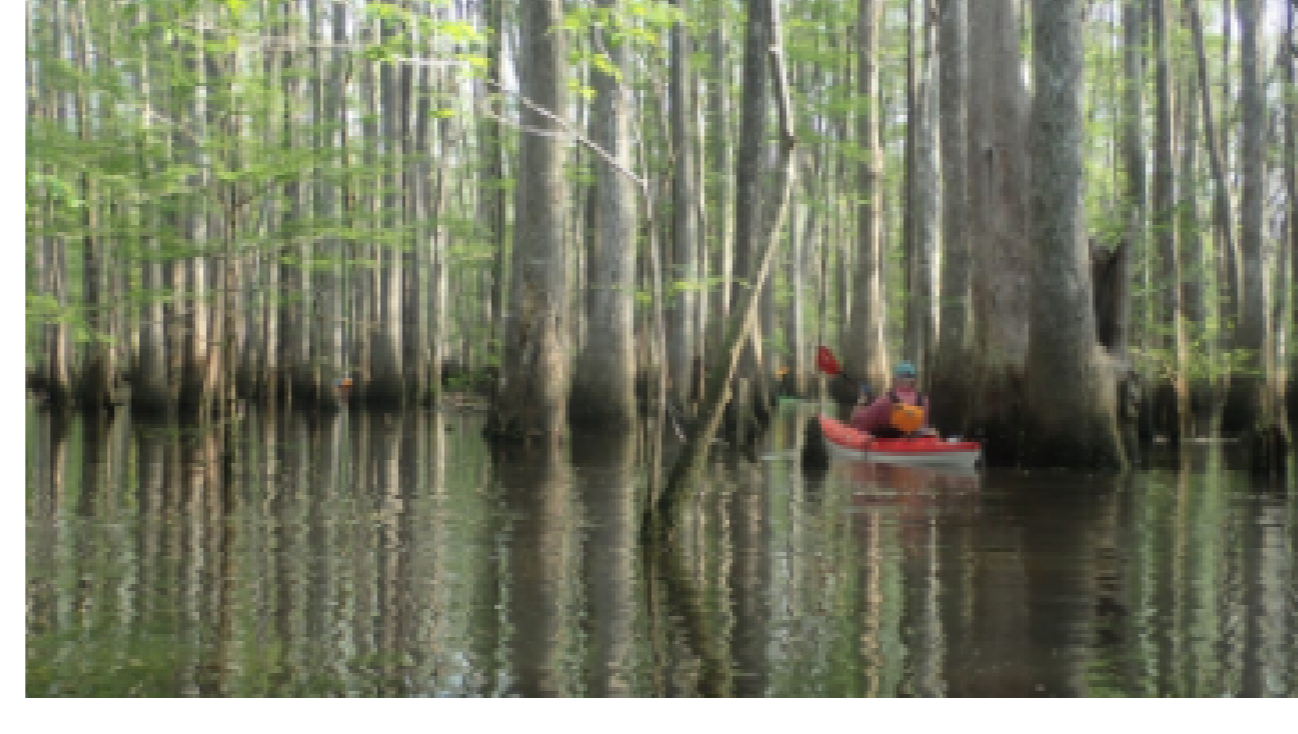




Continuous monthly issues since June 2009!

It Is Safer Outdoors!



As we all try to manage and operate in this new environment, Paddle Florida (PF) is moving forward with plans for our 2020-2021 season. We still have work to do on our new trips and will be traveling in order to finalize plans with food vendors, shuttle services and other essential partners. But there is always a silver lining, as we have confirmed much of our Paddle Florida Summer Music Series. Grant Peoples did an excellent show last month, which was widely attended. You can view Grant's show on our YouTube channel here. We have scheduled Rod MacDonald for June 8th. This will be another Zoom presentation. The info for the Rod MacDonald show is below.

Our Paddle Florida Summer Music Series continues the following month with Katherine Archer on July 23rd and Bing Futch has signed on for August 21st. Please make plans to tune in if you can. All shows will begin at 7pm.

**Paddle Florida Summer Music Series**  
Rod McDonald

**Date:** Monday, June 8th  
**Time:** 7 PM

Click [here](#) to read Rod's bio.

