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WWALS is an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit
charity est. June 2012

WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

Suwannee RIVERKEEPER® is a program and a paid staff position of WWALS.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Another Generous Water Quality Testing Grant from Georgia Power to WWALS

Valdosta, GA, June 23, 2021 -- "It's really exciting to receive another generous grant from Georgia Power to help us continue with as well as increase our testing base," said WWALS Testing Committee Chair Suzy Hall. "This is huge towards helping to keep tabs on the water health for this watershed."



WWALS E.D. Gretchen Quarterman receives the envelope from Mary Beth and Elizabeth Brownlee via Hazel, Elleleanor and Lindsey Williams; back: Suzy and Abbie Hall, at Naylor Beach on the Alapaha River in Naylor Boat Ramp Park, Lowndes County, Georgia. More pictures here:

<https://wwals.net/pictures/gretchen/2021-06-21--wwals-naylor-ga-power/>

"The Georgia Power Foundation is committed to environmental stewardship and supports efforts focused on improving waterways, lakes and streams across Georgia," said Georgia Power Southwest Director Joe Brownlee, "We've learned that we can do more when we work together with local organizations where we serve, so we felt that supporting the WWALS efforts to perform quality testing in our local watershed fit perfectly with our goals. I think it goes without saying that we all want clean water to drink, bathe, and occasionally even play in. At Georgia Power, we have an employee volunteer organization called the 'Citizens of Georgia Power'; one of the projects that they chose to work on this year was a clean-up on the Alapaha River landing in Lakeland. So when WWALS reached out and said they had a clean-up in Naylor it seemed like a great project, and thanks to the testing kits we knew the water was clean, which allowed our treasures (our children) to play a little while we cleaned up."

"Clean water is a benefit to everyone," said WWALS Executive Director Gretchen Quarterman. "The grant presentation by Elizabeth Brownlee was non-traditional, but most exceptional. The envelope got a little wet as it passed through little hands and got dropped in the water, however, the result was excellent. Funding for a second year for the WWALS water quality testing program is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Georgia Power!"

“We are thrilled that, thanks to the grant from Georgia Power, there will be water quality testing of local rivers and streams, helping us to know where it is safe to swim and play,” said WWALS member Lindsey Williams. “Our girls love the water and being able to swim and play in clean rivers is so important to us.”

Newly trained WWALS tester Tim Coombs of Hahira said, “Clean water is valuable beyond measure and WWALS is doing a great job ensuring it remains clean.”

“Aided by last year’s Georgia Power grant, the WWALS Testing Committee has already made great strides in locating sources of contamination (mostly cattle manure, plus some hog manure), and in keeping track of the water quality state of the rivers to warn people when they are dirty and to encourage paddlers, swimmers, and fishers when the rivers are clean,” said Suwannee Riverkeeper John S. Quarterman.

See <https://wwals.net/issues/testing/>

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. (WWALS) advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, Santa Fe, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities. Founded in June 2012, WWALS has board members from multiple counties in south Georgia and north Florida, and members from all over the Suwannee River Basin and from farther away. Since December 2016, John S. Quarterman is the Suwannee Riverkeeper®, which is a staff position and a project of WWALS as the member of Waterkeeper® Alliance for the Suwannee River Basin.

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