



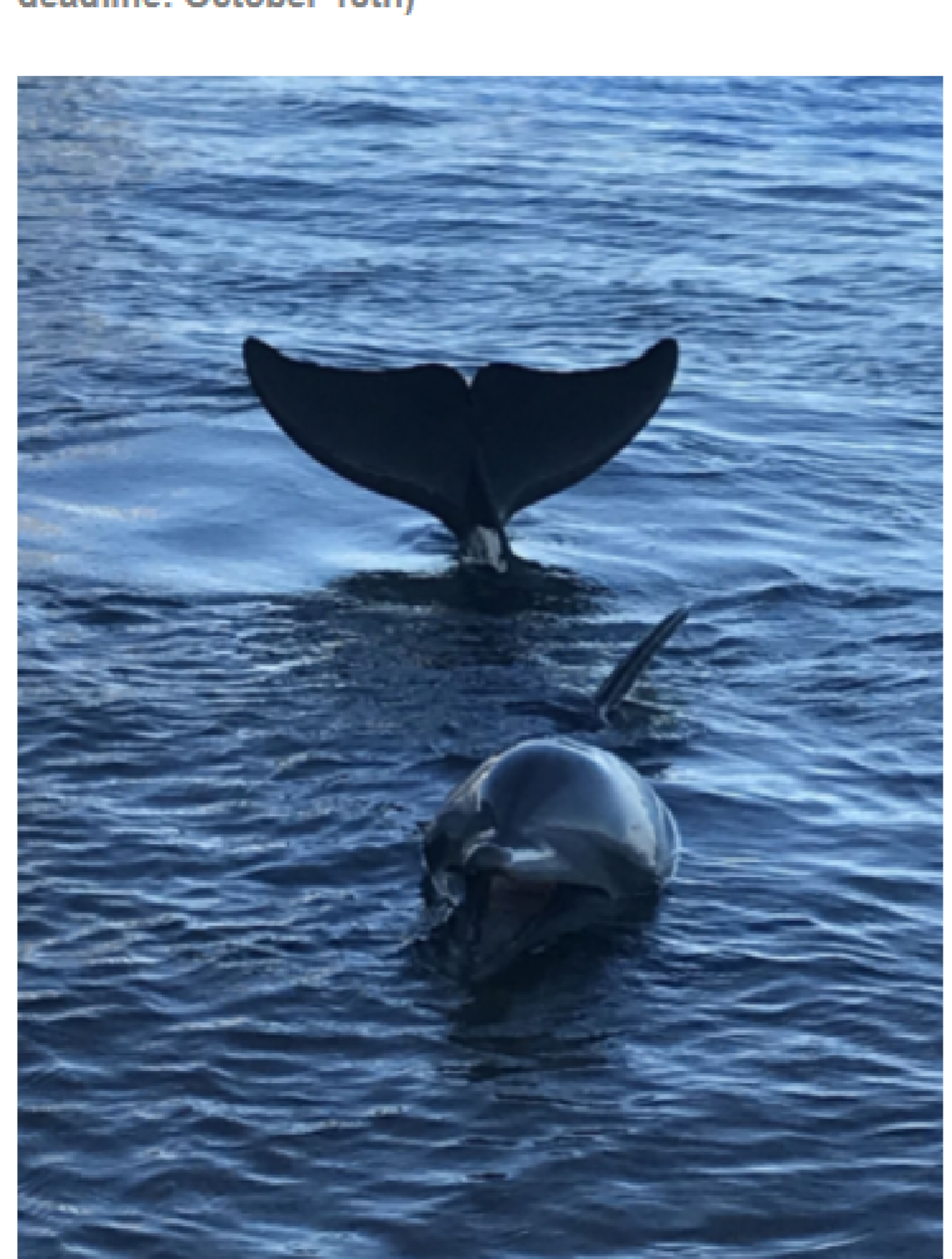
Two deadlines in October...

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail (registration deadline: October 5th)



Our 11th annual fall Paddle Florida trip on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail allows participants to commune with nature and meet paddling people who share your love of our great rivers. Paddle Florida favorite Tom Shed will be performing at Suwannee River State Park on October 20th and Lis and Lon Williamson will be performing at beautiful Lafayette Blue Springs State Park on October 22nd! Click [here](#) to register for this trip.

