



Continuous monthly issues since June 2009!

Three Things



One. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to cancel the remainder of the 2019/2020 season, it has not dampened our enthusiasm and optimism about getting back on the water for our 2020/2021 season...

Two. Again, because of the current situation, we have embarked on a fundraising effort to get us through these challenging times. With that in mind, we have made it possible to support Paddle Florida through the Donate section of our website...

Three. We are trying something new in May. One of our favorite musical artists, Grant Peeples, will be doing a Zoom show to benefit Paddle Florida on May 8.

Paddle Florida presents GRANT PEEPLES live on-line concert event. FRIDAY MAY 8, 7pm EDT. R.S.V.P. here

Ocklawaha River named among America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2020

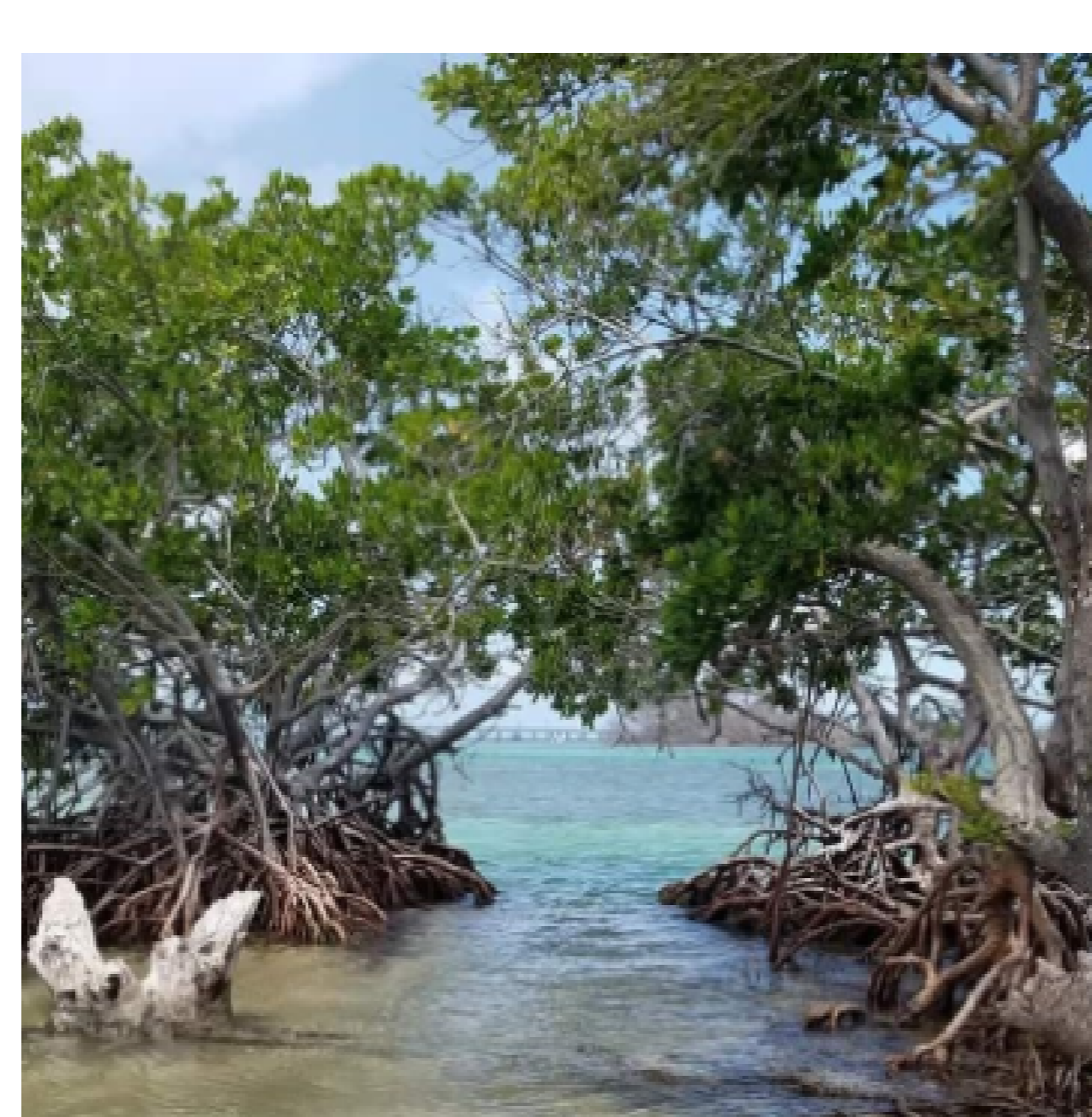


American Rivers today named the Ocklawaha River among America's Most Endangered Rivers®, citing the Rodman Dam as a threat to clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

