

the Watershed

White Springs, Florida

March 14, 2008

***Springs and Rivers of the Suwannee:
Health, Threats, & Protection
"Land of the Suwannee River"***

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Technical Program: Welcome to White Springs! Our meeting will focus on the Suwannee River, and we will literally convene on the banks of the scenic Suwannee at the Suwannee Valley Campground. Florida springs, Suwannee River MFLs, rural water quality programs and water supply issues will be discussed. This is the first time any State Chapter meeting is being organized by an AWRA Student Chapter. The UF AWRA Student Chapter is planning an excellent technical program in the midst of a rustic North Florida experience with hiking, camping and canoeing opportunities.

For those who aren't canoeing enthusiasts, the Azalea Festival is the weekend of March 14-16, 2008. Join the fun!

Meeting Location: The meeting location is the Suwannee Valley Campground, Route 1 Box 1860, White Springs, FL 32096, (386) 397-1667. The campground is just three miles east of I-75 (Exit 439) on State Road 136 or 4 miles north of I-10 (Exit 301) campground on right before river.

Accommodations: Suwannee Valley Campground – Cathy Vogel has reserved all 4 cabins for AWRA folks to use. Two of the cabins have sleeping lofts and can accommodate four. If you wish to reserve a cabin, contact Wendy at 386.397.1667. There is a two night minimum stay in the cabins at this time of the year. All units are reserved for the nights of Friday and Saturday (14th and 15th). There is a three day release on the cabins. So, if they are not booked by the 11th, they will be released. The large cabins go for \$65/night, the small cabins for \$45/night.

Please read on for more accommodations and things to do!



*2008 Meetings: January 18 St. Augustine; March 14 White Springs; May 16 St. Petersburg Area;
July 12-14 Key Largo; September 19 Lake Okeechobee; November 7 Fort Myers*

President's Message

Dear Fellow AWRA-ers,

Greetings! What a great way to kick off the New Year with our January 18th meeting in St. Augustine. For those of you who were not able to attend, you missed a wonderful time. Kudos to Mike Cullum and his AWRA colleagues at the St. Johns River Water Management District who organized a terrific technical program on northeast Florida water issues. We also have the City of St. Augustine to thank for sponsoring our meeting accommodations at the City Council Chambers in the Lightner Museum and our evening dinner venue at the wonderful historic Government House. (More about the January meeting in the Board of Directors Summary and the Technical Program Summary that follow...)

Your AWRA Board of Directors had a busy January meeting – adopting a 2008 annual budget of just over \$41,000 dollars, including a working operating budget for the year of \$25,000 and a reserve of \$16,000. (And this does not include our separate endowment fund for the Sanford Young Scholarship which now stands at \$46,000 dollars!)

The Board also adopted its 2008 Work Plan in accordance with the Section's Strategic Plan. We anticipate a busy year of terrific meetings, stepped-up public relations, more outreach and input from Section members and, as always, a superb water resources education program. I am also pleased to report that your Florida Section now boasts almost 500 members statewide! Please remember to renew your membership for 2008.

The Florida Section is beginning to experience a challenging but most-welcome problem: our meetings are more popular than ever, drawing audiences that surpass our expectations. This is terrific news, but it does create logistics problems for our Meeting Chairs (who, as you know, organize our programs, social gatherings and field trips as Section volunteers). Increasingly, we are encountering last-minute registrations for our meeting dinners and field trips. While we have always welcomed walk-in registrants, we find that we are bumping up against dinner and field trip capacities. To address this, our 2008 Work Plan Committee is reviewing meeting coordination and will be recommending new procedures to continuously improve our bi-monthly meeting experiences as we move forward.

We are looking forward to a wonderful University of Florida Student Chapter meeting in White Springs next month at the Suwannee Valley Campgrounds. Here, we are really getting up front and personal with our water resources – literally on the banks of the Suwannee River! If you aren't up for camping, rent a cabin or enjoy one of White Springs Bed & Breakfasts...but do plan for a rustic experience! Come out and support our great student chapter from the Gator Nation!

