

# WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.

the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Member

for the Suwannee River Basin as:

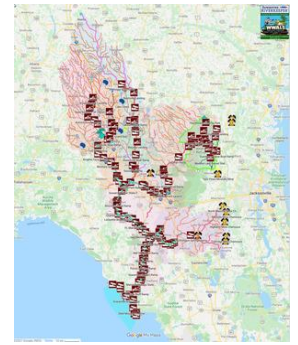
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## October 2023 Tannin Times

### WWALS Biota — a month for yellow

Native yellow flowers, such as “ditch sunflowers” and goldenrods, light up our landscape this month. So do many small birds with matching bright yellow—both year-round residents and migratory warblers.

I confess to having difficulty distinguishing the many warbler species often spied in the WWALS watershed in October, but there is one I can confidently recognize every time: the male common yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*. Smallish birds, mostly drab olive in color, the adult males sport a sunny yellow throat and a broad black face stripe across their eyes, topped by a thin white line. Common, but not commonly seen due to their preference for foraging for insects low to the ground in dense brush and weeds, the common yellowthroat, with a call that sounds like “witchey, witchey, witchey” and a striking black mask, seems like a good fit for a month ending with Halloween.

As you head out on the waterways this month, be on the lookout for all the beautiful yellow natives. —Bret Wagenhorst



Common yellowthroat  
Photo: Bret Wagenhorst

### WWALS River Revue, Songwriting Winners Announced

Thanks to Chuck Roberts for M.C.ing the successful first-ever [WWALS River Revue](#), a sit-down fundraising dinner, which sold out! Ten musicians wrote songs and seven sang them, about the delights of the waters of the Suwannee River Basin and the need to preserve them against numerous threats. Jane Fallon came all the way from Dunedin, Florida, to the Turner Arts Center in Valdosta, Georgia, to sing a story about legendary Sun Daughters reflecting on a proposed mine near the Okefenokee Swamp, the headwaters of the Suwannee River. The three judges marked her high on storytelling and presenting the value of the waters, on originality of lyrics and music, and on performance, with extra credit for naming waterways. She took home First Prize in the Sixth Annual Suwannee Riverkeeper Songwriting Contest. Photo by Chuck Roberts: Cindy Bear and Franc Robert won Best Folk; Jane Fallon won First Prize; Bacon James won Best Song from Outside the Suwannee River Basin; Kyle Bird Chamberlain and David Rodock tied for Best from Inside; Chamberlain won Best Blues; Rodock won Best AmeriKinda; Kevin Stephenson won Best Country. Robert Thatcher is not pictured.



### Special Eddyline Kayak Raffle - only 30 tickets available

[Eddyline Sandpiper Kayak](#), slightly used: \$100 a ticket, drawing once 30 tickets are taken. [It lists for \\$1,749.00](#). Includes Kayak, paddle, PFD, lock, and straps. This is in addition to the November drawing of the annual kayak raffle.



### WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed

**Board and Staff.** WWALS [seeks a Development Director](#). Also an Executive Director, perhaps separated into multiple functions.

**Hurricane Idalia.** Many people are still dealing with damaged houses or vehicles. Valdosta Engineer Ben O’Dowd posted [a map of road closures](#). Fortunately, there was only one fatality. The Dead River Sink is inaccessible due to Jennings Bluff being used for debris processing. [Langdale Park is open, but you must walk in](#). Many [Florida parks were closed](#); some still are.