



Trip Updates



October: We began our 13th season last month on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail with excellent conditions. The water levels and weather were close to perfect...

November: Unfortunately, we had to cancel our inaugural Ten Thousand Islands Paddling Festival due to the pandemic...

December: Paddle Florida staff paddled the route of the Treasure Coast Paddling Adventure immediately after the Suwannee trip...

Paddle Florida COVID-19 Trip Protocols
• Temperature checks;
• Social distancing of 6 feet;
• Participants will be required to wear masks at campsites...

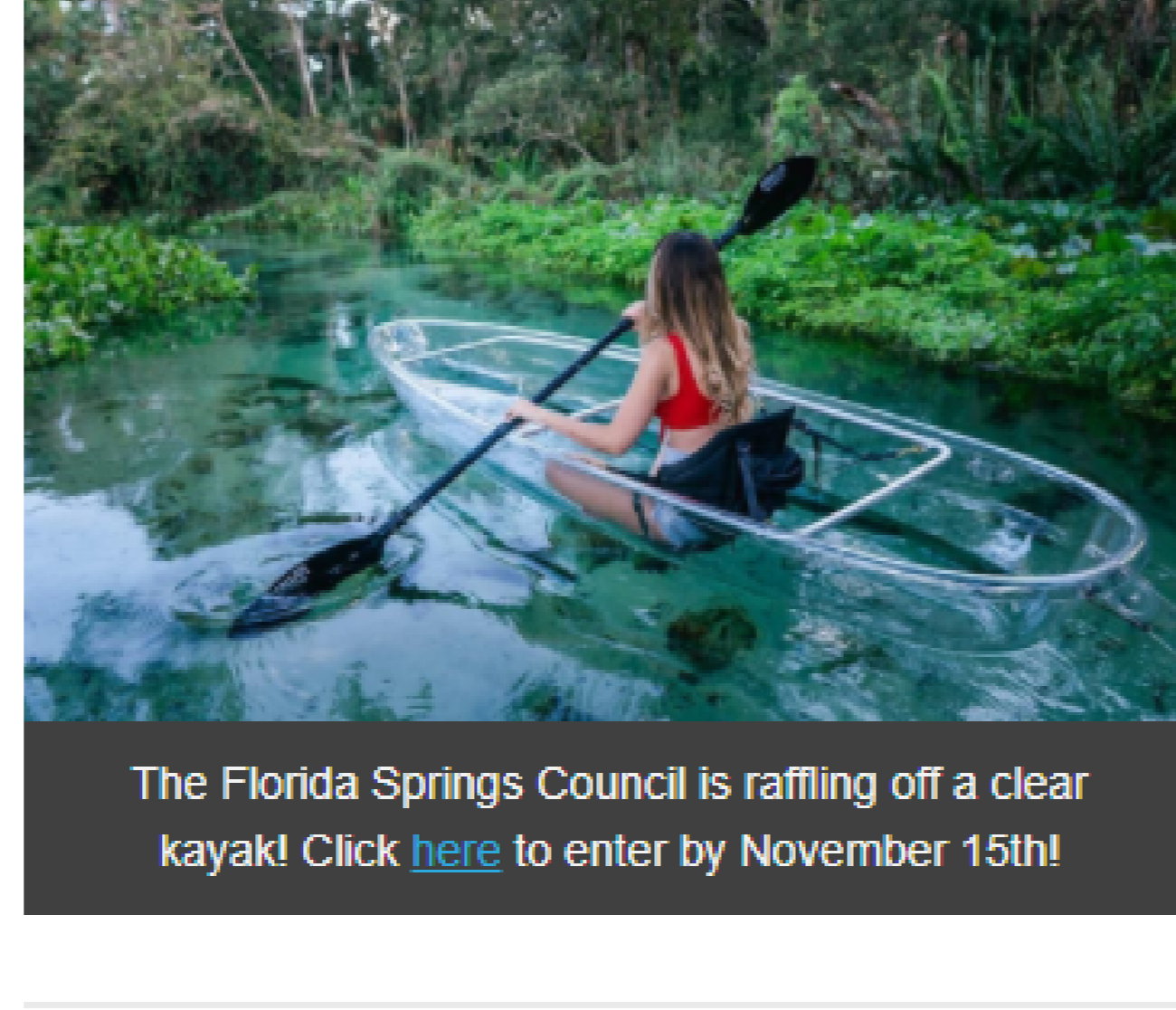


Standing Up for the Santa Fe
By Ryan Smart
Executive Director, Florida Springs Council

