

Send in your songs, Suwannee Riverkeeper Songwriting Contest 2025

Hahira, Georgia, March 28, 2025 — Submissions open April 1, really, no fooling, for the 2025 Suwannee Riverkeeper Songwriting Contest.

WWALS Board Member Scotti Jay Jones said, “it will be even more fun this year!”

The Eighth Annual Finals will be held at the WWALS River Revue, an indoor fundraising dinner to benefit WWALS Watershed Coalition, with an evening of food, drink, speakers from Georgia and Florida, a silent auction, and the music of a headliner and the Songwriting Contest Finalists. That's 5-9 PM, Saturday, September 6, 2025, at the Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta, Georgia.

Tickets are \$65 each. <https://app.betterunite.com/WWALS-wwalsriverrevue2025>

WWALS Membership Director Janet Martin said, “Your ticket or sponsorship helps support everything WWALS does, from water quality tests, paddle outings and swimming & boating lessons, to chainsaw cleanups, and beyond to advocacy to stop trash at its sources, strip mines, and pipelines. We work for water trails, solar power, and Right to Clean Water, with growing engagement for youth and marginalized communities.”

For how to sponsor or provide an item for the silent auction, follow the above link or the QRcode, or go to wwals.net and scroll down to WWALS River Revue.



The graphic features a background image of a person fishing in a river at sunset. Text is overlaid in various colors and fonts. On the left, there is a QR code and logos for WWALS Watershed Coalition and Waterkeeper Alliance. The main text is in large, bold, blue letters. A yellow box highlights the event details, and a white box highlights the songwriting contest details. The URL <https://wwals.net/pictures/songwriting2025> is at the bottom.

WWALS River Revue
Saturday, September 6, 2025, 5-9 PM
Turner Arts Center, Valdosta, GA
Benefitting WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

Speakers, food, drink, silent auction, & sponsors

Suwannee RIVERKEEPER Songwriting Contest
Headliner and songwriting finalists will play and sing

Three judges will choose winners in genres,
\$50 Best Song from Inside the Basin, \$50 Best from Outside,
and \$300 First Prize

<https://wwals.net/pictures/songwriting2025>

WWALS President Sara Squires Jones said, “Musicians, don't wait until the deadline to send in your song.”

Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman said, "You'll hear more later about the M.C., the speakers, and the judges."



WWALS River Revue

Saturday, September 6, 2025, 5-9 PM

Turner Center for the Arts, Valdosta, GA

Tickets: \$65 each

Suwannee RIVERKEEPER
Songwriting Contest

<https://wwals.net/pictures/songwriting2025>



Food, drinks, silent auction, speakers, and music.

MC: Trumpet player, long-time WWALS supporter, and Valdosta City Council District 5, **Tim Carroll**

Suzanne Welander will speak about her book *Canoeing and Kayaking Georgia* and her work to get the Georgia

legislature to fix its antique 1863 navigability law.

Jim Gross will speak from his academic and professional geological experience about the Floridan Aquifer, from which we all drink with straws.



Headliner: Rachel Grubb won First Prize last year.

Songwriting Finalists will play.

Song submissions **open April 1** (no fooling!), about any river, creek, pond, swamp, spring, sink, or aquifer in the Suwannee River Basin or Estuary. The lyrics and melody must be original by the entrant(s), who can be solo or band, amateur, semi-pro, or professional. The songwriter (s) must be on stage.

Three Judges will select **Prizes:** \$300 First Prize, \$50 Best Song from inside the Basin, \$50 Best Song from Outside, Plaques for Best in each Genre.



Anna Stange (Madison, FL), Tony Buzzella (Lake City, FL), Robert Griner (Nashville, GA)

Sponsors: become a sponsor at any level!

Pond \$250, Creek \$500, Stream \$1,000, River \$2,500, Big Shoals \$5,000, Headwaters \$10,000

Benefitting the advocacy and activities of WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

MC: **Tim Carroll**, trumpet player, long-time WWALS supporter, and Valdosta City Council District 5.

Suzanne Welander will speak about her book *Canoeing and Kayaking Georgia* and her work to get the Georgia legislature to fix its antique 1863 navigability law.

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About WWALS: Since June 2012, WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS) is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity working for a healthy watershed with clean, swimmable, fishable, drinkable water.

Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman said, “Your ticket or sponsorship helps support everything WWALS does, from water quality tests, paddle outings, to chainsaw cleanups, and beyond to advocacy to stop trash at its sources, strip mines, and pipelines. We work for water trails, solar power, and Right to Clean Water, with growing engagement for youth and marginalized communities.”

Mission: WWALS advocates for conservation and stewardship of the surface waters and groundwater of the Suwannee River Basin and Estuary, in south Georgia and north Florida, among them the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds, through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

Our Watershed: The 10,000-square-mile WWALS territory includes the Suwannee River from the Okefenokee Swamp to the Gulf of Mexico, plus the Suwannee River Estuary, and tributaries such as the Withlacoochee and Alapaha Rivers as far north as Cordele in Georgia, as well as parts of the Floridan Aquifer– the primary water source for drinking, agriculture, and industry for millions of Georgia and Florida residents.

Suwannee Riverkeeper: Since December 2016, WWALS is the WATERKEEPER® Alliance Member for the Suwannee River Basin and Estuary as Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®, which is a project and a staff position of WWALS focusing on our advocacy.

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