**To access by computer:**

Click [here](#) or on the following URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85692967558?pwd=US9VdG1CVERzVmMlYUJpZWZUVkxkZGZ09>  
Meeting ID: 856 9296 7558  
Password: 039955

**To access by phone:**

One tap mobile  
+16465588656,85692967558#,,1# 039955# US (New York)  
+13017158592,85692967558#,,1# 039955# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)  
+1 512 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 569 300 9188 US (San Jose)  
+1 263 215 8792 US (Tampa)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
Meeting ID: 856 9296 7558  
Password: 039955  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85692967558>

If you can't make the show, please consider making a donation to our non-profit organization. There are links in the right column which describe the really cool thank you gifts you will receive for your donation. At the \$25 level, you get a PF buff, which can be particularly useful during this time of COVID-19. At the \$50 level, you get a PF dry bag, which every paddler/camper can use. At the \$75 level, you get a super cool, long-sleeved, white on-fit PF shirt, which will be great sun protection for the coming summer. At the \$100 level, you get 2 F Fracture glass printed images of our favorite Paddle Florida photos.

Kayak, canoe, paddle board trek coming to Lagoon

by Sue Cocking, VeroNews.com



Island kayakers and canoeists take note: A nonprofit tourism and conservation organization plans to give Vero's stretch of the Indian River Lagoon a boost next fall with a week-long paddling and camping adventure open to locals and visitors.

Paddle Florida has announced plans to conduct up to 60 canoeists, kayakers and stand-up paddle boarders on a 45-mile trek, starting at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park on Dec. 2 and winding up on the St. Sebastian River on Dec. 8.

Paddlers will camp at Fort Pierce Inlet State Park, Round Island, Riverside Park, the Environmental Learning Center, Sebastian Inlet State Park, and Donald McDonald County Park.

The trip features an optional boat tour of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, catered meals, and nightly education and entertainment programs by local naturalists and musicians. [Read more...](#)

5 Tips for Social Distancing While Boating

By R. J. Garren, Medium.com



These are strange times in our lives to have to think about social distancing while spending time on the water in our vessel of choice. Hopefully, those who are not feeling well will stay home and not go boating. However, one of the frustrating things about COVID-19 is that you can be a carrier of the virus and not be showing any symptoms. If lakes and rivers near you are open, these are five tips you need to do to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 when going out on the water. [Read more...](#)

As Sea levels Rise, Will Drinking Water Supplies Be at Risk?