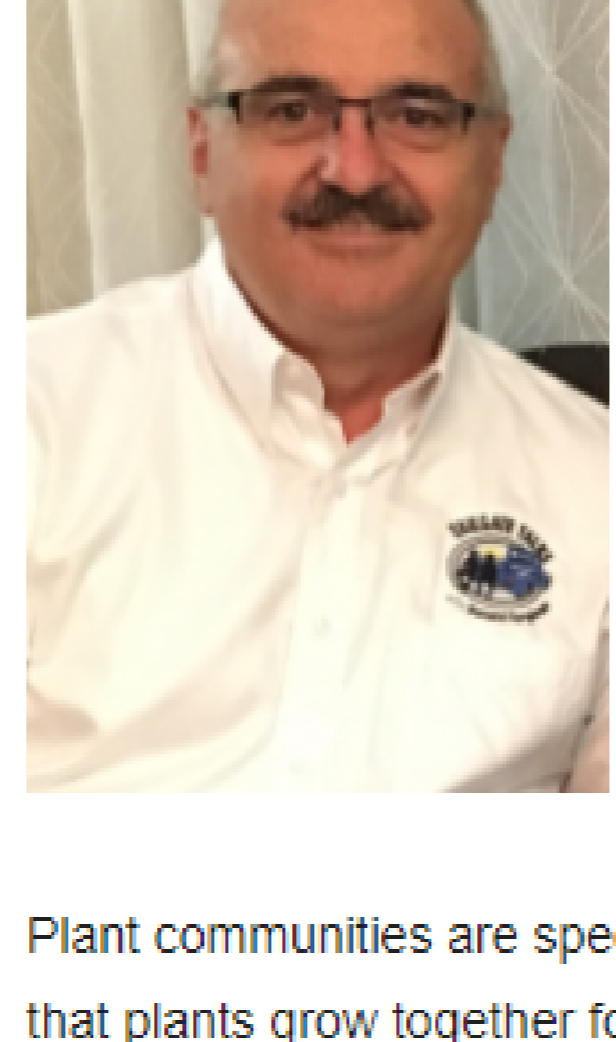
Last month, Brenda Wells (FSC communications director) and I joined Paddle Florida for a fifteen mile paddle down the Suwannee River State Park...

Back in the environmental policy world, October was an important month for the Santa Fe River and her many springs.

The Administrative Hearing over the Seven Springs/Nestle water use permit was held in Tallahassee before Administrative Law Judge G.W. Chisenhall from October 19th to 21st...



The Florida Springs Council is raffling off a clear kayak! Click here to enter by November 15th!



Ecosystem Restoration
By Donald Forgiome, Executive Director, Tallapoosa Park and co-author of The Ecotourism Provider's HANDBOOK: 180 Techniques for an Exceptional Park, Preserve, or Nature-based Attraction

Plant communities are specific areas within the landscape that plants grow together for a reason. Soil, terrain, amount of sunlight, and moisture are just a few parameters that create these ecosystems.

The closer these areas are to an urban center, the greater the chances are that more negative human disturbance can be found on the land. These disturbances can be so significant that the original plant community is either no longer present or severely out of its biological norms...