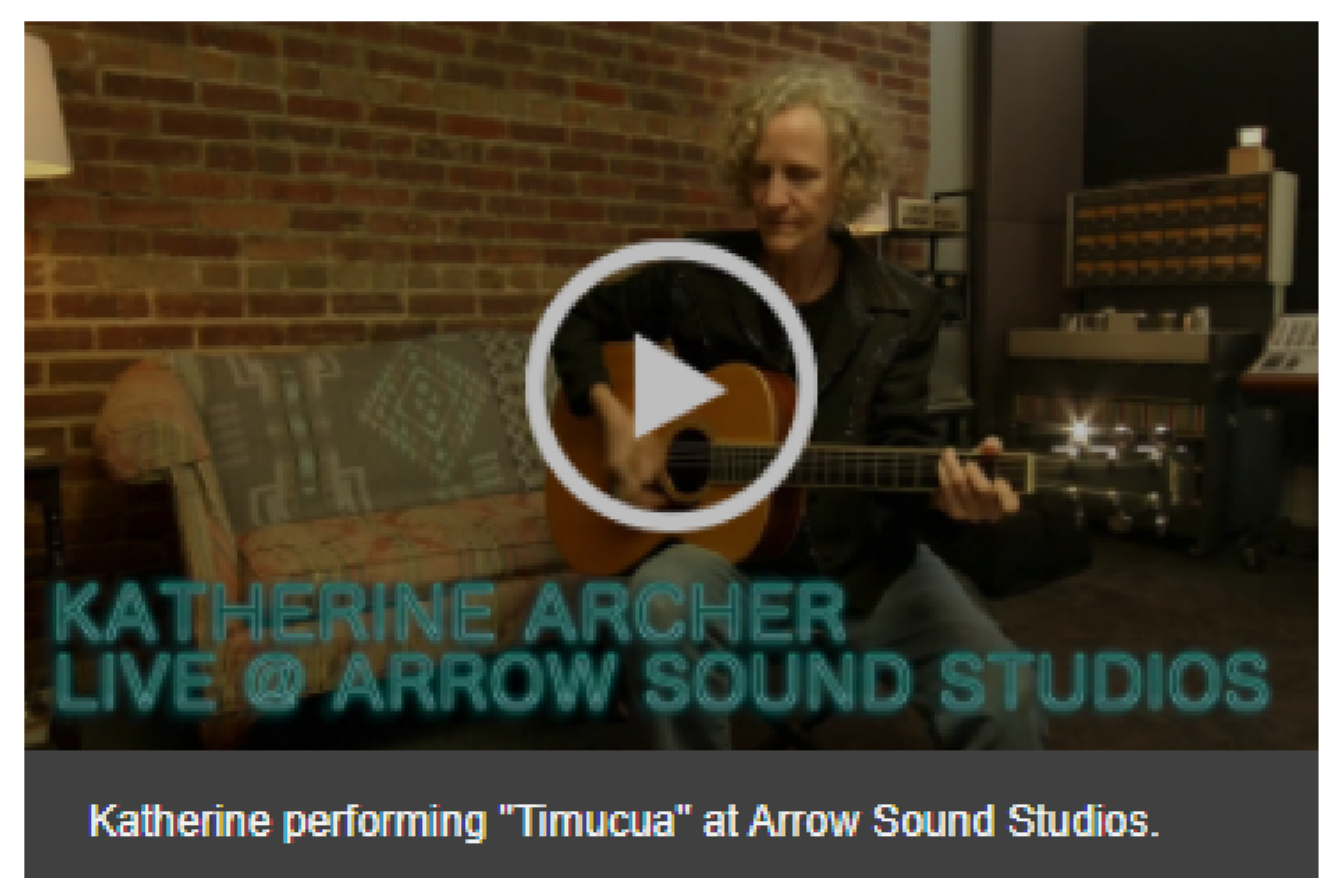
Flagler Coastal Wildlife Experience (registration deadline: October 18th)



Through a partnership with Flagler County we will stage this three-day event across the street from the Atlantic Ocean. We paddle on beautiful Pellicer Creek and in and around the Matanzas River, while visiting Princess Place Preserve, the Matanzas National Monument, the University of Florida's Whitney Lab/Turtle Hospital, and the Marineland Dolphin Conservation Center. Singer/songwriter Katherine Archer will entertain us on Friday night as we stay at Flagler County's River to Sea Preserve for the entire event. Click [here](#) to register for this trip.