Sincerely,
Cathy Vogel





AWRA NATIONAL NEWS

Upcoming conferences hosted by AWRA

- ◆ **GIS and Water Resources V, March 17-19, 2008, San Mateo, CA** (Early registration deadline is February 25, 2008). AWRA continues its series on Geographic Information Systems and Water Resources with its fifth specialty conference on the topic. GIS has become a necessary component in the planning and management of water resources, and the natural and human systems affected by water resources.
- ◆ **Riparian Ecosystems and Buffers: Working at the Water's Edge, June 30-July 2, 2008, Virginia Beach, VA** (Abstracts due February 4, 2008). The study of riparian ecosystem functions and the proliferation of initiatives and programs using riparian areas as buffers and living shorelines have demonstrated the need to remain on the cutting edge of science and practice when working at the water's edge.
- ◆ **Annual Water Resources Conference, Nov. 17-20, 2008, New Orleans, LA** In addition to the broad array of topics on which we always encourage submission for the annual conference, we welcome individuals who wish to propose panel discussions or special sessions on themed tracks

consisting of a core of invited presentations. Special sessions could focus on water resource issues in the New Orleans area, large regional wetlands restoration/protection projects around the world, such as the Everglades and the Pantanal, the National Levee Certification Program, or other hot topics from recent specialty conferences and the National Water Policy Dialogue. If you are interested in organizing a special session, please contact the Technical Chair, Patrick Victor (victorpr@cdm.com) to discuss details.

For more information and to renew your membership or become a member of the National AWRA, go to www.awra.org, or contact David Watt at 386-329-4355 or [dwatt@sjrwmd.com](mailto:d watt@sjrwmd.com).

AWRA FLORIDA NEWS

- Membership News
- Board of Directors Summary
- Technical Program Summary
- Student Chapter News
- Announcements

Membership News

Our Section continues to break membership records with 510 active members! The membership has increased by 26 since the December newsletter! Please take a few minutes to introduce yourself to the new members at the next meeting. This is how we continue to grow!

Please feel free to contact me for membership questions or ideas on how we can improve service to our members. Hope to see you at the March 14th meeting.

Annette Carter, Membership Services Coordinator
ancarter@sfwmd.gov or 561-682-6433

New Members (Continued from Last Page)

Suzanne Goss, JEA, Jacksonville
Sally Howes, Moultrie Creek Nursing & Rehab
Donald Jacobovitz, Putnam County, East Palatka
Debbie Kristiansen, St. Johns County, St. Augustine
Cherona Levy, University of Florida student, Gainesville
Katie Lytle, CDM, Jacksonville
Megan McCagh, University of Florida student, Gainesville
Ed Morales, Bergmann Associates, Jacksonville
Laura Phillips, HDR Engineering, Jacksonville
Julia Pierson, SWRF, Tampa
Leandra Ramkellawan, University of Florida student, Gainesville
Katherine Roark, University of Florida student, Gainesville
Kathy Shirley, Landrum Middle School, St. Augustine
Lisa Tropepe, SFRN, West Palm Beach

Board of Directors Summary

- by Dave Watt

The Florida Section AWRA Board of Directors (BOD) met in St. Augustine on Friday, January 18, at 11 AM. The detailed agenda and minutes will be included on our website after they are approved by the BOD. Highlights of the meeting include:

- The Board adopted the 2008 work plan and budget. Elements of the work plan include seeking CLE credit designation from the Florida Bar, evaluating the Board of Directors election process, involving the

membership in meeting planning and other committee activities, adding employment opportunities to the web site, improved outreach and advertising, hosting community involvement projects associated with our meeting locations, and maximizing funds available to our education programs.

- Several exciting venues and meeting formats are planned for the remainder of the year. The next meeting is March 14th at the Suwannee Valley Campground in White Springs. The theme will be Springs and Rivers of the Suwannee: Threats & Protection. The campground has excellent meeting and lodging facilities, and there are less rustic lodging opportunities nearby. The following meeting will be May 16th in the Tampa/St. Pete area.
- In order to continue to keep our meeting registration fees reasonable, and avoid turning people away, it has become more important than ever to pre-register for our meetings.
- After our best year for education awards, members are encouraged to continue to get the word out to students and teachers about our education awards. Information about the awards is posted on the web site.
- Improvements continue on our website. We encourage members to check it out and give us your feedback.
- Membership records continue to be broken with over 490 active members reported at the BOD meeting. This is a great indicator of the value and quality provided by AWRA. There are about 35 members in danger of becoming inactive, so make sure you are not one of them. If you have not already done so, please pay your 2008 annual dues! Its only \$20!

Remember, Board meetings are open to all members of the Florida Section and their guests. Please feel free to arrive early at one of our bi-monthly meetings to sit in on our lively discussions. The Board always welcomes member input.

