



Continuous monthly issues since June 2009!

Trip Spotlight: Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee

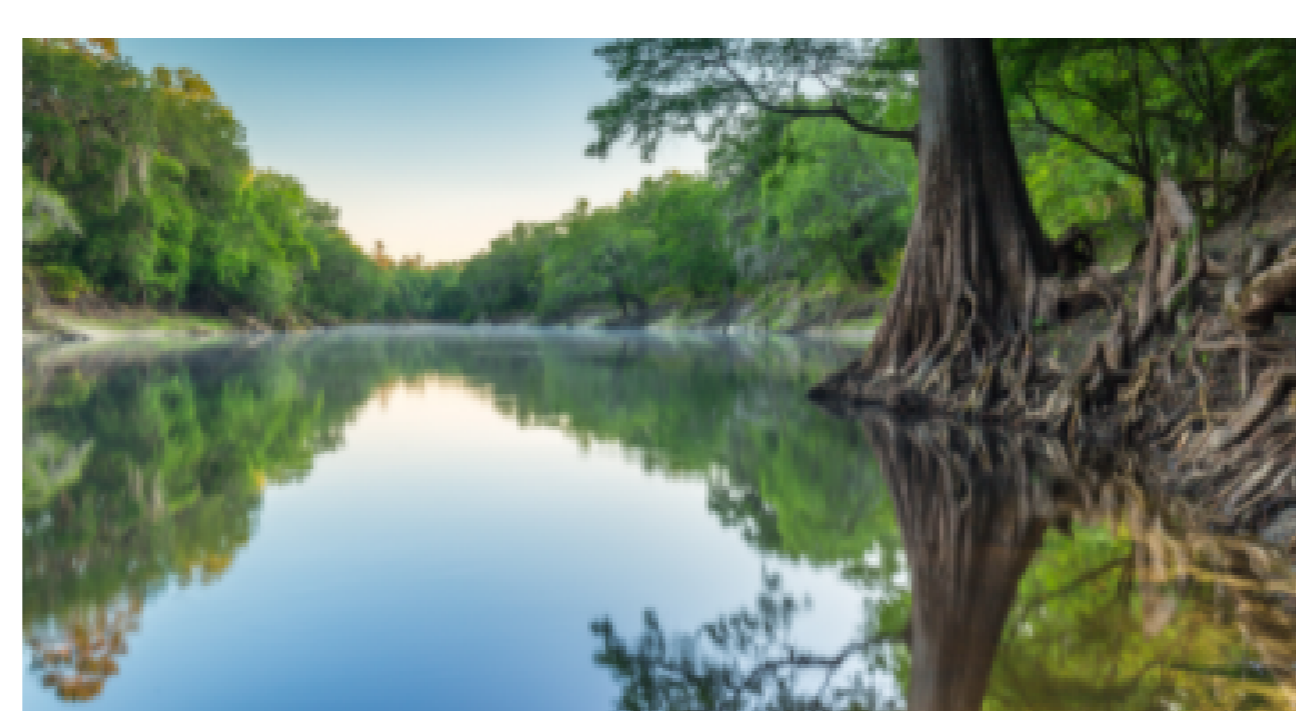


Join us for the Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee in February, as we begin at Lake Panasoffkee in Sumter County. Paddlers will thread their way through hardwood swamps and tannic streams on a 60-mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico...



Storytelling and Learning Makes Paddling Trips Truly Special

Eric Draper, Florida State Parks



While speaking with park managers recently, I shared a great note from Bill Richards, Paddle Florida executive director. Bill told me how delighted his paddling group was to meet with rangers and park staff on their trip down the Suwannee River Wilderness State Trail...

At Suwannee River State Park, the trip members heard about the area's history from ranger Rianna Elliot, who has deep roots in Suwannee County. Two nights later, they heard from Dennis Parson, who manages several parks along the paddling trail...



Breaching Rodman dam will reveal 20 lost springs of the Ocklawaha River

By Dr. Robert Knight

Executive Director, Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute

During the past 50 years, a long list of former Florida governors and senior agency staff have called for the restoration of the Ocklawaha River and springs.