Focus on Favorite Florida Musicians

Katherine Archer, St. Augustine

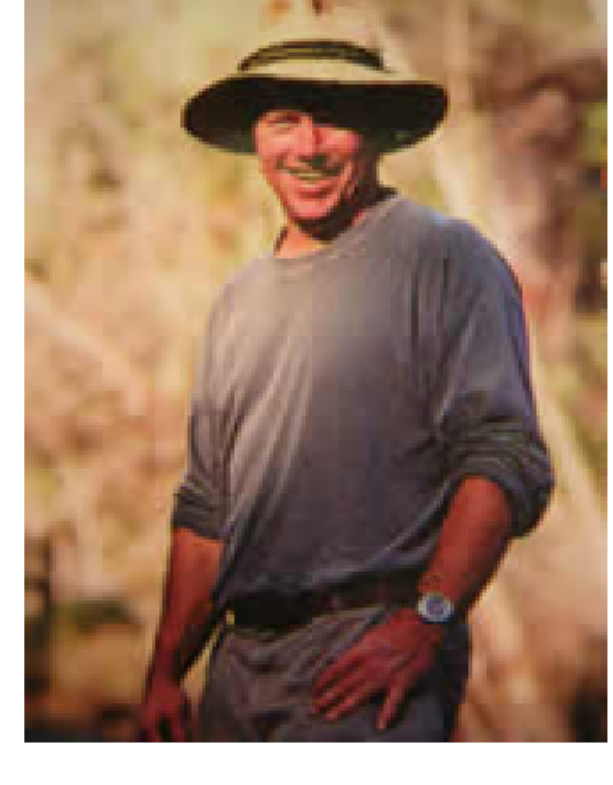


I was one of the first performers to entertain the kayakers on these Paddle Florida adventures 10 years ago. There is something really special about singing live at a Florida spring to entertain people who've just come off of a day of kayaking our uniquely beautiful Florida water. So Magical!

Paddle Florida is a true steward of our imperiled waterways. I'm honored and humbled to continue to be a part of the adventure. Everyone needs to experience being on these waters - for it is through this in-person connection that we form the bonds and appreciation that unites us to ALL become Water Protectors.

River Guide's Journal

The Opera Singer



Lars Andersen is owner and paddling guide for [Adventure Outfitters](#) in High Springs, FL. He outfits and guides kayak and canoe tours on over 40 waterways throughout North Florida's "Springs Country."

In the early 1990's, a large live oak fell into Santa Fe River about a mile below the Rise. Its massive trunk and tangle of branches spanned the channel. The only way past was through a ten-foot gap along the south bank. It was just wide enough to make the tree more of a "feature" than an obstacle.

Years passed and the tree decayed. Small branches broke away and the sharp edges were worn smooth by decay and flowing water. Eventually, all that remained were the trunk and a couple of dozen thick, curving limbs. What had begun as a chaotic tangle of twigs and branches had been crafted by the flow of time and water into a beautiful natural sculpture. [\[Read more...\]](#)

What brings you to the water?

By Todd Bishop, Bishop Boards



Is it the challenge, the change, the peace, the quiet, the natural world? I think for many of us it is all of the above. It has so many redeeming qualities, who could resist? The natural world holds a powerful medicine for many of our day to day struggles. Returning to our roots and being immersed in natural rhythms seems to level out anything, everything, smooth every bump. No wonder so many of us seek it out.

Often times, I find myself in the ocean concentrating on my breathing as the swells heave and descend. Working to just "be" in the moment or place. Or drifting down stream taking in the sounds and pace of the water. Reveling in the smooth effortless ride. This time is so beneficial to how we interact with the natural world and find the best path to enjoy it. [\[Read more...\]](#)

We Can't Paddle Forever

By Cliff Jacobson, [Paddling.com](#)



Source: Paddling.com

Stuff happens as we age and it's not all good. Darrell Foss, 75, one of my closest friends, has Alzheimer's disease. Darrell has lived with this disease for about five years now and he's done everything possible (medication, memory clinics, mental exercises, etc.) to slow it down. He's been persistent in pursuing every possible light in the tunnel. He has made considerable progress, so much so that his closest friends have trouble believing that anything (other than getting old) is wrong with him. Most of the time, he remembers things better than us! [\[Read more...\]](#)

Florida Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Florida bonneted bat, *Eumops floridanus*



Source: FWC

The Florida bonneted bat (also known as the Florida mastiff bat) is the largest species of bat in Florida (Belwood 1992). This bat species can reach a length of 6.5 inches (16.5 centimeters) with a wingspan of 20 inches (51 centimeters). The pelage (hair) color varies from black to brown to grayish or cinnamon brown (Belwood 1992; Best 1997; Timm and Genoways 2004; J. Gore pers comm. 2011). [\[Read more...\]](#)