By Jon Hurdle, Yale Environment 360

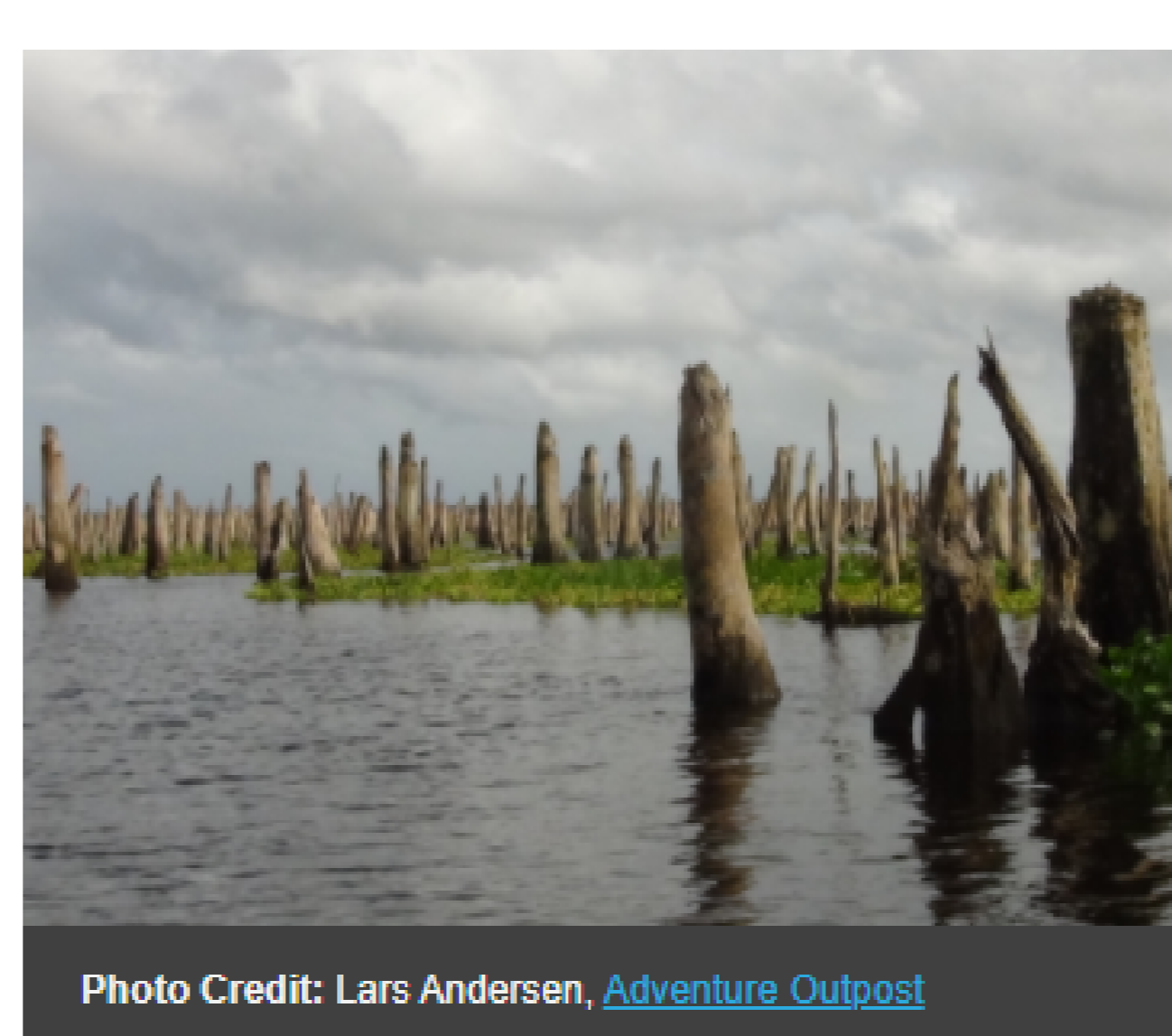


At the Delaware Memorial Bridge, about 35 miles southwest of Philadelphia, the tidal waters of the Delaware River estuary push upstream with every incoming tide but are opposed by the river's downstream flow. For years, this balance has kept salty water well away from intakes that supply drinking water to millions of people in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey.

With the so-called salt front in its normal range, some 40 miles downstream from the intakes, any threat to the region's water supply has seemed distant. But the combination of sea level rise and the expectation of reduced downstream flow as a result of climate change-related droughts have raised new fears that the region's biggest source of drinking water could at some point become contaminated with seawater. Other regions around the U.S. and the world, from Florida to Bangladesh, are facing similar threats. [Read more...](#)

Dam(n)

By Mark R. Howard, Florida Trend



More than 50 years ago, I took a ride on the Ocklawaha River in North-Central Florida, courtesy of a classmate whose parents owned a boat. The river meanders north and eastward from near Silver Springs and feeds into the St. Johns about 65 miles south of Jacksonville. In the 1800s and early 1900s, steamboats carrying the likes of Ulysses Grant and Thomas Edison traveled from Palatka to Silver Springs via the Ocklawaha.

I remember a couple things about my trip: First, the river was spectacularly beautiful and remarkably curvy, twisting and turning every couple hundred yards, corkscrew-like, on its course through its floodplain. Second, my friend's father had begun drinking early in the day and liked going fast; he navigated one bend too abruptly, and I nearly went over the side. [Read more...](#)

Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Sea turtle nesting in Florida: Loggerheads, leatherbacks off to a strong start

