People stop to swim at many more places than those listed in the WWALS Recreational Data spreadsheet. Which places vary with water levels (a good sandbar can be underwater and another can be accessible), with the insects (more bugs, more swimming), with the speed of outing (some people swim practically every river mile), and with other factors (some people prefer deep pools instead of beaches). I apologize for not including any specific baptism sites. Any riverside near a church is a likely spot, plus places like Folsom Bridge on the Little River west of Hahira, so baptism can happen anywhere on a river.

Water Quality Testing

Speaking of the Little River, I appreciate the time EPD staff have taken to point to agricultural lands near that river. However, according to bacterial water quality tests by WWALS and others, the Little River actually is almost always cleaner of *E. coli* than the Withlacoochee River. Only rarely do we find contamination in the Little River, and that is usually after big rains. After the same rains, the Withlacoochee River almost always shows bigger effects.

Please see attached our WWALS composite spreadsheet of water quality data from multiple sources, also including rainfall at multiple locations, and sewage spills reported by GA-EPD. It includes Valdosta's thrice-weekly test results on 40 Withlacoochee River miles to the GA-FL line, as required by GA-EPD Consent Order, as well as tests by several Florida Agencies, WWALS, data EPD requires Lowndes County to collect, and some spill followup tests by NPDES permit holders. The composite spreadsheet got so large we had to break it into two parts.

1. 2021, being continually updated here:
   https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I_W-lB8Sfe04UKdO5ufexq3OVMYG_0eBIEDX0gixJ-O/edit?usp=sharing

2. December 2019 through 2020, also online here:
   https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13ctsH20jq-GWBDvv_cqNTEPvx3OmF7LzdnogOWVnQvw/edit?usp=sharing

We considered doing some statistical analysis to show what percentage of the time which river stretches show less than 126 cfu/100 mL *E. coli,* or less than 410, or greater than 1,000. However, we think a more important aspect of all this water quality data is that we have a pretty good up-to-date idea of when river stretches are clean and when they are not. For example, from mid-May through mid-June, 2021, the Withlacoochee River was clean at all measured locations, except for one or two blips which appear to have been localized contamination. We publish at least weekly examinations of such results: https://wwals.net/issues/testing/#results We share those results on social media, so people can know, especially before weekend outings. We also keep up to date a dozen or so Little and Withlacoochee River "beaches" on Swim Guide, an international smart phone app which displays red for bad water quality and green for good. https://www.theswimguide.org/search/?q=withlacoochee

As I have previously mentioned, significant contamination is most frequently from cattle manure, most frequently coming from Brooks County, from cattle near Okapilco Creek, not on the Withlacoochee River. About that, please see:

- "Current situation of Water Quality Testing, Suwannee River Basin 2020-08-02," which is attached and also online here: https://wwals.net/?p=53260

Online updates include:

- WWALS Summary of FDEP chemical and biological tracers, Withlacoochee and Suwannee Rivers 2020-08-05
- Year in review: water quality testing, February 2020-2021
- Cattle and hogs: Withlacoochee River water quality status 2021-06-27