



Continuous monthly issues since June 2009!

### Trips Spotlight: Suwannee River Paddling Festival & Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River



Click [here](#) to view WCTV's coverage of the 2019 Suwannee River Paddling Festival.

Join us for the 8th annual Suwannee River Paddling Festival from April 3 -5, which has sold all 100 openings over the past five years. We are about three quarters full now. At the festival we will be presenting Paddle Florida's 2020 Environmental Leadership Award and treated to the mellifluous stylings of Grant Peeples, who has graciously agreed to perform during our benefit concert on Saturday night, April 4.

In years past, we have made over \$6,000 in donations to the Florida Paddling Trails Association, Florida Defenders of the Environment, the Florida Springs Institute and the Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism. This year the beneficiary will be Paddle Florida, Inc. as we embark on a capital campaign in order to replace our 14 year-old support van. You can donate at the link [here](#), or when we send a separate message to our supporters. Thank you to all of those who have made it possible for us to continue our non-profit mission over the past decade!



After the festival, we travel to outer reaches of the Florida panhandle for our second annual Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River from April 11 - 16. This trip is one of our favorites as we explore the river that serves as the border between Florida and Alabama. Along with the environmental education programs we will have each evening, we have just retained the services Al Mouldous, Ray Smith and Rick Whaley. Al and Ray played at Big Lagoon State Park last March and will add another player, calling themselves, 'The Three Amigos'

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the third trip we scheduled for April is being cancelled. We will NOT be staging Springtime on the Ochlockonee; only our 3rd cancellation out of 68 trips. Sorry folks!

To register for the Suwannee River Paddling Festival, click [here](#). To register for the Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River, click [here](#).

**Evening Program Updates**

The Three Amigos  
Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River

Click [here](#) for more info on Paddle Florida's Evening Programs.



### Re-evaluation of Minimum Flows and Levels for the Santa Fe and Ichetucknee

By Dr. Robert Knight

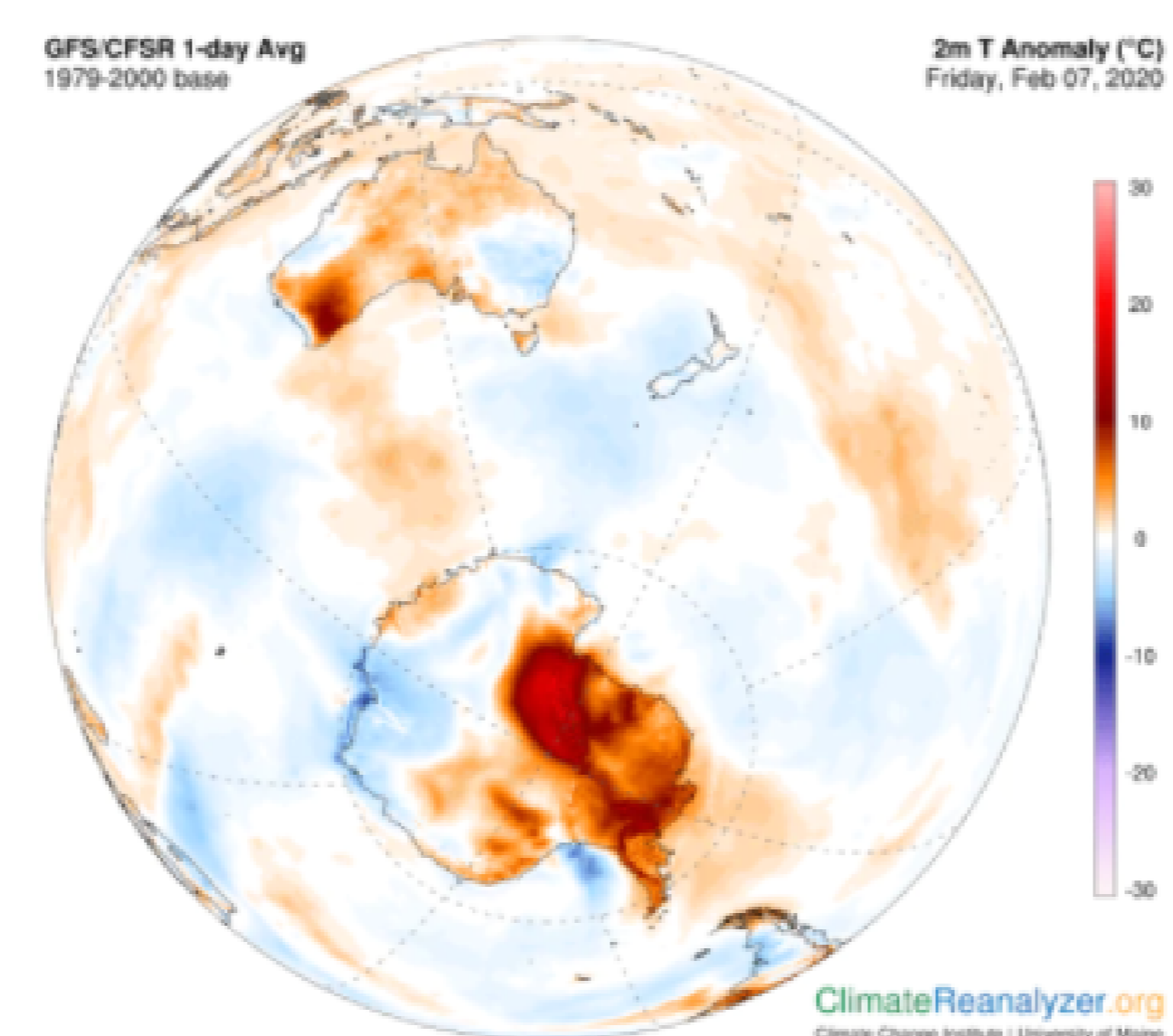
Executive Director,  
Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute

