Valdosta and Lowndes County, removing nearly 2,000 pounds of debris from the Little, Withlacoochee, and Alapaha Rivers. —Bobby McKenzie, Outings Committee Chair, who passed the paddle to Bret Miller.



Don't forget [the real trash problem is the companies that make it](#).

Sewage Spills. Quitman, GA, [spilled 87,000 gallons of raw sewage on April 24, 2020](#), which correlates exactly with sky-high Fecal coliform and *E. coli* results on Okapilco Creek and the Withlacoochee River, and discolored water several days later at Running Springs on the Suwannee River. It may have continued all the way to the Gulf. It didn't appear in GA-EPD's Sewage Spills Report until April 29. **Adel, GA**, spilled [multiple times](#), with [7,500 gallons](#) on October 10, in GA-EPD's Report ten days later. **Ashburn, GA**, spilled [210,000 gallons of raw sewage](#) in September, in GA-EPD's Report four weeks after the first spill. Nobody is checking Reed Bingham State Park Lake for *E. coli*. Ashburn also spilled 300,000 gallons on February 6, and twice more into the Alapaha Basin, where there is too little testing to tell effects downstream. **Rochelle, GA**, had much smaller spills into the Alapaha basin. **Tifton, GA**, spilled into the New River on June 18, and **Moody AFB** on August 17 into Beatty Branch, both upstream of the Withlacoochee River. Only Quitman appears to have had detectable effects at Valdosta or downstream. But we'd prefer fewer spills and faster reporting.

Water Quality Testing. Madison and Hamilton Health issued a water quality advisory in early October, but lifted it quickly. According to Valdosta, Florida, and WWALS testing, the most likely sources were agricultural. Thanks to Jonah Ventures for some DNA test kits, which may help resolve the sources. Everyone, [please vote for clean water](#).

Springs. At [their October board meeting](#), Suwannee Riverkeeper again asked SRWMD to reject Nestle's Ginnie Springs Santa Fe River permit application and to re-examine its permit at Madison Blue Spring on the Withlacoochee River..

Wood Pellet Plant, Adel, GA. They [don't have a Georgia air quality permit](#), and you can ask GA-EPD and the governor to stop that.

Titanium mine close to the Okefenokee Swamp. The Army Corps [abdicated its responsibility](#). Please [help ask](#) the Georgia governor and statehouse members to reject the miners' state permit applications. And the miners are [linked to a failed biomass plant](#).

LNG Export. FERC confused Miami with Puerto Rico, and still hasn't answered our FOIA request. <https://wwals.net/?p=53926>

Moody AFB. Public [comments are accepted through November 24, 2020](#), on the Comprehensive Airspace Initiative DEIS.

No Roads to Ruin. In response to Suwannee Riverkeeper pointing out that at least the [broke-from-the-start Texas SH 130](#) had traffic estimates that seemed to support it, while the Florida toll roads do not, [FDOT says it will look for toll road financial need after](#) the “Final” reports that found no need, and after No Roads to Ruin revealed that 93% of the public comments were against the roads.

You can vote for people who will stop this environmentally destructive boondoggle.

PR Committee. The WWALS website is now <https://wwals.net>, with the coveted black padlock symbol, meaning more secure. Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman was on the [Scott James](#) and [Steve Nichols](#) radio shows about the WWALS Boomerang. In the [Suwannee Springs paddle for Visit Suwannee County](#), the WWALS movie extras paddled up Sugar Creek (next to GA 129).

Upcoming Outings and Events

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| Friday, November 6, 12-2 PM | Lunch and drive by mine site near Okefenokee Swamp, SRWT |
| Sat.-Sun., November 7-8, 10 AM | Floyd's Island paddle and camp , Okefenokee Swamp, SRWT |
| Monday, November 30, 5 PM | Full Beaver Moon Paddle, Banks Lake, Lakeland, GA ARWT |
| Saturday, Dec. 12, 3 PM | Kayak Raffle Drawing - get your tickets now! |
| Saturday, Dec. 19, 3 PM | Second Annual Solstice Light Parade , Banks Lake, Lakeland, GA ARWT |
| Tuesday, December 29, 4:45 PM | Full Cold Moon Paddle, Banks Lake, Lakeland, GA, ARWT |
| Saturday, January 2, 9 AM | New Year Paddle, Ichetucknee and Santa Fe Rivers, Fort White FL, SRWT |
| TBD February 2021, 9 AM | 2nd Annual Mayor's Paddle , Troupville Boat Ramp, Valdosta, Little, Withlacoochee Rivers |

Check out the [WWALS Calendar](#) or [Outings and Events](#) for more details.