"America's Most Endangered Rivers is a call to restore rivers for today's communities and future generations," said Erin McCombs with American Rivers.

In 1968, the natural connection of the Ocklawaha River to the St. Johns River was severed by the Rodman Dam, part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal that was never built.

Poll: Floridians willing to pay for clean water; coalitions: here's how they should do it

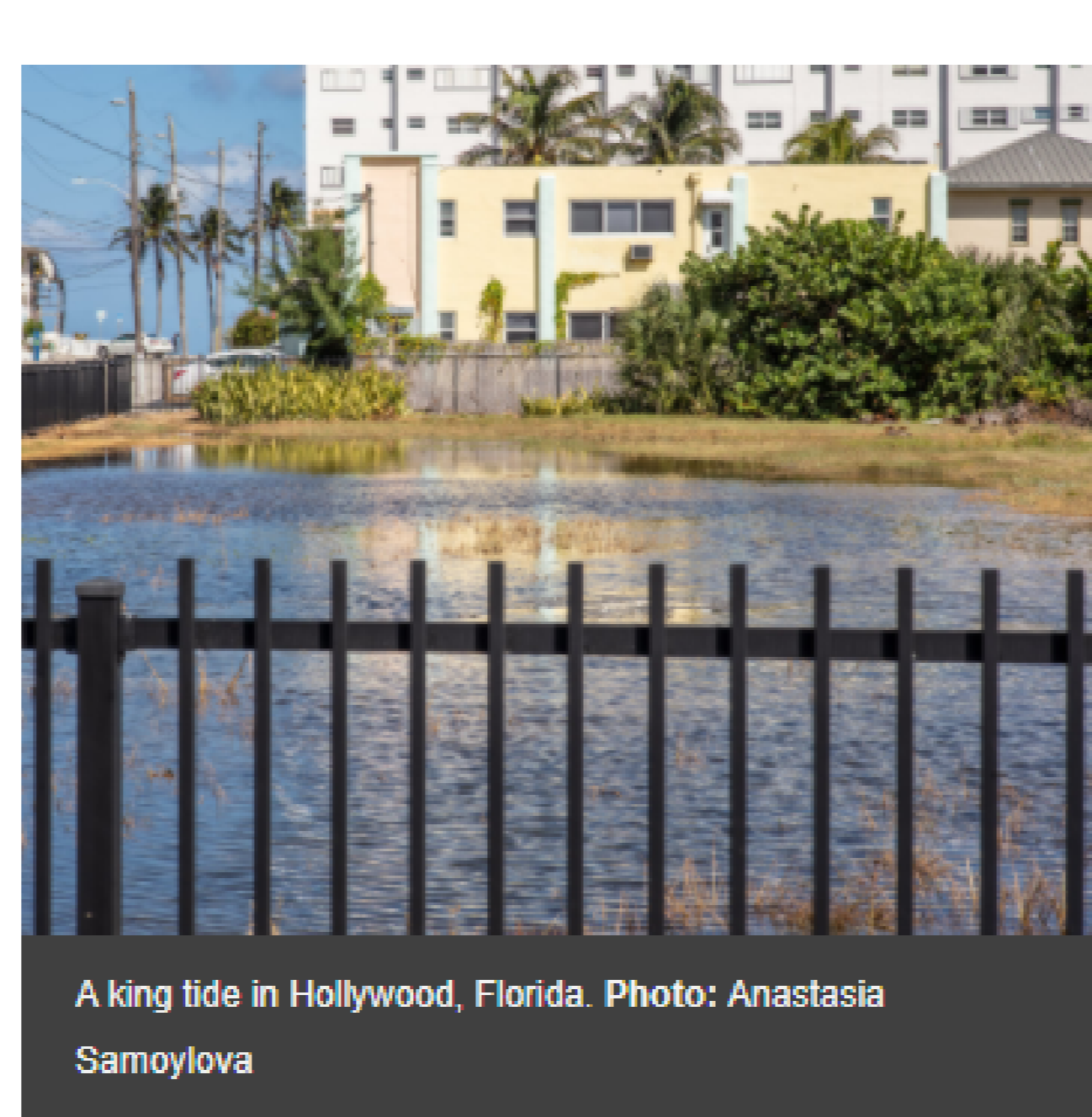


Florida voters cherish clean water and are willing to pay for it. In a recent statewide poll of registered voters, 62.4% said they'd be willing to pay an extra \$2 a month for projects to clean up Florida's waterways.

So the poll's sponsors, the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition and the Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County, are asking the state's five water management districts to raise their property tax rates by 0.1 mills, or 10 cents for every \$1,000 of taxable value.

That would be an extra \$18.70 a year, or \$1.56 a month, for a \$237,000 home (the median assessed value for a house in Florida) with a \$50,000 homestead exemption.

