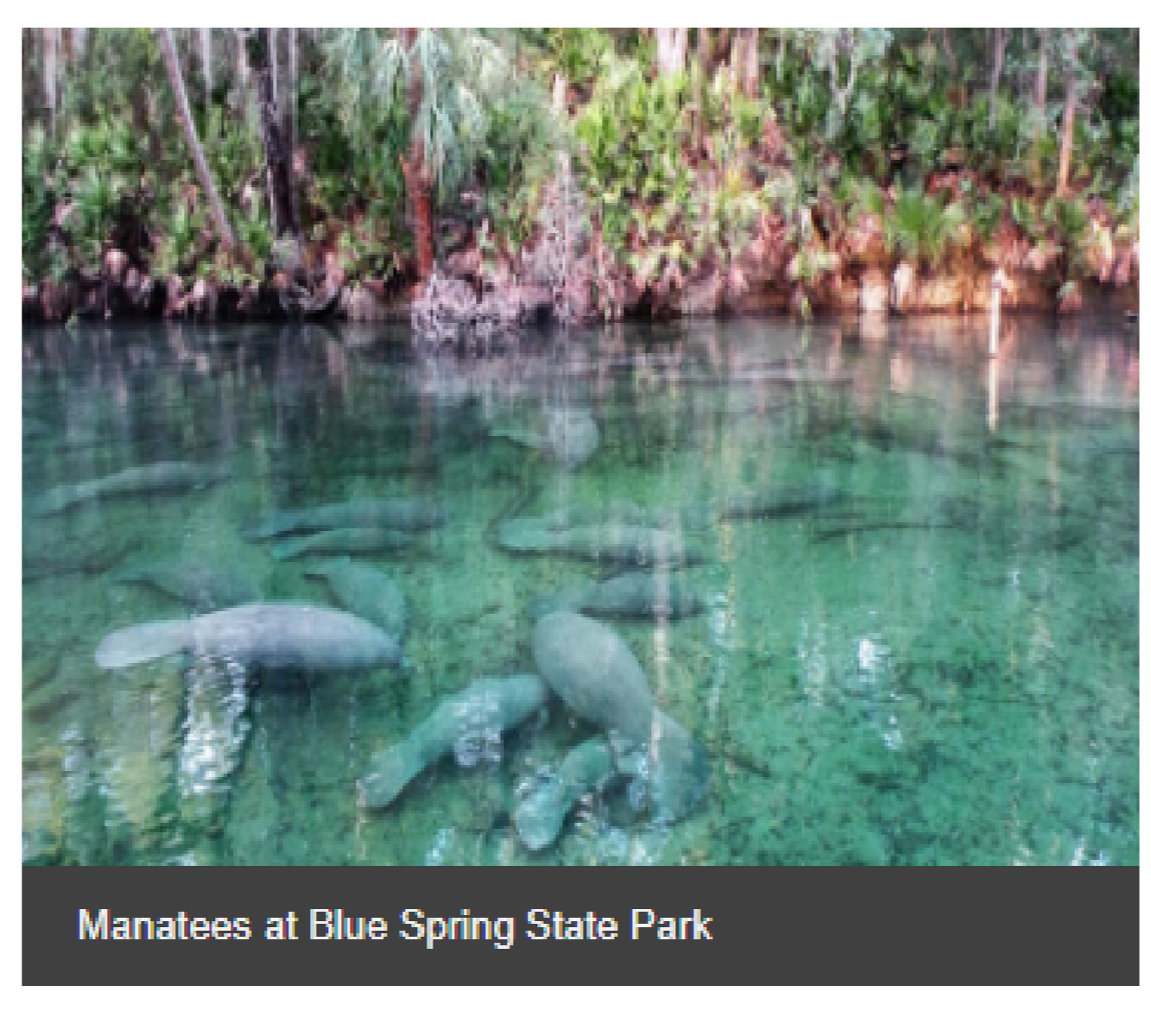




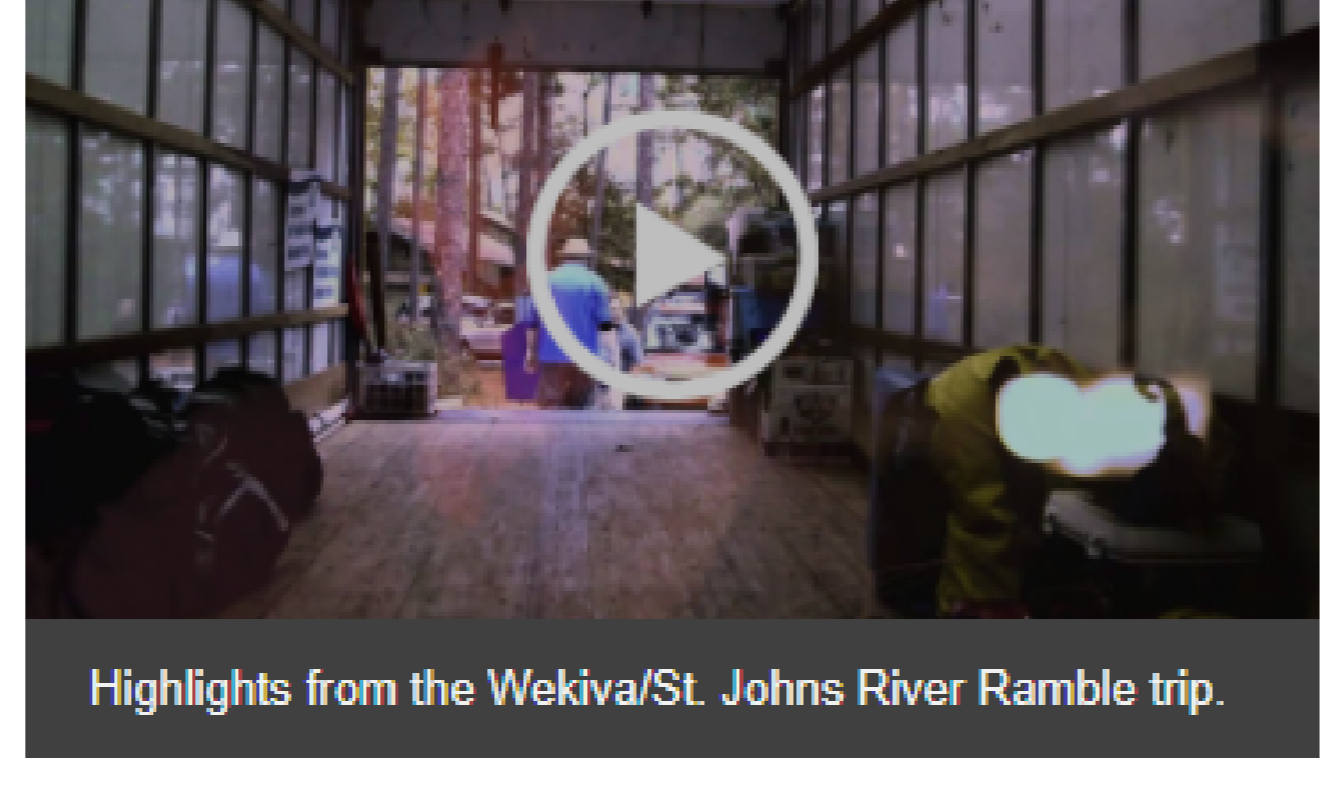
Continuous monthly issues since June 2009!

Trip Spotlight: Wekiva/St. Johns River Ramble



Manatees at Blue Spring State Park

Join us for a paddle down the iconic Rock Springs Run, back to Wekiva Springs State Park and on to Wilson's Landing in Seminole County, as we camp in rustic cabins for the first two nights and at Wilson's Landing on the way to the finish at Blue Springs State Park in Volusia County. At a total of 30 miles, this trip is perfect for beginners to try out paddle camping. On Saturday evening, paddlers will enjoy the musical stylings of Bing Futch during this trip, you will make memories grounded in nature with an authentic eco-friendly Old Florida charm in an area of Florida that is vastly undisturbed. The registration deadline for this trip is November 21st. Register here.



Highlights from the Wekiva/St. Johns River Ramble trip.

ORLANDO NORTH SEMINOLE COUNTY

Trip Recap: Suwannee River Wilderness Trail



Eric Tuovila (right) with Paddle Florida Executive Director, Bill Richards, during his induction into the Paddle Florida Hall of Fame.

Our 12th annual Fall Paddle Florida on the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail is in the books, as 45 paddlers enjoyed some portion of the Trail. One of the highlights, on the last night was the induction into the Paddle Florida Hall of Fame of Eric Tuovila. Eric has been a great supporter and participant on nearly 20 of our adventures. Congratulations Eric!