by Patrick Connolly, Phys.org

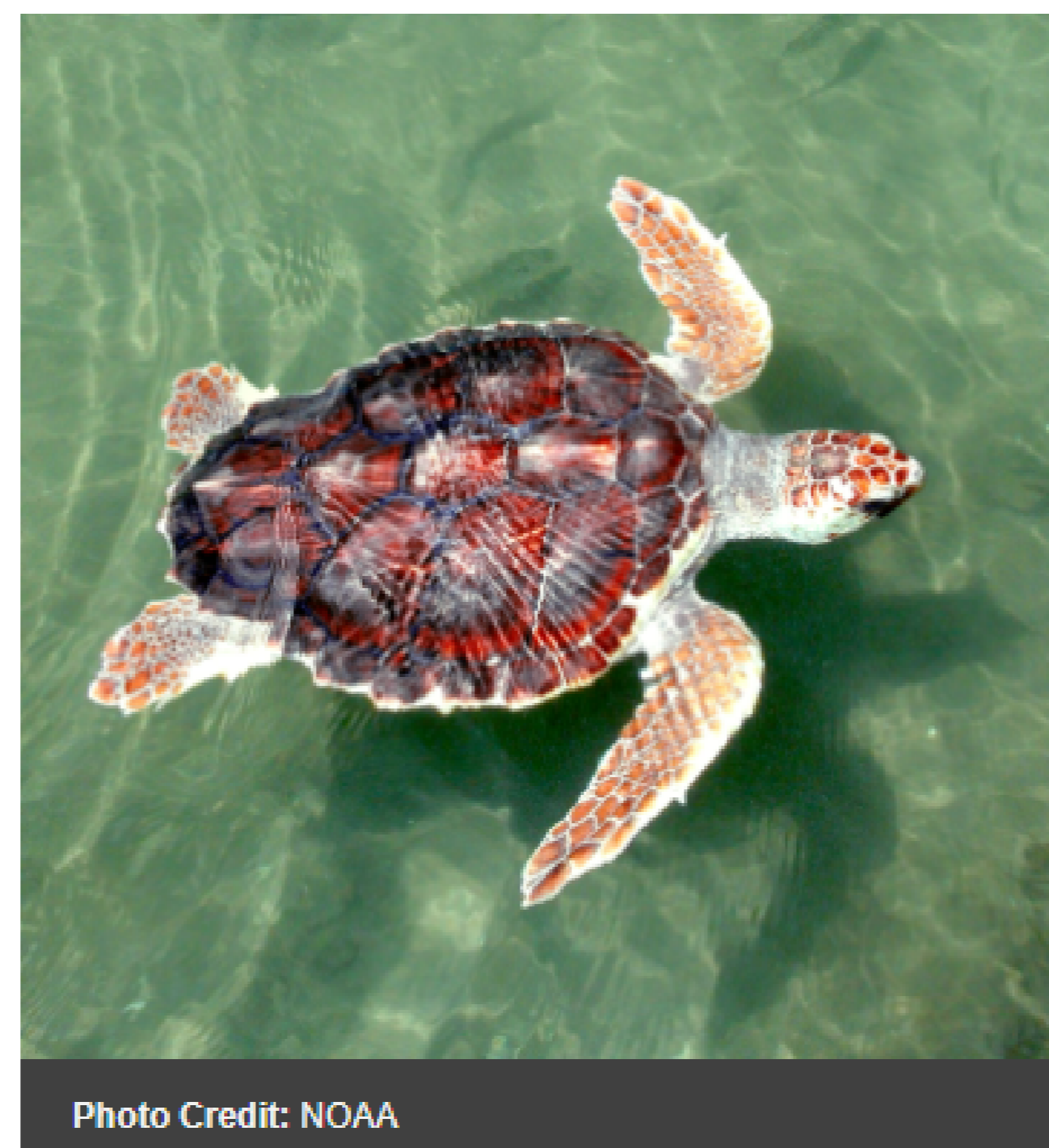


Photo Credit: NOAA

Some wonders of nature continue happening despite the global pandemic, and sea turtle nesting season is no exception. In Florida, those turtles are off to a strong start.

Along 13 miles of Brevard County's Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, UCF's Marine Turtle Research Group has logged 1,752 loggerhead nests, 29 leatherback nests and three green turtle nests. That represents a leatherback count higher than a full typical year—and the season continues until July—and the second earliest date a green turtle nest has been spotted by the UCF researchers. [Read more...](#)



2020-21 Season Place-based Learning in the Great Outdoors

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail

October 16-21, 2020 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 2nd

Ten Thousand Islands Paddling Festival (NEW)

November 12-15, 2020 Southwest Florida's answer to our spring paddling festival features three days of exploring the magic kingdom of the Ten Thousand Islands. Our basecamp for this experience is Collier-Seminole State Park, one of the best state parks in the region. It is within driving distance of all the paddling tours we will undertake. This is a first time event in our November time slot. We hope to make the Ten Thousand Islands Paddling Festival an annual event in this paddlers' paradise. Register by: October 30th

Treasure Coast Paddling Adventure (NEW)

December 2-8, 2020 Come explore the Treasure Coast, named for the profusion of shipwrecks and treasure hunters who have been searching for gold, silver and other valuable and historic bounty. The trip starts in St. Lucie County at Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park and follows a route to the north through Indian River County, ending in Sebastian. We'll spend two nights at state parks, two nights at Indian River County Parks and two nights at the Environmental Learning Center. This will be an excellent example of what we try to achieve on every trip: Place-based learning in the Great Outdoors. Register by: November 18th

January 2021 - To Be Announced

Wild Wonderful Withlacoochee

February 8-14, 2021 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 26th

Springtime on the Choctawhatchee (NEW)

