

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

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

## December 2015 Tannin Times

### ***Outing News and Updates***

Starting cool and drizzly day, then balmy, our outing on the Suwannee River from Hwy 6 to Cone Bridge boat ramp was definitely worth it. Our 15 members enjoyed seeing a different part of the river lined with many Ogeechee Tupelo trees, with their interesting, saggy trunks. One of the many incoming streams had a beautiful small waterfall. We learned that this section of the river runs through predominantly "Hawthorne" geology with more sand and clay covering the limestone layer. Join us for our fun and educational outings!



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

**Administrative Hearing Status:** WWALS and our attorneys asked the judge to take official notice of the recent EPA letter to FERC. Sabal Trail and FDEP objected, and the judge declined, but we got [some good press about it](#). We completed and submitted a Proposed Recommended Order (PRO) to the Judge. The other parties also submitted summary information based upon the hearing transcript and exhibits. Now the Judge has until December 11th to make a decision in *WWALS v Sabal Trail & FDEP*. Funds are still needed for legal expenses for any future legal appeal. Our [Indiegogo campaign](#) is still ongoing, or use <http://www.wwals.net/donations/>, or you can send a check. Thanks to all who have already supported us financially, especially Sierra Club and Save Our Suwannee! You can still comment to FERC, GA-EPD, and to the Army Corps of Engineers [until December 11th](#); see <http://www.wwals.net/issues/stt/>. Let's stop the pipeline!



**The Suwannee County (FL) Board of County Commissioners** on November 17th [passed a resolution to move the compressor station](#) proposed by Sabal Trail from the more populated O'Brien area to a less populated area of the county. Many WWALS members were involved in organizing a united front. The commissioners heard many concerns from Suwannee County residents and visitors from outside the county about the environmental risks of the proposed Suwannee River and Falmouth Cathedral Cave system crossings in Suwannee County. WWALS members asked the commissioners to pass another resolution to oppose any Suwannee River crossing and to move the compressor station out of the county. Officers from Sierra Club, SpectraBusters, and Gulf Restoration Network also spoke eloquently.

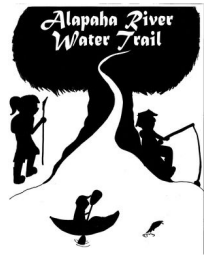
## **Community Outreach and Education**

On November 4th, in Gainesville, FL, board member, Chris Mericle was invited to speak at **Cinema Verde's film presentation** which depicts the harmful effects of fracking on people and the environment. His talk was about the proposed Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline and the environmental impacts of transporting natural gas once it is collected by fracking. Many in the audience of about 50 people had not even heard of Sabal Trail. Chris encouraged them to ask their political leaders to oppose fracking and the Sabal Trail pipeline in Florida. And see below about corporate ag land purchases.



Board Member Gretchen Quarterman presented the Alapaha River Water Trail and the in-progress Withlacoochee Water Trail to the **South Georgia Native Plant Society** meeting on November 7th. Attendees were very concerned about recent industrial agricultural land purchases across South Georgia and North Florida by out of state investors; see: <http://www.wwals.net/issues/corpag/>

Patrick and Marianne Kunes, Dave Hetzel, and John S. Quarterman represented WWALS at the **Alapaha Station Celebration**. Bret Wagenhorst represented WWALS at the **UGA Tiftarea YMCA healthy living/walk GA day** Nov. 21st.



### **Water Trail News**

WWALS received a \$500.00 donation from **Valdosta-Lowndes Tourism Authority** towards our work on the *Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail*. This will help with the development of the brochure. We also received a \$75.00 donation for a access sign at US82 on the *Alapaha River Water Trail*. Donations are always welcome! <http://www.wwals.net/donations/>

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. To join the committee, contact Chris Mericle, chair.

### **Upcoming Outings and Events**

December 12 10AM	Easy hike and Picnic at Grand Bay
January 16 10AM	Little River: GA 122 to Lawson Millpond Rd, 4.25mi
February 20 8AM	Alapaha River: GA 135 to Berrien Beach, 18.25mi
February 27	Withlacoochee Water Trail Workshop at VSU

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