It's time for Florida's leaders to face the facts about energy and climate

By Nicole "Nikki" Fried, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Energy affects all of us - all day, every day. From producing our food, powering our homes and devices, moving around our communities, and driving our industries, energy is the foundation of our daily lives. Meanwhile, climate change poses a growing threat to our state, our economy, and our very future. These things are interconnected. Energy, climate, water, air, and other issues don't exist in a vacuum. And the time is now to take them seriously. [Read more...]

The Ocklawaha's lost springs. By Dr. Robert Knight. Executive Director, Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute.

One or more Florida legislators, yet unnamed, have the enviable opportunity to undo the tragic mistake of a previous generation and be lauded as Florida Springs Champions. With bipartisan support in the house and senate appropriations committees, these champions are uniquely positioned to convince the 2020 legislature and Governor DeSantis to do what no other legislature/governor in the past 50 years has been willing or able to do - restore the 20 Lost Springs of the Ocklawaha River.

In 1971, a geology doctoral student at the University of Florida, Elizabeth Abbott, published a white paper titled "Twenty Springs of the Ocklawaha [sic]". Described as "crystal pools", these limestone, artesian groundwater springs, in combination with Orange Springs, were estimated to add about one third of the flow of the Ocklawaha River before it enters the St. Johns below the Rodman Pool.

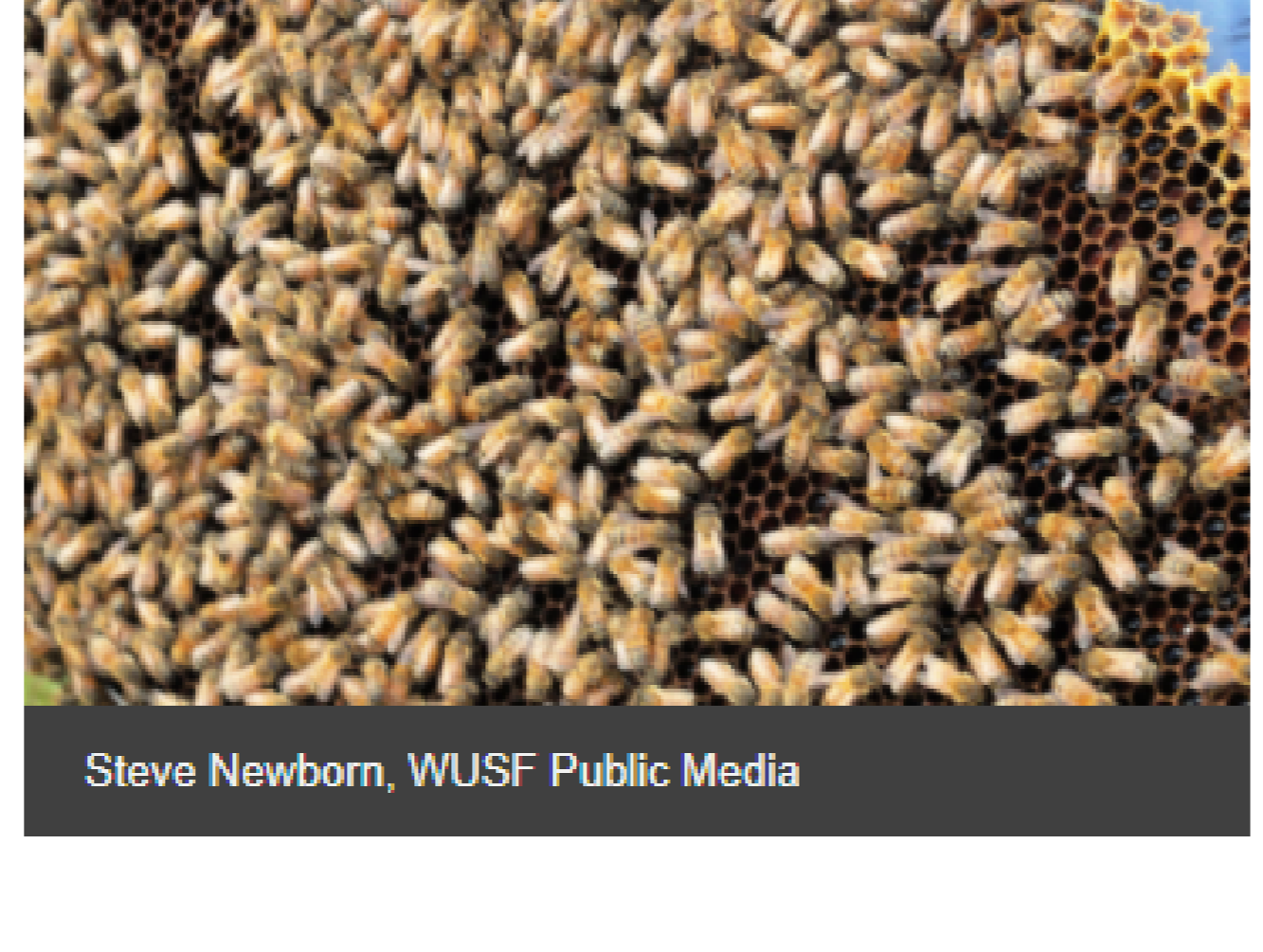
The largest of these Lost Springs in terms of flow and surface area was Marion Blue Spring, privately owned but open to all for recreational pursuits, including fishing and swimming. Historically, Blue Spring emptied to the Ocklawaha River via Indian Creek, a five-mile clear spring run, just upstream of the current location of the Rodman Dam. [Read more...]

