

Salt Mine. The Levy County Planning Commission packet didn't mention that the site for the 3RT Sand Mine [is in the springshed of Rainbow Springs](#). Ther BOCC had no Public Hearing this month, because the applicant [asked to delay indefinitely](#).

Right to Clean Water. Florida registered voters, please [sign and circulate the petition](#).

Sewage. After its July 6th 194,251-gallon major sewage spill into Knights Creek above the Alapahoochee and Alapaha Rivers, [Valdosta waited four days before sending a report to GA-EPD](#), and another day before telling the public. Valdosta's downstream water quality test results were too high a week later, yet the city stopped testing. [Suwannee Riverkeeper met with the Valdosta City Manager and Assistant CM](#) about sewage and trash. The announcement later that day of [a third spill was one day after it was discovered at Hightower Creek](#); that is faster. Quitman [a major spill](#), July 11th, into Okapilco Creek above the Withlacoochee River. [Ashburn spilled 300,000 gallons](#) into Ashburn Branch above the Little River on June 22, not reported until July 12.

Water Quality Testing. Sugar Creek [continues to have E. coli](#), downstream of Valdosta's Hightower Creek sewage spill. Thanks to Michael and Jacob Bachrach for years of testing. New testers, please apply: <https://wwals.net/?p=47084>

Trash. Thanks to Valdosta Mayor Scott James Matheson for [helping WWALS clean up the Withlacoochee River](#), and to Utilities Assistant Director Jason Barnes for warning us about high E. coli, so we changed from a paddle to an on-land cleanup. That stretch was much cleaner than a year ago because of Valdosta trash traps and Russell Allen McBride cleaning out the one at Sugar Creek. More are needed, at Three Mile Branch and in Langdale Park. Plus city code enforcement upstream at parking lots and dumpsters.

Water Trails. GA-EPD asked if we wanted to [request redesignating the rest of the Withlacoochee River downstream from GA 37](#) from Fishing to Recreation. If they do it, that will add stricter contamination limits. [GDOT is widening Lakeland Highway](#) south of Grand Bay. Added [24 Lanier EMA Markers](#) to ARWT. Added [Coffee Shoals](#) to WLRWT. The [Mozell Spells slot machines](#) were popular.

Troupville River Camp and Nature Park. One Valdosta-Lowndes Executive Director Mary Beth Brownlee and Suwannee Riverkeeper attended a required webinar for the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program grants.

PR Committee. "It's bad for people, it's bad for wild life, it's also bad for the economy. [Y]ou're not really helping ... if you have sewage spills, if you have trash in the creeks and rivers." –[Suwannee Riverkeeper on WTXL TV](#), Tallahassee.

Membership Committee. Consider \$10 per month as a [regular donor](#). Plus then we wouldn't have to remind you to renew!

Kayak Raffle: Vibe Sea Ghost 130: Tickets: \$10 each or \$50 for six. <https://wwals.net/?p=61511> Thank you Scott James Matheson!

The [Outings Committee](#). Outings are scheduled months in advance. Suggest your favorite river section.

Upcoming Outings and Events, 2023

Tue., Aug. 1, 7:30-10 PM	Full Sturgeon Moon Paddle , Banks Lake, Lakeland, GA, ARWT
Thu., Aug. 3, 1-6 PM	Retry Sugar Creek to Troupville Chainsaw Cleanup , Withlacoochee River
Sat., Aug. 5, 9 AM-3 PM	Yes Another Cleanup Knights Ferry to Nankin , Withlacoochee River
Sat., Aug. 12, 9 AM-4 PM	Naylor to Mayday Paddle , Alapaha River
Thu., Aug. 30, 7-9 PM	Full Blue Moon Paddle , Banks Lake, Lakeland, GA, ARWT
Sat., Sep. 9, 9 AM-1 PM	Langdale Park to Sugar Creek Chainsaw Cleanup , Withlacoochee River
Fri., Sep. 22, 6-9 PM	WWALS Gala w. Suwannee Riverkeeper Songwriting Contest , All Rivers
Fri., Sep. 29, 6:20-9 PM	Full Harvest Moon Paddle, Banks Lake, Lakeland, GA, ARWT
Fri.-Sat. Oct. 6-7, all day	Hahira Honeybee Festival with Parade, WLRWT
Sun., Oct. 8, 6-8 PM	WWALS Quarterly Board Meeting, online via zoom, All Rivers
Sat., Oct. 14, 9 AM-1 PM	Backup, Langdale Park-Sugar Creek Chainsaw Cleanup, Withlacoochee R.
Sat., Oct. 28, 5:40-7:45 PM	Banks Lake Full Hunter's Moon Paddle, Lakeland, GA, ARWT
Sat.-Sun., Nov. 4-5, all day	Okefenokee Floyd's Island Campout, pending reservations, Suwannee River
Sat.-Sun., Nov. 11-12, all day	Backup: Okefenokee Floyd's Island Campout, Suwannee River
Mon., Nov. 27, 4:30-6:40 PM	Banks Lake Full Beaver Moon Paddle, Lakeland, GA, ARWT
Fri-Sun., Dec. 8-10	Griffis Fish Camp/Paddle Okefenokee/Campfire Cooking, Suwannee River
Wed., Dec. 27, 4:30-5:15 PM	Banks Lake Full Cold Moon Paddle, Lakeland, GA, ARWT
Sat., Mar. 2, 8 AM-4 PM	Chairman & Mayor's Paddle: Langdale-Troupville, Withlacoochee R.

Check out [Outings and Events](#) for more details. <https://wwals.net/outings/>



At Sugar Creek; we hope it's better now



Full Sturgeon Moon paddle 2022-08-11

At the WWALS River Revue, the Sixth Annual
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER
Songwriting Contest
Finals: September 22, 2022, Valdosta, Georgia
Songwriters, enter by August 2 for \$25