Will Florida forever be lost to the climate crisis?

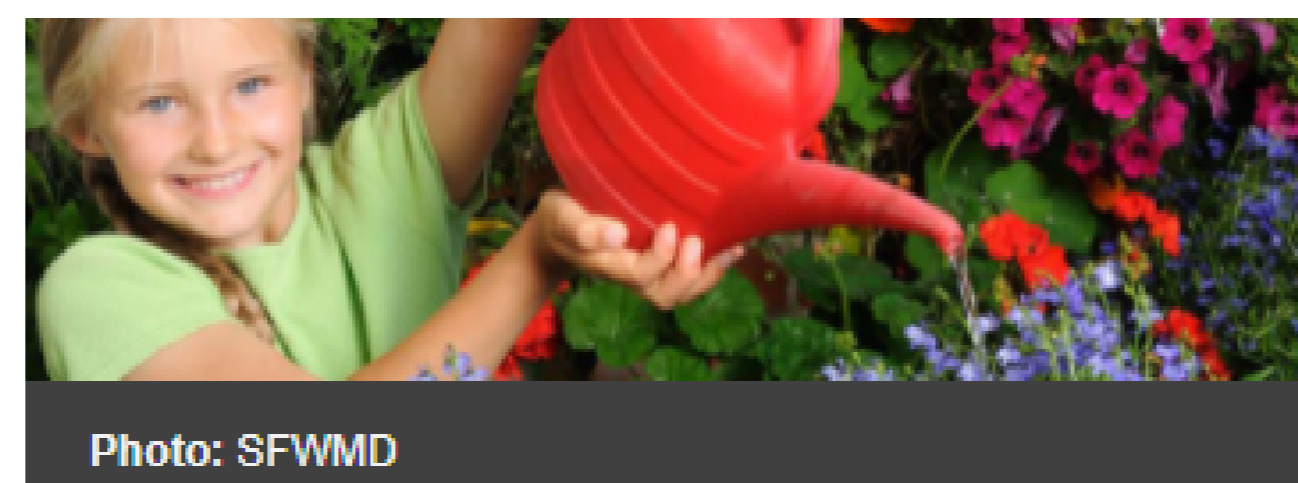


Few places on the planet are more at risk from the climate crisis than south Florida, where more than 8 million residents are affected by the convergence of almost every modern environmental challenge - from rising seas to contaminated drinking water, more frequent and powerful hurricanes, coastal erosion, flooding and vanishing wildlife and habitat.

If scientists are right, the lower third of the state will be underwater by the end of the century. Yet despite this grim outlook, scientists, politicians, environment groups and others are tackling the challenges head on.

Below are some of the biggest threats posed by the climate crisis to south Florida today, along with solutions under consideration. Some of these solutions will have a lasting impact on the light. Others, in many cases, are only delaying the inevitable. But in every situation, doing something is preferable to doing nothing at all.