Spending Money In Retirement. By Tony Kendzior. Image of various US dollar bills.

Those of you reading this will likely fall into one of three camps. (1) outdoor adventures are fun and you're not yet retired; (2) outdoor adventures are fun and you are retired; or (3) you're transitioning from 1 to 2. As your life plays out, you'll also experience what I call the three phases of retirement. They are the GO-GO years, the SLO-GO years, and finally, if you make it that far, the NO-GO years.

During your GO-GO years, there is a strong temptation to spend lots of money. At the same time, you'll probably become far more conscious about the money you do spend. And if you're smart, will find ways to balance your desire for outdoor adventure time and minimize the existential risks that could interrupt your ability to enjoy the outdoors. [Read more...]

Florida Flora & Fauna Spotlight: Florida's Honey Bees Facing Multiple Threats



Steve Newborn, WUSF Public Media

One of the foundations of American agriculture is under attack on several fronts. The victims - bees. WUSF visits one beekeeper in Polk County who has to drive thousands of miles every year to keep his hives humming. Robbie Bell swings his flatbed truck into a grassy area of a reclaimed phosphate mine, a half-dozen miles west of his Polk County home in Fort Meade. It's the perfect place for bees: only a few cars whiz down Highway 640, and the bees are happily pollinating the invasive Brazilian pepper trees that have taken root here. "Right here is over 100 hives, sitting in this yard," he says. "Each one of these has in the neighborhood of 60,000 bugs." [Read more...]



Inspiring Meaningful Adventure.

2019-20 Season

Flagler Coastal Wildlife Festival November 1-3, 2019. Paddle with dolphins at the Matanzas River in one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet. We will visit Princess Place and the Long Creek Preserve Paddling Trail. See rescued dolphins at Marineland and relax under the coastal oaks at River to Sea Preserve for music by Lon & Elisabeth Williamson. Registration for this trip is closed.

Wekiva/St. Johns River Ramble December 5-8, 2019. Join us for a paddle down the iconic Rock Springs Run, back to Wekiva Springs State Park, and on to Wilson's Landing in Seminole County as we camp in rustic cabins for the first two nights and at Wilson's Landing on the way to the finish at Blue Springs State Park in Volusia County. At a total of less than 30 miles, this trip is perfect for beginners to paddle camping. Register by: November 21

Florida Keys Challenge 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, and enjoy a snorkeling trip out to Looe Key. Register by: January 1

Wild, Wonderful Withlacoochee February 13-18, 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 and its world class first magnitude spring. Register by: February 1

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, and paddlers can stumble upon spectacular springs. Register by: February 28

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, a concert featuring Paddle Florida's favorite musicians, and educational presentations from regional waterway experts. Register by: March 20

Earth Day Celebration: F Lori-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. Register by: March 28