Technical Program Summary

- by Michael DelCharco and Doug Durbin

Casey Fitzgerald, Assistant Director of SJRWMD Department of Water Resources, and Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi, P.E., Director of City of Jacksonville Environmental and Compliance Department – State-wide Fertilizer Management Task Force with Local Application. Mr. Fitzgerald gave an overview of the nitrogen and phosphorus loads to surface water and groundwater from fertilizers and other sources. Mining and anthropogenic influences have greatly increased the loading to our water bodies. A recent success in reversing this pattern is Lake Apopka, for which nutrient reductions have nearly met their goals. Springs, which commonly suffer from high nitrogen loading in some parts of the state, will be more difficult to remedy. There have been 5 to 10-fold nitrogen concentration increases in some spring ecosystems. This leads to high algal growth which causes further ecological and water quality problems. For example in the Wekiva River System – fertilizer accounts for 75% of the inputs and 54% of the nitrogen load to the basin. Estuaries and bays around the state are seeing increases in nutrients as well. Several years ago, Governor Bush issued a directive to achieve phosphorus reductions in the Okeechobee Basin, and various local agencies created rules to reduce nutrient loading. In the end, estimated application reductions will be 25% for N and a range of 15 % to 70% P, based on the location. A task force is investigating fertilizer content and application regulation to the state, as opposed to local government. Information can be found at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/fertilizer-task-force/legislation>

Mr. Gujjarlapudi discussed the City of Jacksonville's efforts to reduce nutrient inputs to the St. Johns River. This included many activities to help achieve the newly-set Total Maximum Daily Load for the river. State legislation was passed to address fertilizer issues. The problem is, the cost for the City to meet its TMDL goals would be between 1 and 1.5 billion dollars over the next 15 yrs. On January 8th of this year, the City presented a fertilizer bill focused on educating and regulating commercial application companies. Provisions of the bill would provide for things like: no application during flood or storm watches; no application with 10 ft of a waterway; and no blowing trimmings into stormwater or ponds.

David Roach, Executive Director, Florida Inland Navigational District – What's Happening on the Water in NE Florida Before it Goes to Tide? Mr. Roach gave an overview of the Florida Inland Navigation District and its directive – The mission of the agency is to function as the "local sponsor" of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway project in Florida, a State/Federal navigation project. In this capacity, the District controls and manages all lands required for the navigation project including rights of way and lands for the management of dredged materials removed from the waterway channel during dredging activities. The waterway was built as a private canal but fell into disrepair when Henry Flagler developed his railroad. President Harding, an avid sailor, pushed Congress to take over the intracoastal waterway (ICWW). FIND has about 56 dredge material management sites generally

aligned along the ICWW. These sites recycle the dredged material which, in some cases, can be used for beneficial uses including beach nourishment projects. The District has about \$20 million in ongoing projects. About 50% of the dredging takes place on 8% of the length of the overall ICWW in Florida, at a cost of about \$16 million/year. Areas needing the most frequent attention are inlets. The positive economic impact of the waterway is estimated at about \$17 billion for the state. The District has calculated that the waterway increases adjacent and nearby property values by about \$34 billion. This increases local property taxes and is beneficial for the local and state economy.

Michael Shirley, Ph.D., Director of the Guana, Tolomato, Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve – Overview of the GTM NERR Management Plan, Watershed Implications. There is a network of 27 National Estuarine Research Reserves around the country, which use science-based principles to manage their natural resources. The Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve in Northeast Florida has two spatial components (northern and southern), separated by the City of St. Augustine. Portions of the reserve are managed or co-managed by agencies like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The northern component comprises some 25,000 acres and includes an environmental learning center. The southern component contains a number of subcomponents including a National Monument, a State Forest, and two State Parks. The Matanzas River flows to Matanzas Inlet and can be explored via a scenic canoe trail. The GTM NEER maintains programs for scientific research, stewardship and environmental education. The management plan for the reserve has recently been updated and expanded, focusing on a theme of resource sustainability within and around the reserve, and relying on a true adaptive management approach. Priority management issues include public use, habitats and species management, cultural resources, global processes and the estuary's watershed. The watershed component of the management plan necessitates looking upstream and outside of the reserve's lands, with efforts to educate and influence others in the watershed in ways to reduce or eliminate negative impacts to the waterways leading to the reserve. Key to the activities and success of the GTM NERR is a network of partnerships with numerous public and private entities.

