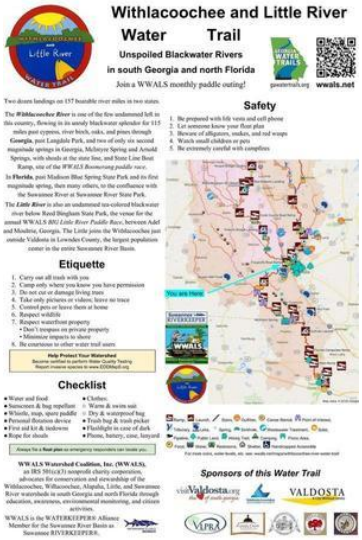


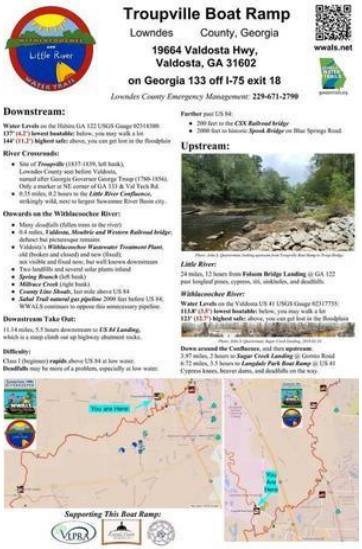

## Educational events

The Troupville Boat Ramp metal signs https://wwals.net/?p=54875 and the Langdale Park Boat Ramp signs https://www.walb.com/2023/10/19/valdosta-stores-reopen-3-days-after-sewage-leak/ have appeared on WALB TV. Our water trail signs are also seen by all the participants in our numerous river cleanups, as well as the annual Mayor and Chairman's Paddle that involves Troupville Boat Ramp, with Lowndes County Chairman Bill Slaughter and Valdosta Mayor Scott James Matheson. https://wwals.net/?p=61317

On paddle outings we frequently note geology such as fossils and at rapids; one of our board members and outings leaders is a Practicing Geologist. We often encounter interesting biology, such as floating marsh pennywort or haunts of specific animals. Many of these things get added to our online water trail maps afterwards, and some of them go directly onto at-water signs.

We have received a grant from Hamilton County, Florida, to do similar at-water signs on the Withlacoochee, Alapaha, and Suwannee Rivers in Florida. Of course, any DNR funds will only be used in Georgia, not Florida.

## Troupville River Camp

As you know, back in 2019 WWALS applied to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) for a grant to purchase the land between the Troupville Boat Ramp and the Little River Confluence with the Withlacoochee River, and to build a Troupville River Camp, with air-conditioned bathrooms with hot and cold running water, and five elevated and screened sleeping platforms with electricity. http://wwals.net/?p=50591 In December 2022, Lowndes County purchased that land. A new economic development and well-being organization called One Valdosta-Lowndes is working on rounding up the remaining funds for ongoing maintenance, in anticipation of another GOSP grant application. That project will be at the center of the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail, with all these WLRWT signs leading to and from it.

I look forward to receiving the application form for the educational RTP grant.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper
/s
WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.
229-242-0102
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org
www.suwanneeriverkeeper.org

Attachment: IRS letter granting nonprofit 501(c(3) status.