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. Register by: April 2

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

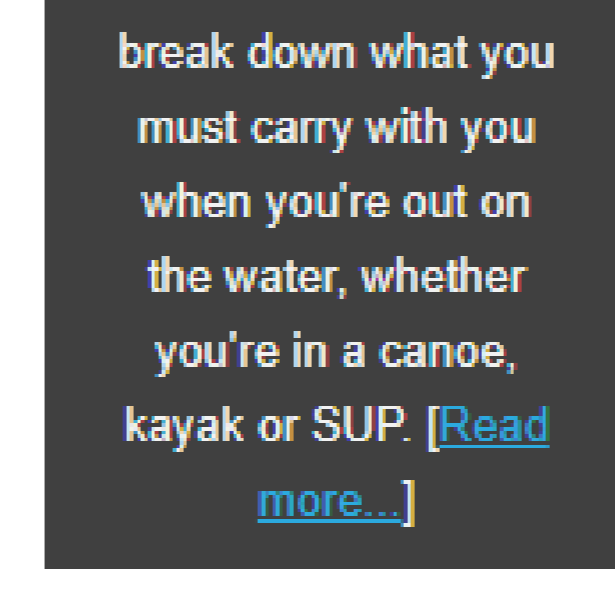
How To: Essential Gear That All Paddlers Need to Carry on the Water. In this video, we break down what you must carry with you when you're out on the water, whether you're in a canoe, kayak or SUP. [Read more...]

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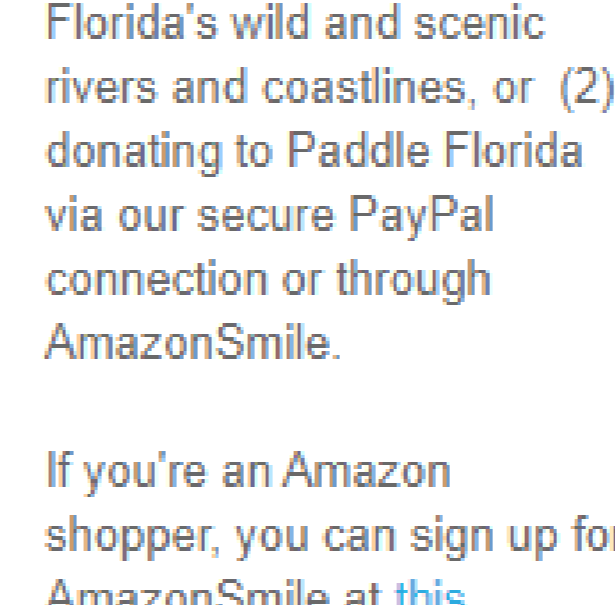
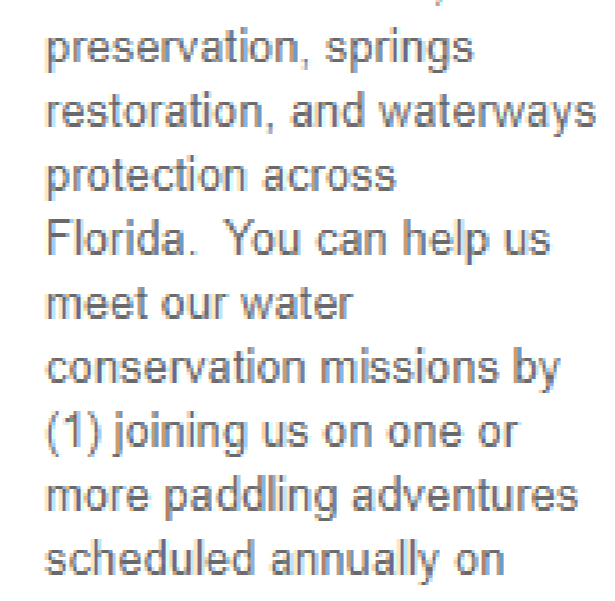
Reconnect with paddling friends and make new ones on Paddle Florida's Facebook page. Our daily feeds provide updates on the news impacting Florida's waterways and wildlife as well as our upcoming trips. Send us your favorite photo depicting paddling in Florida and it might be selected as our 'Picture of the Day'!

Support Paddle Florida with AmazonSmile



As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Paddle Florida is dedicated to promoting water conservation, wildlife preservation, springs restoration, and waterways protection across Florida. You can help us meet our water conservation missions by (1) joining us on one or more paddling adventures scheduled annually on Florida's wild and scenic rivers and coastlines, or (2) donating to Paddle Florida via our secure PayPal connection or through AmazonSmile.

If you're an Amazon shopper, you can sign up for AmazonSmile at this link and confirm your desire to support us. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Paddle Florida.



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