



WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc. PO Box 88 Hahira GA 31632

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit a WATERKEEPER® Affiliate

## November 2015 Tannin Times

### ***WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed***

**Administrative Hearing Status:** WWALS made compelling arguments as to why the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should deny a permit to Sabal Trail at the hearing in Jasper, Florida on October 19-21 2015, for *WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc v. Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC & DEP to oppose the issuance of an Environmental Resource Permit and Easement to use Sovereign Submerged Lands*. Video of the hearing is available at <http://www.wwals.net/issues/stt/>. Thank you to all the WWALS members who attended the hearing, especially those who testified how they will be directly affected by the pipeline, because the pipeline might run through their property, a compressor station will affect their air quality, or they use the rivers for recreation and enjoyment. Several knowledgeable WWALS members also testified as experts in geology and natural gas pipe welding. Your voices are important and make a difference! The judge now has at least 30 days to make his ruling. Funds are still needed for legal expenses for any future legal appeal. Our [Indiegogo campaign](#) is still ongoing and we thank those who have supported us financially. We are very optimistic that with enough public opposition, we can stop this ill-advised 3-foot diameter, fracked methane pipeline through the sensitive karst terrain of south Georgia and north Florida that threatens the Floridan Aquifer, the drinking water source for millions of people. Write your Congress members and Senators. Write your Governor. Comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Speak out to your County Commissioners. Let's get the pipeline stopped!



### ***Community Outreach and Education***

Ambassador Dave Hetzel and Board member Bret Wagenhorst attended a Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) public hearing about a statewide survey of public needs and inventory of outdoor recreation assets. They provided direct input about the Alapaha and Withlacoochee River Water Trails. This information will help DNR as it formulates a policy document that provides guidance to local, state and federal facilities by recognizing trends and identifying needs. Water trails improve the quality of life for residents and bring visitors to our area to enjoy the beauty of our natural resources. Thank you Dave and Bret for being advocates for our rivers.

## Outing News and Updates

Several WWALS members participated in a Keep Lowndes/Valdosta Beautiful (KLVB) Rivers Alive clean up at Langdale Park on the Withlacoochee River before and during a Kayaktivism event against the proposed Sabal Trail pipeline by VSU Anthropology Club, Sociology Club, and Students Against Violating the Environment.



Our October outing from Sullivan Launch to Blue Spring was held on an absolutely beautiful day, October 24, 2015. Hamilton County, Florida was having its first annual Fall Face-lift week and WWALS members did their part by collecting trash along the Withlacoochee River during our outing. Four bags of trash were collected! Wildlife sightings included juvenile White Ibis, juvenile Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, kingfisher, striped bass, mullet, gar, and red shouldered hawk. Flora included Bald Cypress, Live Oak, Birch, Ogeechee Tupelo, sweetgum, and much more. The upper Withlacoochee in this area has some very interesting geology. There are dark colored limestone rock fields that must be navigated. There are very porous limestone banks along the riverbank that contain may fossils that were pointed out by WWALS member and geologist, Dennis Price who joined the outing. Not only are our outings fun, they are educational too!



## Water Trail News



Mark your calendars for February 27th for the Withlacoochee Water Trail Workshop at VSU. The water trail committee is actively working on the logo contest, details for the workshop and more. We are planning a "River Art" Exhibit and silent auction at the event. Our January outing will be on the Little River, part of the developing Withlacoochee River Water Trail. If you would like to join the committee, contact Chris Mericle, chair.

## Upcoming Outings

November 22 9AM	Suwannee River: Cypress Creek Launch to Cone Bridge boat ramp, 9 mi.
December 12 10AM	Hike and Picnic at Grand Bay
January 16 10AM	Little River: Ga 122 to Lawson Millpond Rd, 4.25mi

Check out the [WWALS Calendar](#) for more details.