How You Can Conserve Water

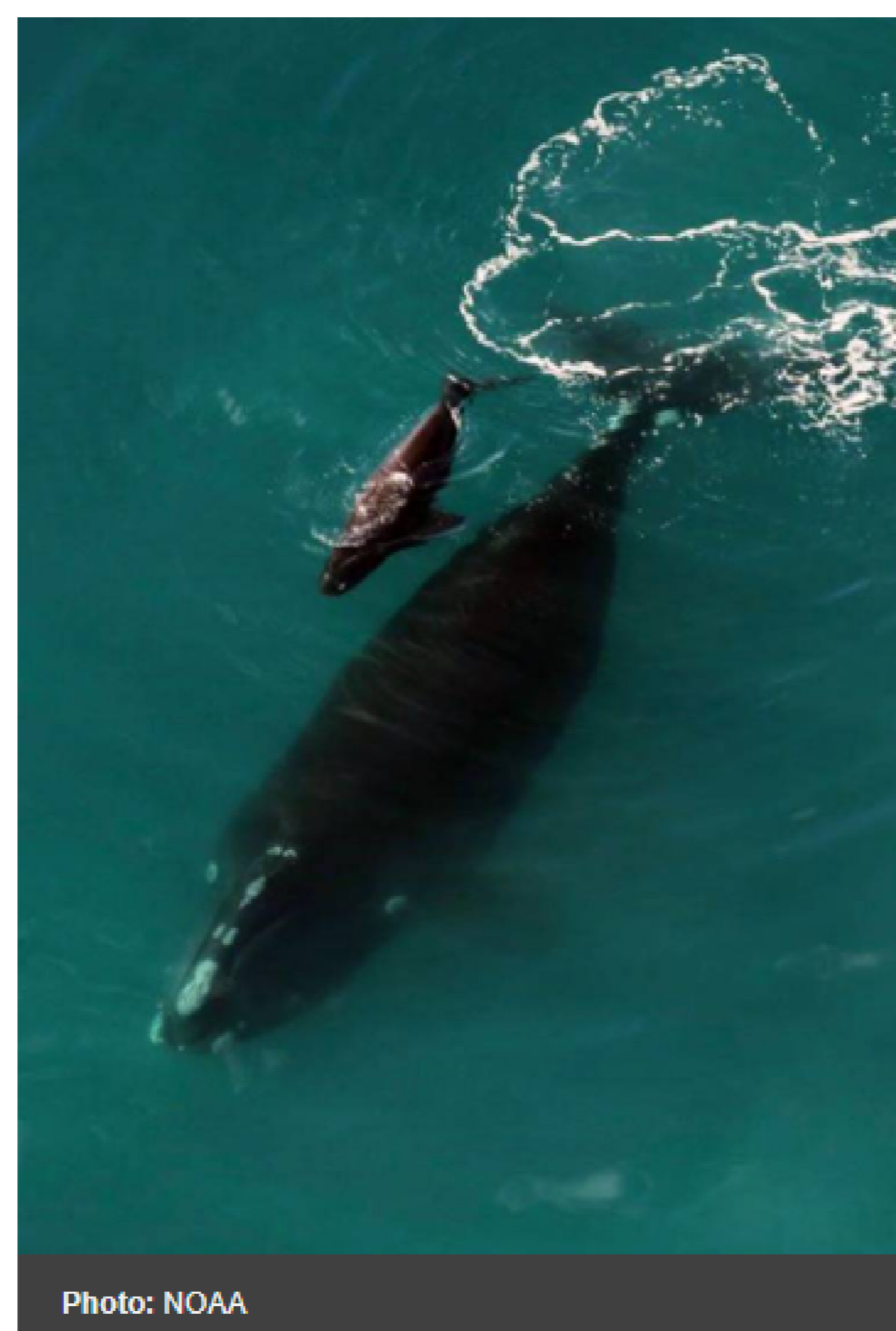


Water is a shared resource that interconnects the environment, economy and our quality of life in South Florida. Just as abundant water gives vitality to the region, a lack of water strains natural resources, stifles economic growth and periodically disrupts our daily routines.

Saving water is easy and economical. Here are many ways to conserve water both inside and outside your home.

Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Wildlife officials concerned about 43-foot whale and her calf off the Florida Keys



An endangered North Atlantic right whale, which officials say could be up to 43 feet long, has been spotted swimming with her calf in the shallow waters off the Florida Keys.