John Reagan, P.E., City of St. Augustine Chief Operations Officer – St. Augustine's Harbor Management Plan – Protecting the Environment and Public Access in the Nation's Oldest City. St Augustine is rich in history, with many aspects of its centuries-old heritage still in place. A major feature of its history, as well as its modern value, is its waterfront and harbor. The City has developed a harbor management plan to ensure legal, safe, and environmentally sustainable use of the harbor. Some issues faced by harbor managers include enforcing legal registration of vessels, handling of damaged or derelict vessels, maintaining and managing public access, and protecting riparian rights and other rights of maritime law. Management plan development was initiated with a public outreach process. Major goals of the plan include (1) encouraging boating, (2) promoting responsible boat ownership, (3) managing the proliferation of boats anchored in the harbor, and (4) forcing live-aboard vessels to properly deal with all wastes. There are three anchorage areas in St. Augustine. The largest has about 100 mooring balls; a second area is used for transient vessels because it is more exposed to winds and is poorly suited for permanent mooring; and the third mooring field is still being developed. With its emphasis on harbor management, St. Augustine looks to become the boating capital of Northeast Florida.

Eric Livingston, Chief of the Watershed Management Section for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection – State-wide Stormwater Management Rule Revision, Water Quality Pre-Post Treatment. Stormwater has the potential to impact the environment in a myriad of ways, including water quality changes, hydrologic problems, and habitat alteration. Florida was among the first states to develop legislation addressing stormwater management (Chapter 62-25 FAC). The State's Water Resource Implementation Rule (Chapter 62-40 FAC) is currently under revision in an effort to provide better control of stormwater. The current rule is technology-based, with presumptions that certain stormwater design criteria will result in a certain degree of water quality treatment. Those presumptions have been shown to be unreliable because some systems may work well in treating stormwater, but many do not. The major pollutants of concern in stormwater are nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus), and the stormwater design criteria do not result in reliable control of nutrients. In Lee and Collier County, the US Army Corps of Engineers has ceased accepting standard stormwater design as an indication of compliance with its water quality certification requirements. A design manual for erosion and sediment control has recently been developed for FDEP, FDOT and the Water Management Districts and is available at the Stormwater Academy website (www.stormwater.ucf.edu). A primary factor in regulating pollutant loading through stormwater is controlling the volume of discharge, which typically increases markedly with development. The goal of the revised rule is to achieve a condition where the post-development nutrient load leaving an area is no greater than the pre-development condition, with "pre-development" meaning natural land, not whatever might be there today. To meet this goal, stormwater treatment on some soil types has been shown to require much more treatment than others. The proposed stormwater rule, which would apply state-wide is currently scheduled for adoption in July 2009. There will be five geographic rainfall zones to address variability across the site. Credits will be available for various source controls and nutrient management programs. Urban redevelopment and retrofits will not

necessarily have to meet the same criteria, and a Technical Advisory Committee will assist FDEP in developing appropriate guidance. The new rule relies heavily on the concept of a “treatment train” with a sequence of components beginning with best management practices to reduce nutrient content of raw stormwater, and ending with more conventional pond or wetland treatment designs. Pervious concrete, “green roofs” and other low-impact development concepts are among the tools being considered as part of this aggressive strategy.

AI Canepa, SJRWMD Department of Resource Management – Can the St. Johns River be Part of a Sustainable Water Supply Solution for Central Florida? Population growth in Florida is leading to increases in water use which will soon exceed the capacity of available groundwater resources in Northeast Florida. This has led to the incorporation of many alternative supply strategies in the St. Johns River Water Management District's Water Supply Plan. Alternative supplies include seawater desalination and surface water withdrawals, and water conservation is also a key requirement in meeting current and future demands. There are numerous surface water withdrawals for potable use in Florida, but only one currently exists in the SJRWMD. The SJRWMD has determined there is significant additional surface water available from at least two rivers, without interfering with the maintenance of appropriate Minimum Flows and Levels. Planning-level studies by the District indicate there are approximately 155 million gallons per day available from the St. Johns River at Jacksonville and about 106 mgd from the Oklawaha River. These withdrawals would not result in a significant change in the overall flow regimes, water levels or salinity profiles in these rivers. There are several complex technical issues associated with these potential surface water withdrawals, including reverse osmosis treatment to meet drinking water requirements. The District has only conducted preliminary evaluations to determine the potential safe withdrawal levels; permitting, construction and operation of withdrawals from these rivers would be done by local governments or utilities. Some local governments and utilities have already begun to look at surface water sources, while others are planning to develop seawater reverse osmosis facilities.