Upcoming Trips

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

October 19-24, 2018
Celebrate Florida's version of autumn on its most famous river. The trip spans 65 miles of the scenic Suwannee and a portion of the (northern) Withlacoochee, from Madison Blue Spring to Branford. This section features dozens of clear blue springs perfect for swimming and snorkeling. Register by: October 5

Flagler Coastal Wildlife Experience

November 1-4, 2018
Paddle with dolphins, meet rescued sea turtles, and float by historic forts as you immerse yourself in the rich cultural history and natural beauty of Florida's northeast coast. Register by: October 18

Ocklawaha Odyssey

Nov 30-Dec 4, 2018
Float over Florida's most famed first magnitude spring and see monkeys dangling from cypress branches, a rich diversity of birds, while exploring an Old Florida land- and waterscape on this 48-mile paddle down the Silver and Ocklawaha Rivers. Register by: November 16

Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee

January 17-22, 2019
Beginning at Lake Panasoffkee, paddlers will thread their way through hardwood swamps and tannic streams on a 60-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. The adventure includes a side trip to the colorful Rainbow River and its world class first magnitude spring. Register by: January 4

Florida Keys Challenge

February 9-15, 2019
Paddle the azure coastal waters of the Middle Florida Keys, including the length of the famed 7-Mile Bridge, explore mangrove tunnels, and watch sea turtle surface beside your kayak, and enjoy a snorkeling trip out to Looe Key. Register by: January 26

Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River

March 10-15, 2019
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: February 24

Suwannee River Paddling Festival

April 5-7, 2019
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 22

2018 Florida Springs Restoration Summit

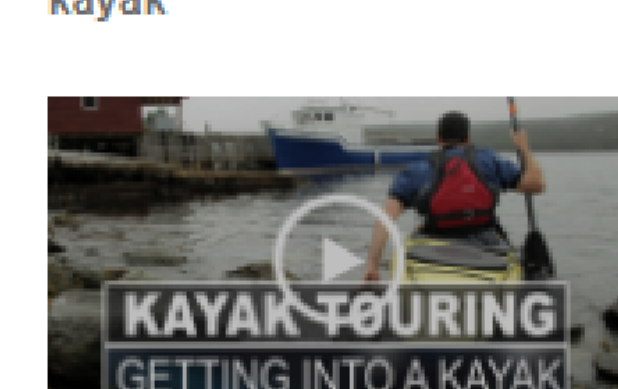
November 1st - 4th in Ocala



Can't make Paddle Florida's Ocklawaha Odyssey trip? Consider attending the Florida Springs Restoration Summit from November 1-4.

Please visit the Summit website for details and registration: <https://www.springrestorationsummit.org/>

How To: Getting in and out of your kayak



Learn how to get in and out of your kayak with ease in this episode of Paddle TV, with World Champion Ken Whiting. From the beach, the dock or the water, this video offers tips and tricks how to make the transition into your kayak smoothly.

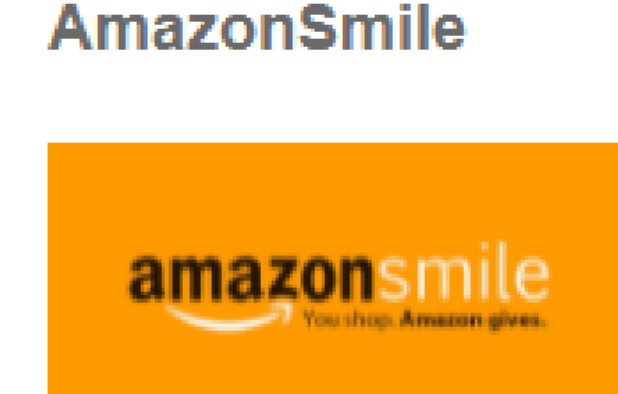
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26,200 fans and counting!



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 with AmazonSmile



As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Paddle Florida is dedicated to promoting water conservation, wildlife preservation, springs restoration, and waterways protection across Florida. You can help us meet our water conservation missions by (1) joining us on one or more paddling adventures scheduled annually on Florida's wild and scenic rivers and coastlines, or (2) donating to Paddle Florida via our secure PayPal connection or through AmazonSmile.

If you're an Amazon shopper, you can sign up for AmazonSmile at [this link](#) and confirm your desire to support us. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Paddle Florida.



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