\$11 million spent for land near Santa Fe River to protect springs

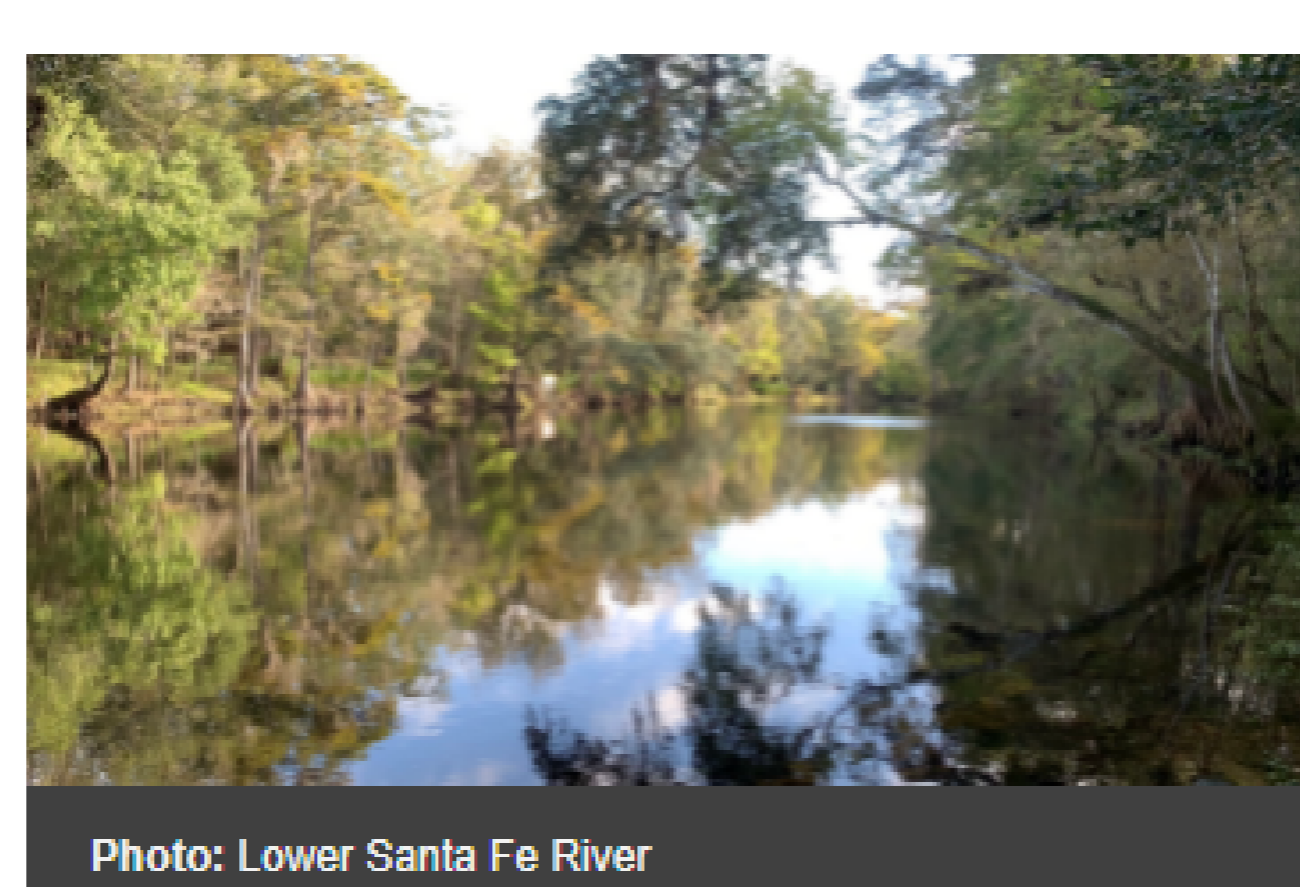


Photo: Lower Santa Fe River

Projects to buy land at area springs to improve water quality and preserve ecosystems are included in a \$11.2 million state allocation to the Suwannee River Water Management District.

The district will team with Alachua Conservation Trust — or ACT — on four projects, three in Columbia County and one in Gilchrist.

"We are ecstatic. It's amazing to have four projects for springs protection in land acquisition," ACT Executive Director Tom Kay said.

ACT worked on acquiring the land and will manage it for environmental protection and recreation. Money for the projects includes state and matching funds.

Almost \$7.4 million will be used to buy about 2,742 acres near Devil's Ear Spring in Gilchrist County to help recharge the spring and aquifer.