Time to Renew Your Membership

AWRA Florida Section membership dues for 2008 are due January 1st, 2008. An invoice is being sent out this month to members who have not yet paid dues for the new year. Please disregard the invoice if your payment has recently been submitted. Dues for both Regular and Student membership remain at \$20 and \$4, respectively. If you would like to beat the rush and renew early, please use the 2008 membership application form in this newsletter, or the one on our web page at www.awraflorida.org. Another reason to send in your 2008 dues is that the new Membership Directory is being prepared and you don't want to miss out having your name and correct contact information in the directory. It's considered to be one of the best benefits of Membership in AWRA!

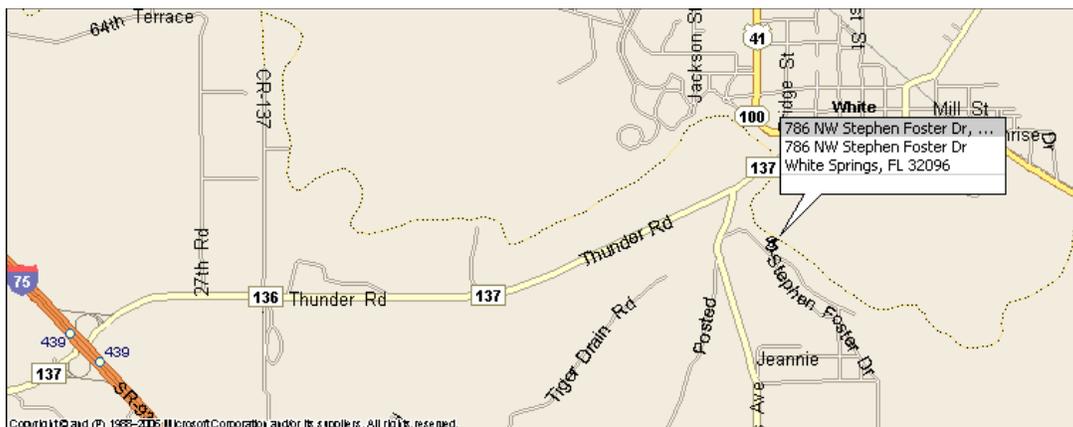
Florida Section Meeting Notice – May 16, 2008

Mark your calendars for the May 16, 2008 Florida Section meeting in the St. Petersburg/Tampa area. The April 2008 issue of *The Watershed* will provide details of this meeting.

Education Committee

Just a reminder – the Storch Award deadline is 31 May 2008 and JB Butler is 1 June 2008. Deadline for Sanford N. Young Scholarship is 1 April 2008. The 50/50 drawing is back in action, and we collected \$92.50 for our education funds.

Suwannee Valley Campground, White Springs, Florida 32096





Florida Section Bi-Monthly Meeting
Friday, March 14, 2008
Suwannee Valley Campground • White Springs, Florida
Springs and Rivers of the Suwannee:
Health, Threats, & Protection

- 11:00 a.m.** Board of Directors' Meeting
*Everyone welcome; lunch available (payable to AWRA)**
- 12:30 p.m.** Registration / Check-In
- Technical Program – Agenda**
- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Announcements
Eban Bean, UF Doctoral Student in Agriculture & Biological Engineering
- 1:10 p.m.** **Biological Assessment in Florida Karst: Inventory and Monitoring**
Steve Walsh, USGS FISC, Gainesville
- 1:35 p.m.** **Summary of FAVA (Florida Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment) Projects in Florida**
Alex Wood, Advanced Geospatial, Inc., Tallahassee
- 2:10 p.m.** **Assessing Contaminant Sources in the Karstic Ichetucknee Springs Basin**
Brian Katz, USGS, Tallahassee
- 2:40 p.m.** **Break**
- 3:00 p.m.** **Developing Strategies to Protect Florida's Springs**
Connie Bersok, FDEP, Florida Springs Taskforce
- 3:25 p.m.** **Causes and Consequences of Nitrogen Contamination in Florida's Springs**
Matt Cohen, UF – Water Institute, Gainesville
- 4:00 p.m.** **Iron from Leaky Landfills as a Groundwater Contaminant**
Tim Townsend, Professor, UF - Environmental Engineering Sciences, Gainesville
- 4:40 p.m.** **Setting Minimum Flows & Levels on the Suwannee River**
Mark Farrell, Principal, WRA Associates, Tampa
- 5:00 p.m.** Announcements
- 5:30 p.m.** Networking Social Hour at the Pavillion
- 6:00 p.m.** BBQ Chicken and Steak Dinner
Springs Protection Legislation
Dinner Speaker: Representative Debbie Boyd
- 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.** Campfire and Marshmallows at UF/Students Campsite (*bring your own lawn chairs*)