It is not in the public's best interest to dry up or pollute any of Florida's artesian springs. Healthy springs support a vast and abundant assemblage of charismatic and endangered wildlife, nourish our many rivers and lakes during droughts, and are the sought-after playground for tens of millions of visitors each year.

Springs are essential for our local ecology and economy. Governmental agencies responsible for protecting Florida's environmental prosperity would be reckless and irresponsible to allow priceless springs to stop flowing or to experience rising nutrient concentrations. [\[Read more...\]](#)

### Antarctica just hit 65 degrees, its warmest temperature ever recorded

By Matthew Cappucci, *The Washington Post*



Just days after the Earth saw its warmest January on record, Antarctica has broken its warmest temperature ever recorded. A reading of 65 degrees was taken Thursday at Esperanza Base along Antarctica's Trinity Peninsula, making it the ordinarily frigid continent's highest measured temperature in history.

The Argentine research base is on the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. Randy Cerveny, who tracks extremes for the World Meteorological Organization, called Thursday's reading a "likely record," although the mark will still have to be officially reviewed and certified.

The balmy reading beats out the previous record of 63.5 degrees, which occurred March 24, 2015. [\[Read more...\]](#)

### Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Earth's coral reefs could be gone by 2100, research finds

By Denise Chow, NBC News



Climate change could wipe out almost all coral reef habitats around the world by 2100, according to research released Monday.

The bleak outlook forecasts that warming oceans and rising seas could have a devastating impact on ocean ecosystems, suggesting that efforts to restore dying corals will likely encounter difficulties as global warming continues to wipe out habitats that could once support healthy reef systems.

"By 2100, it's looking quite grim," Renee Setter, a biogeographer at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, said in a statement. She presented her findings at the annual Ocean Sciences Meeting, which is being held through Friday in San Diego. [\[Read more...\]](#)



Inspiring. Meaningful. Adventure.

### 2019-20 Season

#### Choctawhatchee Challenge

March 13-19, 2020

Get away from it all into the heart of the Panhandle as we paddle 76 miles of the mighty Choctawhatchee. This is a journey into Wild Florida where wildlife far outnumber humans, and paddlers can stumble upon spectacular springs. Register by: February 28

#### Suwannee River Paddling Festival

April 3-5, 2020

With camping atop the bluff overlooking two beautiful rivers, our season-capping festival takes place at Suwannee River State Park near Live Oak. The weekend will offer supported 8-12 mile paddling options on both the Suwannee and Withlacoochee Rivers, a concert featuring Paddle Florida's favorite musicians, and educational presentations from regional waterway experts. Register by: March 20

#### Earth Day Celebration: Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River

April 11-16, 2020

Paddling the Florida/Alabama border, enjoy beach camping along a cozy meandering river to the more open waters of Perdido Bay as we explore the most diverse set of ecosystems of the season. Register by: March 28

**Note:** Many of these trips have historically sold out before the registration deadline, so to ensure you have a spot, please register early.

**Have an idea for a Paddle Florida trip?**

Contact us at [bill@paddleflorida.org](mailto:bill@paddleflorida.org) with recommendations for waterways in your community that might serve as a good location for the next Paddle Florida event!

### How To: Edge and balance a kayak

By changing how you edge and balance your boat you can increase your stability and adaptability. [\[Read more...\]](#)

### Like us on Facebook

28,778+ fans and counting!



Reconnect with paddling friends and make new ones on Paddle Florida's [Facebook page](#). Our daily feeds provide updates on the news impacting Florida's waterways and wildlife as well as our upcoming trips. Send us your favorite photo depicting paddling in Florida and it might be selected as our 'Picture of the Day'!

### Support Paddle Florida

Up to now Paddle Florida has been able to cover 95% of its overhead through registration fees. This is no longer the case, and we need to find another way to generate revenue. Our initiative to reduce registration fees has allowed us to increase participation. We want to expand our visibility and introduce many more people to the issues related to our natural environment and why it matters. We do these events in the hope that our participants might share our message AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN US, while improving engagement in their communities.

If you believe in what we are doing, please consider making a donation. 100% of your donation will help us increase the impact we can make toward our non-profit mission of promoting water conservation, wildlife preservation, restoration of springs and protection of waterways in Florida.

[Donate](#)



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Do you provide a paddling oriented product or service? Consider placing an ad in our monthly newsletter. You can reach over 6,990 (and growing) monthly subscribers for \$75/month, or get two months free by promoting your product or business over 12 months for \$750! Contact Bill Richards at (352) 377-8342 or [bill@paddleflorida.org](mailto:bill@paddleflorida.org) for details.