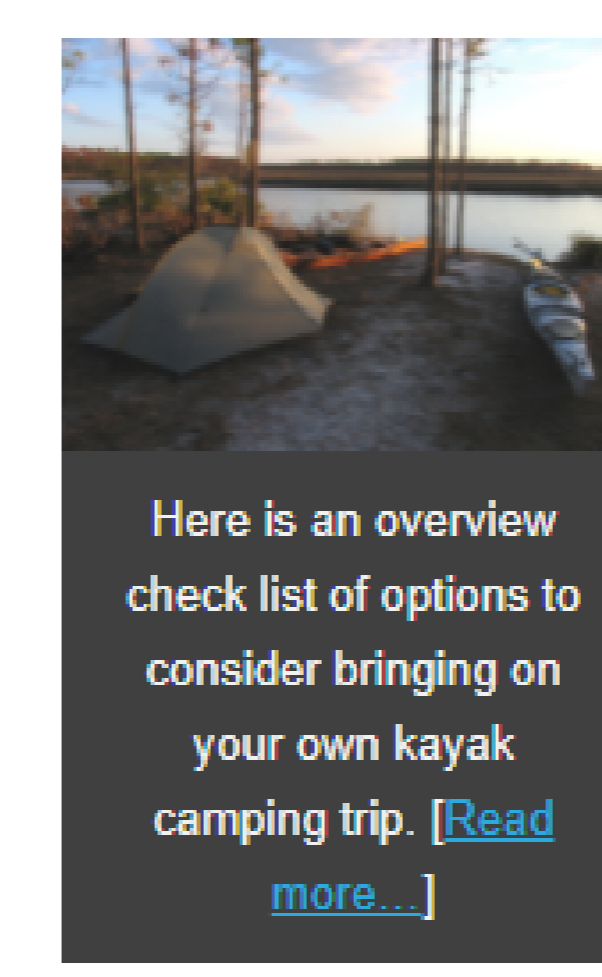
March 17-23, 2021 This will be our 4th different trip in Florida's panhandle, joining the Ochlockonee, the Choctawhatchee, and the Perdido. Given the right conditions, the river will be suitable for all paddlers and paddlecraft. Florida Caverns State Park is the starting point for staging this event next. Match, when spring will be blooming in the panhandle. This is going to be a great experience! Register by: February 26th

Suwannee River Paddling Festival

April 2-4, 2021 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 19th

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

How To: A Kayaker's Camping Checklist



Here is an overview check list of options to consider bringing on your own kayak camping trip. [Read more...](#)

Like us on Facebook

28,100+ followers 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

During this challenging time, we are all changing our daily lives in order to minimize and shorten the impact of this awful virus. To continue our programs of place-based learning in the great outdoors, we are counting on the Paddle Florida Community to help us through this difficult time.

Please consider making a donation\* to show your support of our mission of connecting people to nature and each other.

In appreciation of your donation, you will receive a special gift:

Make a \$25 donation [HERE](#) and receive a Paddle Florida Buff. A tube of lightweight, stretchy material. Can be worn as a face mask, a hat, to protect feet from sun, or around neck as scarf.



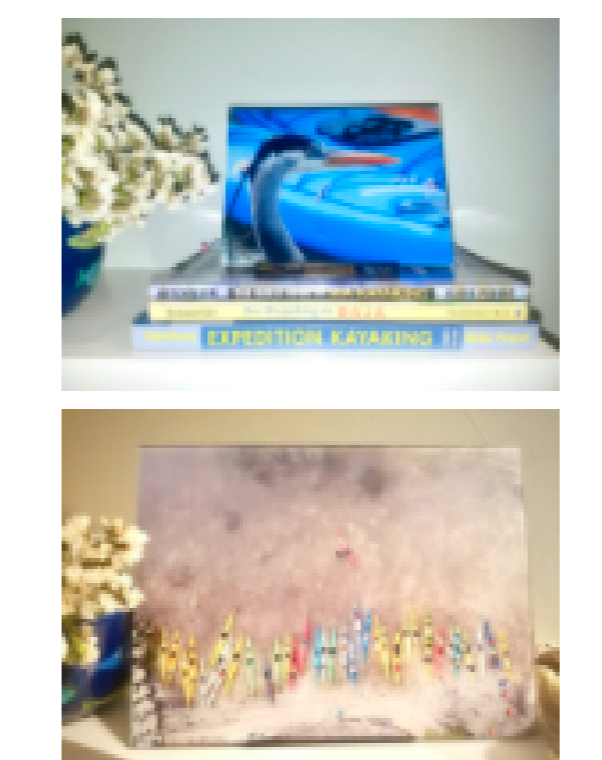
Make a \$50 donation [HERE](#) and receive a Paddle Florida dry bag.



Make a \$75 donation [HERE](#) and receive a a long-sleeved, dri-fit Paddle Florida shirt.



Make a \$100 donation [HERE](#) and receive one small (4.5 x 6.4 with stand) and one medium (7.2 x 9.6) glass print with images captured by Matt Keene.



We are all in this together.

To donate online using your debit or credit card, please click the links above.

To donate by check, please send an email with your name and address to [bill@paddleflorida.org](mailto:bill@paddleflorida.org)

\*The CARES Act allows taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 in charitable donations made in 2020 without itemizing.



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