Saturday, March 15, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast at the Pavillion – Send off for canoe trip
- 9:30 a.m. Canoe Trip down the Suwannee River or Azalea Festival

* Please advise Meeting Facilitator if you plan to attend the Board Meeting so that arrangements may be made for lunch.

NEW!

Register On-line Option

For the March meeting, UF/TREEO will be providing registration services. **This does not include payment using credit cards.**

When registering, the dollar amounts in the left hand column will indicate \$0.00 – ignore this, the confirmation email from Carol Hinton will have the correct amount owed on the invoice. You can print the confirmation page and include with your check. A secure server is used, but you do not have to include your social security number in the registration process. Click on this web link to begin the process:

<http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/Conferences/awra/reg.aspx>

For more information contact:

Carol Hinton
352/392-9570 ext 209
chinton@treeo.ufl.edu



Registration Deadline – March 12, 2008

Suwannee Valley Campground – Friday, March 14, 2008 @ 1 p.m.

Name:	First:	M.I.:	Last:	Suffix: (PE, Ph.D., etc.):
Firm/Organization:				
Street Address:				
City, State, ZIP:				
Phone:		Fax:		
E-Mail:				

Item	Cost	Number Attending	Extended Amount
Board of Directors Meeting (Members Welcome)	Dutch		
Florida Section Member Registration	\$45		
Non-member Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Apply this fee to making me a Member or to renew my membership	\$65		
Dinner Guest / Name:	\$25		
Florida Section Student Registration	Free		
Students (Non-member) <input type="checkbox"/> Apply this fee to making me a Member or to renew my membership	\$4		
Donation to Sanford N. Young Scholarship Fund		-----	
Donation to General Education Fund		-----	
TOTAL			\$

Dietary Restrictions? Contact Meeting Chair Eban Z. Bean [ezbean@ufl.edu]

PDH Credit for Engineers AWRA is an approved provider by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE Provider No.EX0003897) and offers Professional Development Hour (PDH) credit to Florida Licensed Professional Engineers. You will only receive credit if you attend the entire technical session. Please check the box below and include your PE number if you would like to obtain PDH credit.

I plan to be present for the entire session and would like PDH credit. My PE number is: _____

<p><i>Make checks payable to</i></p> <p><u>AWRA Florida Section</u></p> <p>Please mail to: Carol Hinton UF/TREEO 3900 SW 63rd Blvd. Gainesville, FL 32605 chinton@treeo.ufl.edu</p>	<p><i>Sponsorship Opportunities</i></p> <p>Don't miss this great opportunity to highlight your organization and network with water resource professionals and students. Get your logo on the sponsorship boards!</p> 	<p><i>Accommodations</i></p> <p>Campground: www.suwanneevalleycampground.com/</p> <p>Bed & Breakfast Inns: www.florida-secrets.com/Bed&Breakfast/</p> <p>Sightseeing Information: http://whitesprings.org/</p>
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JOINING AND RENEWING MEMBERS Please complete this entire form for our membership records and directory.

Preference for Receiving our Newsletter:	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/> US Mail
Are you an AWRA National Member:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you like information on AWRA National?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you interested in corporate sponsorship opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Would you like to be part of a bi-monthly meeting team or committee?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Accommodations: <http://www.florida-secrets.com/Bed&Breakfast/>

Sophia Jane Adams House

Bed & Breakfast

16513 River Street (*overlooking the Suwannee*)
White Springs, FL 32096
for reservations: (386) 397-1915
4 rooms available - Queens with baths

White Springs Bed 'n Breakfast (Circa 1905)

U.S. 41, P.O. Box 38
16630 Spring Street White Springs
(386) 397-4252
White Springs, FL 32096
<http://www.whitespringsbnb.com/>
5-6 rooms available(two rooms adjoin) \$85/night

