FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

We're Go for: Third Annual Mayor and Chairman's Paddle, Withlacoochee River

Valdosta, Georgia, February 17, 2021 — "Water levels are good, the weather prediction is satisfactory, so we're Go for paddling the Withlacochee River this weekend!" said Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman.

Lowndes County Chairman Bill Slaughter said, "It's warm enough this time, so good paddling!"

Valdosta Mayor Scott James said, "So we're all agreed: Saturday, February 19, 2022. Come as early as 8 AM to get on the shuttle."

"Seeing a child experience something for the first time is life-changing. We have this opportunity every time a young person gets out exploring the natural world," said Bill Holt, Vice President of Operations, Valdosta Boys & Girls Club, which is providing shuttle vans.

"Dress warmly in layers because it will be in the fifties when we start but in the mid-sixties later, and you'll be getting warmer from paddling. The water temperature is in the fifties, so bring a change of clothes in a dry bag, just in case. It will be fun!" said Bobby McKenzie, leader of this WWALS expedition.

"We had fun last year, and this year we listed it in our calendar!" said Davy Shaw, Recreation Coordinator, Valdosta State University CORE Outdoors.

Photos: Russell Allen McBride 2020-01-18, John S. Quarterman 2022-03-27

We will paddle eleven miles, past the future site of Troupville River Camp and Nature Park, along the west side of the most populous city in the Suwannee River Basin, past Valdosta's clean outfall of its Withlacoochee Wastewater Treatment Plant, with many creeks, oaks, cypresses, pines, fish, turtles, and maybe an alligator, down to Spook Bridge, so scary it has its own movie.

Valdosta Mayor Scott James added, "I am excited to partner once again with WWALS, plus this time with Lowndes County, to show people our fabulous blackwater rivers, only a few miles from City Hall and VSU. Valdosta is proud to