



### Trip Spotlight

Ocklawaha Odyssey



Come join us for the Ocklawaha Odyssey, Nov. 30 - Dec. 4. We will hear from Jim Gross from Florida Defenders of the Environment, Lisa Rinaman from the St. John's Riverkeeper and Paddle Florida favorite, Whitey Markle on our last night at Orange Springs. Beginning at Silver Springs State Park, this will be our third annual trip on the Silver and Ocklawaha rivers.



### 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 landscape 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 lannic 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

**Flor-Bama Expedition on the Perdido River**  
March 16-15, 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

### Baste conquers the mighty Yukon



2018 Yukon 1000 SUP racers (left to right): Extremely Insane SUPMADKIWI - Tony Bain, Alex De Saint (3rd Place), Team Starboard - Ike Frans, Bart de Zwart (1st Place), Cocoplum Navy - Chip Walter, Scott Baste (2nd Place)

Local Keys stand up paddler and owner of PADDLE! The Florida Keys, Scott Baste, recently participated in the longest canoe race in the world. 3 paddleboard teams were selected along with 12 canoe/kayak teams. Teamed up with Baste was Chip Walter from Miami. Stand up paddlers were required to go in pairs for safety. There were more people turned down for the race (17 teams didn't make the cut) than the number of those accepted. The race is 1000 miles in one of the most remote places on the planet being 3-4 days from possible rescue and no outside communications were permitted unless a dire emergency/rescue was needed.

The race started in Whitehorse Canada and wound its way into Alaska finally finishing near Fairbanks. The team faced numerous challenges including strong currents, heat (up to 80 most days), smoke from forest fires which forced them to use their buffs to breathe through, dust storms, headwinds, frigid waters, getting lost, sunburn, barge traffic, and of course there was always the possibility of being attacked by a grizzly bear or moose. [\[Read more...\]](#)

### Focus on Favorite Florida Musicians

Bing Futch, Orlando, FL



Bing performs "Promontory", a blend of "The Gael" by Dougie Maclean and the Trevor Jones/Randy Edelman score for "The Last Of The Mohicans." Recorded at Carolina BalloonFest 40 in Statesville, North Carolina on October 19th, 2013. Bing will be playing at Rainbow Springs State Park in January on our Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee trip.

I love playing for Paddle Florida. They're some of the most fun people that I've hung out with; down-to-earth, adventurous, good-hearted folks. It takes great effort to pack up your gear and head into the outdoors and all of these folks have deep passion for these waterways. Some are involved in preservation and some in history, so they are not only itinerant explorers but also people who understand the delicate balance that is the natural.

Some shows, you may wander in feeling a bit of an outsider and you manner yourself accordingly, but when I'm with the PF group, I'm with family and like-minded friends, and my performances with them reflect that. They are always special and usually just a little bit magical.

### 2018 Florida Springs Restoration Summit to Feature Springs Regional Panels and Keynote Addresses by Dinah Voyles Pulver and Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch



The Florida Springs Council (FSC), with support from the Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida and Jelks Family Foundation, is hosting the Florida Springs Restoration Summit from November 1st - 4th at the College of Central Florida to report on the status of springs health in Florida and to develop a roadmap for springs restoration and protection.

The Summit will consist of a series of panel discussions arranged into seven major springs regions. Panelists will address the current knowledge about springs science and management, as well as the tools and activities needed for meaningful springs restoration and long-term protection. Conservationist Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch and environmental journalist Dinah Voyles Pulver will provide keynote addresses on Friday and Saturday.

"The Florida Springs Restoration Summit is the only conference in the state that focuses on identifying the next steps needed to protect our springs," says FSC President Dan Hilliard. "Anyone who has an interest in the future of our springs should make attending this conference a priority." [\[Learn more...\]](#)



### Paddling Whitewater

By Henry Dorfman, Cincy Paddlers



Paddling whitewater is one of the most exciting and gratifying subsets of our sport. And, with a little training, it's within reach of almost any paddler. You don't have to paddle the most difficult levels to have a flat out blast. There are many class II and III rivers that provide great fun without the dangers of the more extreme venues. All that is required is basic skills in river reading and boat control, along with the right equipment.

To have the most fun and success running a rapid, you must be able to pick a line that makes the flow work for you and avoids the hazards, like boat-munching holes. When you learn to do this, you can also recognize the fun play spots, like surfable waves. The river helps you out by providing the cues but you have to learn to read them.

Moving water boat control is required to hit the right line and that's a more than pointing in the right direction. Sweeps, draws, ferries and other maneuvers enable you to make the lateral and other moves that put you in the right place, while edge control and braces keep you upright. If you do flip, you roll back up to a safe position. Rolling may look daunting but it's quite easy from a physical standpoint. If you can roll out of bed, you can roll a boat. Control of the boat is mostly achieved with the lower body contact, making it an extension of you and a tool (like a fish's fin) to decide what happens. When you just sit in a boat, you surrender that decision to the river, which doesn't always have your welfare in mind. All of this may appear complex but, with a little training and practice, it becomes automatic. You'll also want to learn the proper whitewater swim position, should worse come to worse. There are a number of competent outfitters and others who offer lessons, some on rivers that are a lot of fun. Don't worry about if you'll flip over or not. You will. It's part of the learning process for everyone and it reduces your fear of doing so. [\[Read more...\]](#)

### Florida Flora & Fauna Spotlight

Alligator snapping turtle, *Macrochelys temminckii*



Source: FWC

The alligator snapping turtle is the largest freshwater turtle in North America. Male alligator snapping turtles can reach lengths of 29 inches (73.7 centimeters) and 249 pounds (112.9 kilograms), while females can reach lengths of 22 inches (55.9 centimeters) and 62 pounds (28.1 kilograms) (Ewert et al. 2006, Pritchard 2006). The inner mouth lining is gray/brown with black splotches, which is different from most turtles; others have a pink lining (Ewert et al. 2006). This species also has a tremendously long tail, large, triangle-shaped head, curved beak, and a rough brown shell with three spines that run vertically up the shell (Florida Natural Areas Inventory 2001). [\[Read more...\]](#)

### 2018 Hidden Coast Paddling Adventure

October 3rd - 7th in Cedar Key



Online registration is now open for the 9th Annual 2018 Hidden Coast Paddling Adventure in beautiful Cedar Key on October 3rd - 7th.

Please visit the HCPA website for details and registration: <https://www.hiddencostaloadlingadventure.com/>

### How To: Re-enter a sit inside kayak for beginners



Learn the best way to re-enter a sit inside kayak in the event that you capsize with these tips and tricks from World Champion kayaker, Ken Whiting, in this episode of PaddleTV. This video focuses on re-entry techniques for kayakers paddling with friends.

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