Wildlife officials are trying to locate the marine mammals and lead them to safety in deeper waters. They're asking for the boating public's help in finding the pair.

Adam Linhardt, spokesman for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, said Thursday that there have been several reports of the whales swimming in Florida Bay between Cape Sable on the tip of the Florida mainland and the Middle Keys city of Marathon.

The calf is estimated to be about 19 feet long, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



2020-21 Season Preview

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.

Ten Thousand Islands Paddling Festival (NEW) November 12-15, 2020 We wanted to have a fall version the festival we hold at Suwannee River State Park each spring, we wanted it to be in the southern part of the state, and we wanted a different paddling environment.

Treasure Coast Paddling Adventure (NEW) December 2-8, 2020 This event is another case of one of our veteran paddlers suggesting the potential of an event where he knows the right route and the right people.

Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee, February 9-14, 2021

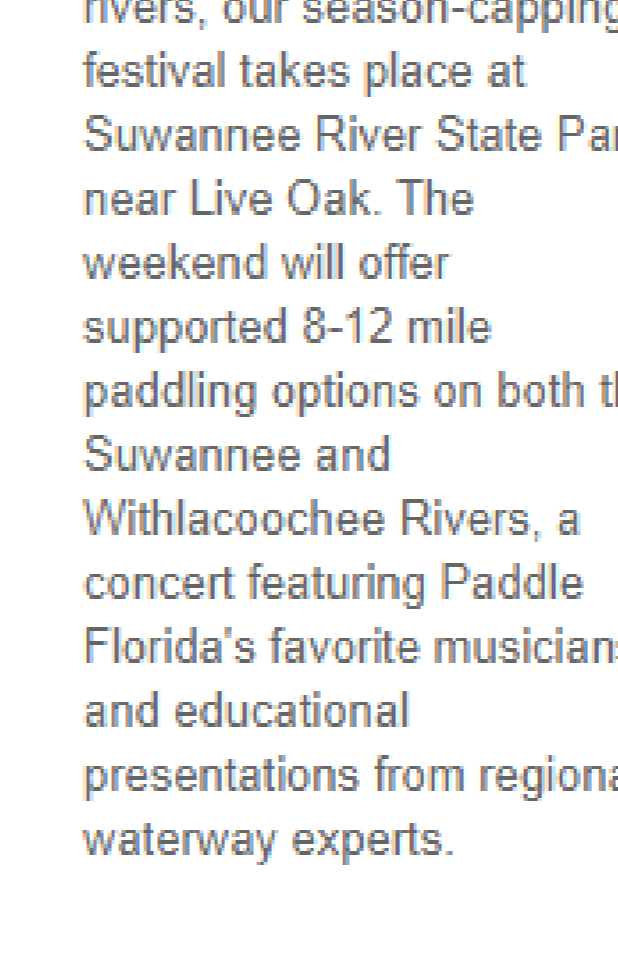
Beginning at Lake Panasofkee, paddlers will thread their way through hardwood swamps and tannic streams on a 60-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. The adventure includes a side trip to the colorful Rainbow River and its world class first magnitude spring.

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

We finished scouting this trip at the end the Choctawhatchee trip we staged in March as the pandemic was starting to disrupt all of our lives. Special thanks to Eric Tuovila, Brack Barker, Paul and Deb Gelderblom.

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.

How To: Clean and store your PFD



Here are the manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning your PFD.

Like us on Facebook 29,000+ 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.

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 long-sleeved, dri-fit Paddle Florida shirt.

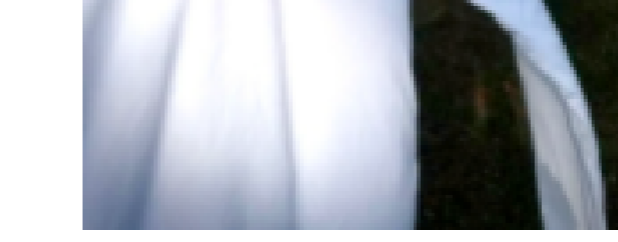
Make a \$100 donation HERE and receive one small (4.5 x 6.4 with stand) and one medium (7.2 x 9.6) glass print with images captured by Matt Keene.

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

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



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