Basic Information About Estuaries

By U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

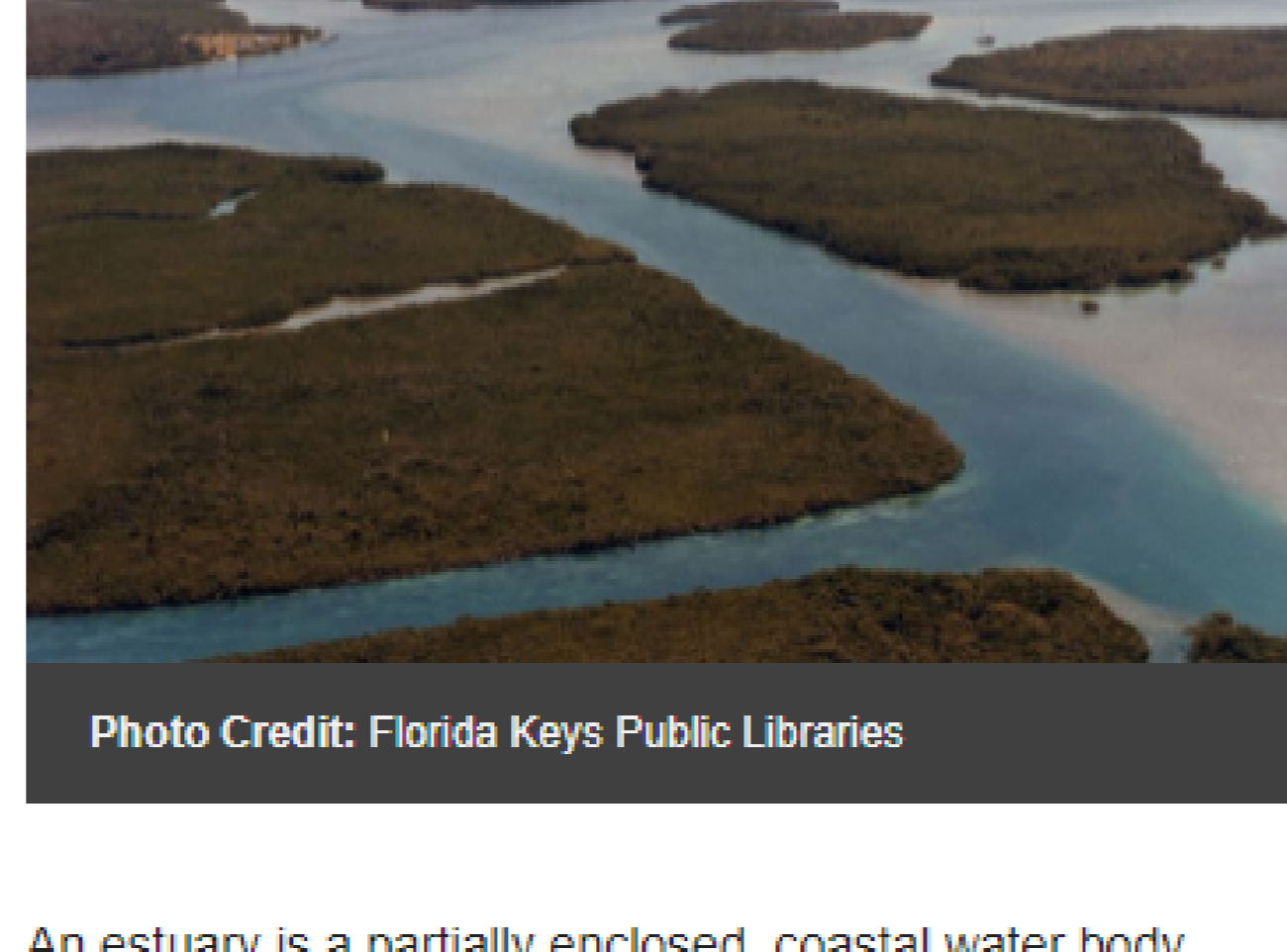


Photo Credit: Florida Keys Public Libraries

An estuary is a partially enclosed, coastal water body where freshwater from rivers and streams mixes with salt water from the ocean.

Estuarine environments are among the most productive on earth, creating more organic matter each year than comparably-sized areas of forest, grassland or agricultural land.

Many different habitat types are found in and around estuaries, including shallow open waters, freshwater and saltwater marshes, swamps, sandy beaches, mud and sand flats, rocky shores, oyster reefs, mangrove forests, river deltas, tidal pools and seagrass beds.

Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Roseate Spoonbill (Platalea ajaja) by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Photo Credit: Gareth Rasberry

The roseate spoonbill is the only spoonbill endemic (native) to the Western Hemisphere. This species can reach a length of 30-40 inches (76-102 centimeters) with a wingspan of 50-53 inches (127-135 centimeters).

The roseate spoonbill also has a large, spoon-shaped bill, which it sweeps back and forth in shallow water to capture prey.

It's Safer Outdoors



Inspiring. Meaningful. Adventure. Place-based Learning in the Great Outdoors.