Historic Telford Inn

3 River Street
White Springs, FL 32096
(386) 397-2000
7 rooms/5 baths

Best Western

3598 W. US Highway 90
(386) 752-3801
Lake City, FL 32055 \$90/night

Suwannee River Motel

US 41, PO Box 412
White Springs, FL 32096
(386) 397-2822

America's Best Value Inn & Suites

I-75 & CR 136
www.bestvalueinn.com/bestv.cfm?idp=1064
White Springs, FL 32096
(386) 963-2501 \$75/night

Hampton Inn

450 SW FL Gateway Drive
(386) 487-0580
Lake City, FL 32024

Commentary: All of these facilities are historic, they are not the most modern or high end. The Telford has definitely seen better days, and as noted, there are some shared bath facilities. Ranking: #1 Sophie Jane, #2 White Springs B&B, and #3 Telford. Folks interested in staying at one of these Bed & Breakfasts will need to book early.

Weekend Event in White Springs:

The **Azalea Festival** is the weekend of March 14-16, 2008.

Canoe Trip:

More information coming.



Things to do in White Springs, Florida

White Springs, on the banks of the Suwannee River captures the charm and grace of Florida's Riverboat era (1870-1910). Just three miles east of I-75 (Exit 439) on State Road 136 or 4 miles north of I-10 (Exit 301) in North Central Florida.

WILD AZALEA FESTIVAL

Date: March 15, 2008. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Description: *This event takes place at the State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Tourism Center in White Springs.* Join the Town of White Springs and the State of Florida's Nature & Heritage Center as they celebrate the spring bloom of wild azaleas along the Suwannee River. The festival features musical performances, arts and crafts, trail hikes and other outdoor recreational opportunities. Native plants, including wild azaleas will also be for sale. Visitors will be able to take a free ride on a horse-drawn wagon. The event is sponsored by the *Nature & Heritage Tourism Center* and the *White Springs Special Events Committee*. **Fees:** This event is free. **Contact:** For more information, call 386-397-7005.

Canoeing/Kayaking: The Suwannee River flows through areas of pristine river marshlands, bordered by low bluffs, wide sandy banks and ancient woodlands. There are numerous access points offering opportunities for river excursions of an hour, a day, or longer. It is wise to portage Big Shoals Rapids, the only natural "white water" in Florida. The Big Shoals, a Florida State Park, has modern facilities.

Hiking: White Springs is surrounded by natural preserves which are crisscrossed by maintained hiking trails. Popular trails include the "Bridge to Bridge" trail along the Suwannee River. Beginning at the roadside park at US 41 on the river bank and ending at the bridge on State Road 136, near the historic district. Big Shoals State Park, with modern facilities, is laced with trails suitable for family or offering challenging paths for experienced hikers.

Trail Biking & Road Bicycling: The Suwannee River Bicycling Association is headquartered in White Springs. There are picturesque well paved country roads accessible from White Springs. Most have little vehicle traffic and all offer a relaxing view of North Central Florida countryside. Big Shoals State Park offers fantastic trail biking paths and adjacent public lands offer challenging opportunities.

Camping: The upper Suwannee River is one of the last undisturbed areas of Florida where outdoor enthusiasts can visit and enjoy. The natural area around White Springs is a magnet to many visitors who camp under the stars and combine their camping experience with canoeing, hiking or biking. White Springs also has RV campgrounds listed on the Tourist information page.

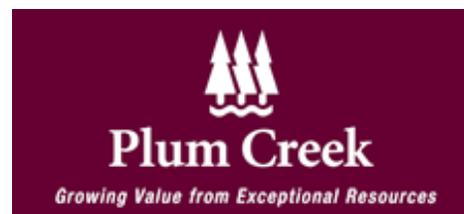
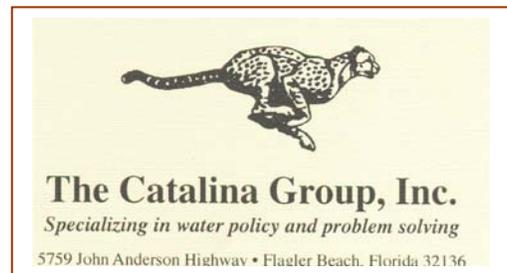
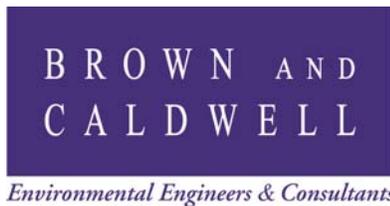
Fishing/Hunting: A large variety of fish, ranging from catfish to bass to trout, inhabit the upper Suwannee River. A sportsman's best bet is to grab a canoe and a rod, then let the current take you down the river. Licensed hunters have many choices during the season in northern Florida, ranging from the internationally-known Bienville Plantation, eight miles north of White Springs, to the vast expanse of the Osceola National Forest.