But, in an unfathomable twist of modern society, the will of these powerful leaders has been stymied by a small but vocal group of bass fishermen who oppose restoration.

Breaching the antiquated barge canal dam and returning the river to its natural channel is not only the most cost-effective future for the river, but is most beneficial with regards to downstream water quality and water quantity...



Click on the image above to view the Lost Springs documentary by Matt Keene.

Water is hidden crisis for Florida and the world

Mike Clark, The Florida-Times Union



As Floridians, we are surrounded by some of the world's most beautiful waters. However, we are currently facing a hidden water crisis that risks ruining our beautiful state and the entire global community.

Floridians can expect to feel the impacts of a water crisis as sea levels rise, our fisheries are threatened and our aquifers are depleted.

By 2050, as many as 6 billion people worldwide will face water insecurity, leading to disease, conflict and the death of those most vulnerable, especially children. A global water crisis is on the horizon and, for the sake of our generation's future, action must be taken now.

Florida Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Non-native Fish invading Florida's freshwaters By Karl Schneider, Naples Daily News



Photo: USGS

Usually, when there's news about escapees from medical research facilities, freshwater fish are not the obvious fugitives.

But that was the case with the pike killifish when researchers released about 50 of the fish into agricultural canals in the late 1950s.

Now, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has identified up to 22 non-native fish in Florida's fresh waters.



Inspiring Meaningful Adventure.

2019-20 Season

Florida Keys Challenge (Registration deadline extended to January 8) January 15-22, 2020

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...

Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee (Date change) February 11-16, 2020

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...

Choctawhatchee Challenge March 13-19, 2020

Get away from it all into the heart of the Panhandle as we paddle 86 miles of the mighty Choctawhatchee. This is a journey into Wild Florida where wildlife far outnumber humans...

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...

Earth Day Celebration: Flori-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River April 11-16, 2020

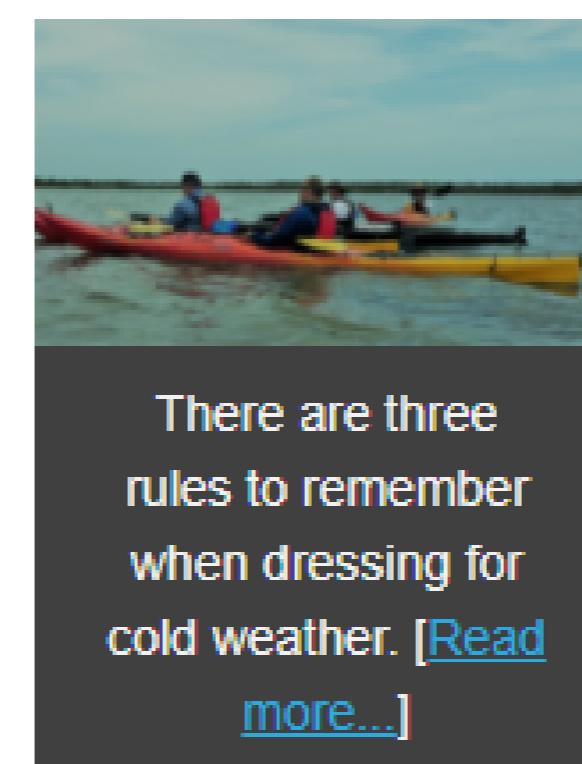
Paddling the Florida/Alabama border, enjoy beach camping along a cozy meandering river to the more open waters of Perdido Bay as we explore the most diverse set of ecosystems of the season.

Earth Day Celebration: Springtime on the Ochlockonee April 18-22, 2020

From wild Tupelo honey to fresh Gulf oysters, experience the Panhandle's Ochlockonee River which winds through state and national forest lands on 76 miles of Florida's most remote wilderness river trail.

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

How To: Dressing for cold weather paddling



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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...

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...

If you believe in what we are doing, please consider making a donation this holiday season. 100% of your donation will help us increase the impact we can make toward our non-profit mission...

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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 6,761 (and growing) monthly subscribers...