Paddle Florida welcomes paddlers from all races, genders and sexual orientations. We will continue to strive to promote diversity among the paddling community and work to create a safe space for all to enjoy our paddling adventures.

2020-21 Paddle Florida Season

Treasure Coast Paddling Adventure (NEW) December 2-4, 2020

Come explore the Treasure Coast, named for the profession of shipwrecks and treasure hunters who have been searching for gold, silver and other valuable and historic bounty.

The Great Calusa Bayway January 15-21, 2021

Blask in the history, culture and beauty of Southwest Florida as we explore 57 miles of Lee County's rivers, bays, creeks, mangrove tunnels, aquatic preserves, Calusa shell mounds and pristine white-sand barrier islands.

Wild Wonderful Withacochee February 9-14, 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.

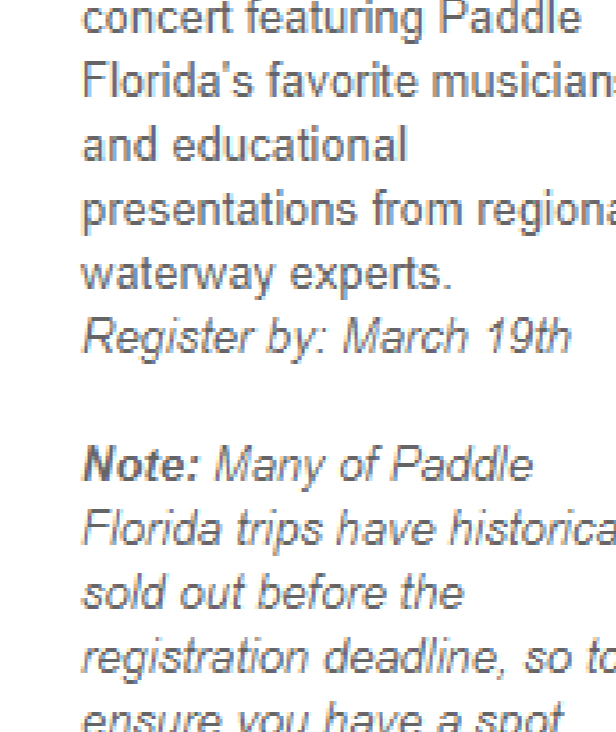
Springtime on the Chipola (NEW) March 17-23, 2021

This will be our 4th different trip in Florida's panhandle, joining the Ochlockonee, the Choctawhatchee, and the Perdido.

Swansea River Paddling Festival April 2-4, 2021

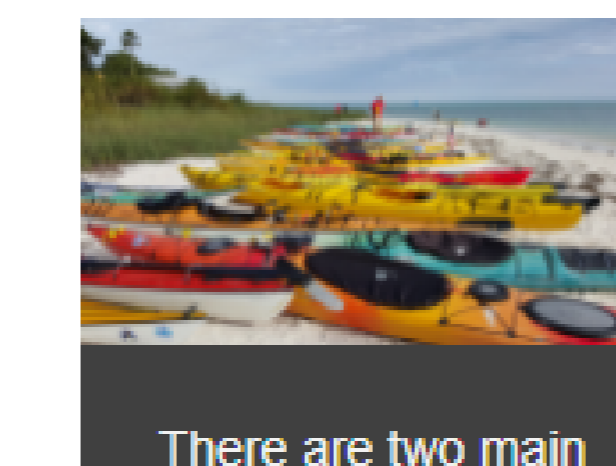
With camping atop the bluff overlooking two beautiful rivers, our season-capping festival takes place at Suwannee River State Park near Live Oak.

How To: What to Know When Buying a Kayak



There are two main questions that you should think about when buying a kayak. What do you see yourself doing in the kayak? And, how much are you willing to spend?

Like us on Facebook 30,089+ followers and counting!



Reconnect with paddling friends and make new ones on Paddle Florida's Facebook page.

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.

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 that can be worn as a face mask, hat, scarf, or to protect face from the sun.

Make a \$50 donation HERE and receive a Paddle Florida dry bag.

Make a \$75 donation HERE and receive a long-sleeved, dri-fit Paddle Florida shirt.

Make a \$100 donation HERE and receive an 11x14 watercolor paper giclée print "A View of Paddlers" painted by one of our own paddlers, Peggy Perry

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

Click on the photo to enlarge.

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

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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 6,878 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) 377-4342 or bill@paddleflorida.org for details.



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