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail: The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail is a regional system of parks, forests, wildlife management areas and conservation lands. It provides miles of opportunity for a variety of tours along the river. Choose your adventure - Sleep under the stars or under a tent, in a cabin, at a local motel or bed and breakfast. For more information call 800.868.9914. www.suwanneeriver.com

Birding Suwannee: Bird watching in Florida's Suwannee River Valley can be enjoyed by the whole family. It is inexpensive and easy for anyone to get started. Additional information is available at SuwanneeRiver.com or the Nature and Heritage Tourism Center in White Springs.

Horseback Riding in the Suwannee: Many of the State Parks in the Suwannee allow horseback riding, but River Rise within Oleno St Pk between Lake City & High Springs has the most trails for equestrians. The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Camp, just North of Live Oak has new stables and many miles of trails around Suwannee Springs and Mattair Springs. Visit www.floridastateparks.org/wilderness/Activities.cfm or www.musicliveshere.com for more information.

Thank You to Our Meeting Sponsors!





2008 Membership Application

MEMBERSHIP DUES

New \$20 Regular
 Renewal \$ 4 Student

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Please give us the information requested below, as you would like it to appear in the membership directory.

Name: _____
First Middle Initial Last Suffix (Ph.D., PE, PG, etc)

Company/Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Box, Street or Route Suite or Apartment

City State Zip Code

Daytime Telephone: _____ Area Code _____ Alternate Telephone: _____ Area Code _____

Facsimile: _____ Area Code _____ E-mail: _____

MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS

Would you like to receive our newsletter via e-mail? Yes No
 Are you an AWRA National Member? Yes No
 If not, would you like information? Yes No
 Are you interested in sponsorship opportunities? Yes No
 Would you like to be part of a bi-monthly meeting team? Yes No

SPONSOR/RECRUITER: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

\$ _____ Annual dues (please indicate if you are paying for additional years)
 \$ _____ Florida Section Water Resources Education Fund (tax deductible contribution)
 \$ _____ Sandy Young Scholarship Fund (tax deductible contribution)
 \$ _____ **TOTAL (Please make checks payable to AWRA Florida Section, THANK YOU!)**

Return application & your check to: **Annette Carter, Membership Services Coordinator
 c/o South Florida WMD
 3301 Gunn Club Road
 West Palm Beach, Florida 33406**

Florida Section membership dues are due January 1 and are good through December 31. Contributions or gifts to the Florida Section are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues payments may be deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense. For membership information, please contact Annette Carter at (561) 682-6433 or ancarter@sfwmd.gov.

Section Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____



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VISIT THE FLORIDA SECTION WEBSITE AT:
www.awraflorida.org

✎ Contact Upcoming Meeting Chairmen Regarding Sponsorship or Assistance ✎

White Springs
 March 14, 2008
 Gordon Brown
 352-246-1865

St. Pete Beach Area
 May 16, 2008
 Rob Birrenkott
 813-250-0577

Key Largo
 July 24-26, 2008
 Cathy Vogel
 239-565-1429

Lake Okeechobee
 September 19, 2008
 Charlie Shinn
 352-538-0853

Ft. Myers
 November 7, 2008
 Ron Edenfield
 239-277-0003

Welcome New Members!

Derek Ballen, Marsh Creek CC, St. Augustine
 Tiffany Busby, Wildwood Consulting, St. Augustine
 Becky Blanchard, University of Florida student, Gainesville
 Kit Bock, Big Tree, Fort Myers
 Anna Cathey, University of Florida student, Gainesville
 Heather Cavanagh, PBS&J, Jacksonville
 Hwan Chul Cho, University of Florida student, Gainesville
 Victoria Colangelo, Mitigation Marketing, Orlando
 Edward Cordova, JEA, Jacksonville
 Timothy English, University of Florida student, Gainesville
 Rafael E. Frias IV, Student, Tampa
 Allison Gilbert, University of Florida student, Gainesville
 (Continued on Page 3)

