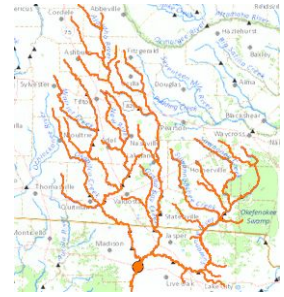


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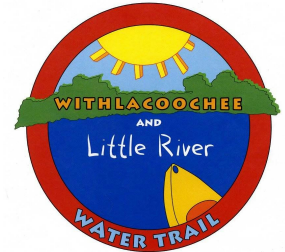


March 2016 Tannin Times

Water Trail News



The Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail Workshop at Valdosta State University (**VSU**) was a wonderful success. The winner of the water trail logo was Eboni Patterson and runner up was Ann Reid (both from VSU). The **"River Art" Exhibit and silent auction** bidders were generous with their bids and buyers went home with paintings, photographs and other treasures that reminds them of our rivers and watershed. Speakers Tim Hutto (DNR), Tom Baird (Historian), and David Bosch (Hydrologist) gave insightful talks and answered questions from those in attendance.



Outing News and Updates



You never know what you'll get on our blackwater rivers in south Georgia and north Florida. The danger! The thrill of the rapids!

OK, it was actually more like paddling on a lake with a current. The hardest part was when the wind picked up against us a few times. Sometimes we heard what sounded like rapids, but it was just flotsam lodged against oak trees.



But that's the point: you really never know until you're on the water, and on a trip like this with no good takeout until the end, being prepared is much better than not. The 18.9 miles were completed by a group of 10 in 6¾ hours under sunny skies. A picnic lunch on one of the few visible beaches was delightful.

And, the Outings Committee welcomes new member Tom Potter to the team and looks forward to his participation.

Safety Note

As we wrote last month and as outing attendees know, it is important to wear your personal flotation device (PFD) because putting it on once you are in the water may not be possible. With the water running high and a potentially long day, we checked for flash lights, whistles, dry clothing, plenty of water and a lunch for everyone and of course basic first aid items. It doesn't take much room or planning to remember to stash a kit in at least one boat.

Community Outreach and Education

WWALS will be at Rhythm and Ribs in Tifton on Saturday March 5th, at the Azalea Festival in Valdosta on March 12-13, and at the Little River Fest on March 26th at Reed Bingham State Park. If you are available to help out at one (or more) of these events, please let us know. Festival Booths are fun events!

WWALS established a [MeetUp site](#) for our events and we have already connected with local paddlers and environmentalists. We are happy Shirley Kokidko has joined the Public Relations Committee to work on these outreach projects.

WWALS Working Hard for Your Watershed

The WWALS Pipeline committee has undergone a name change to the WWALS Watershed Issues committee to better reflect its goals and activities. We welcome Lori McCraney to the committee. Issues of concern include the Sabal Trail pipeline, fracking, corporate farming, Valdosta wastewater spills, and aquifer recharge projects among others. To find out more information about the issues, go to our website www.wwals.net and click on "Issues."

Opposition to the Sabal Trail pipeline continues. Suwannee County is a hot spot right now because local citizens and two county commissioners are very concerned about the environmentally sensitive Suwannee River crossing, the compressor station location near a neighborhood, and the proposed crossing where Highway 90, a railroad track and the Falmouth Cathedral Cave system converge. The Falmouth Cathedral Cave is a spring conduit to a Magnitude One spring, Lime Run Spring. Several WWALS members attended [a field trip led by Chris Mericle](#) that included Suwannee County Commissioners and one Hamilton County Commissioner to see the crossing sites and the inconsistencies between what Sabal Trail says is there and what is actually at the sites. Hamilton County Commissioners will be discussing a resolution in opposition to the pipeline at their next meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 9:00 am.



WWALS also hosted a viewing of the film "At What Cost?" at the Suwannee County Women's Club in Live Oak, FL that was attended by about 35 people. The film is about the Palmetto petroleum pipeline proposed to be installed in southeast Georgia and the issues it brings regarding eminent domain and hazards to people and the environment. Thank you to all the WWALS members who organized the event!

Upcoming Outings and Events

March 5 all day	Rhythm and Ribs Festival: Fulwood Park, Tifton, Tift County, Georgia
March 12-13 all day	Azalea Festival: Drexel Park, Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia
March 20 9AM	Withlacoochee River: Staten Road Bridge to Langdale Park, 5 miles
March 26 10AM-4PM	Little River Fest: Reed Bingham State Park, Cook County, Georgia
April 23 8AM	Alapaha River: Hotchkiss to Mayday, 12.7 miles
May 21 8AM	BIG Little River Paddle Event: Red Roberts to Reed Bingham Lake

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

