

## Mission Statement

To implement civic action and to promote the common good of residents of the community with a focus on public awareness and responsible stewardship of regional water sources; the basis for all the natural systems that define Florida's Nature Coast

Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc  
A 501 (c)(3) Corporation

CHECK US OUT AT  
[www.warinonline.com](http://www.warinonline.com)

# The WAR Report

January 2010

## The Show Never Ends

The Holidays came like an arctic express and left a lot of cold behind, but that hardly slowed things down for WAR. A short list of things behind us and things on the horizon:

### Past & Prologue

DCA has approved Citrus County's comprehensive plan amendment which will allow for multi use development on the Citrus Mining and Timber property and River Lodge LLC expansion. The proposal will allow for over 1,000 RV slips and/or workforce housing units which are planned to accommodate the Progress Energy plant contractor workforce. If this project meets its objectives expect a doubling of the population in our community. The amendment will also allow for virtually all other forms of development, ranging from hotels, bars, heavy industrial and continued mining.

SB 360 which was signed into law by Gov. Crist has a provision which extends the life of existing Environmental Resource Permits by 2 years upon request by the permittee. This includes the Barge Slip ERP located on the Citrus Mining and Timber property.

The Senate Select Committee on Florida Inland Waters held a public forum in Ocala on 16 Dec. 2009 and I addressed the Committee on issues of statutory conflict and inconsistencies. Chairman Constantine requested I contact his staff for further discussion on this issue during the presentation and we have entered into this discussion. More information as this evolves.

Gerry Mulligan, Managing Editor of the Citrus Chronicle, gave Citrus County a grade of D for water resource protection and C- for economic development in his year end review of county government. I gave Gerry an A+ for that.

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## WAR Fundraising

We have scheduled our second annual Withlacoochee Wilderness Canoe & Kayak Challenge; mark your calendars for Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010. I have received responses from several members who have offered to volunteer their services but we still need more.

We need one person to solicit businesses to be sponsors, two people to help distribute race flyers to businesses, resorts, parks, kayak shops and other water oriented businesses. We also need at least one person to distribute race event information and press releases to the various print media and radio stations. Race day help includes: registration, starter, information booth about W.A.R, distribution of meals and safety checks on all vessels. To be a volunteer you can email me at [jschof7338@aol.com](mailto:jschof7338@aol.com), or call at 352-447-6152.

Sponsorship levels are Platinum \$500, Gold \$200, Silver \$100 and Bronze \$50. Of course any member can be a sponsor and if you own a business, all flyers and race announcements will list our sponsors, so consider being a sponsor.

The race this year will add a new element. Last year many of the racers really were out to enjoy the day rather than race. We did have several non members that gave their time to show people the various highlights of the River, Bennett's Creek and the coastal islands. So this year we'll have a fun class for those that just want to enjoy the scenery and outdoors. We will have a list of questions, clues and points of interests for the casual kayaker/canoelist to locate and identify. The person that answers the most clues and makes the least errors in traversing the river will be awarded a prize. Of course race winners will also be awarded prizes for their accomplishment.

The race will start at the Inglis locks and end in Yankeetown, which will be a little over seven mile course.

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## Tarmac Task Force

Most of you already know that due to a technical issue I am no longer a director of W.A.R. Inc. However, I have been enlisted by our executive director (Dan Hilliard) and the new Tarmac Task Force Director (Jack Schofield) to carry-on with my previous efforts of mobilizing the Troops, assembling and disseminating data, acting as liaison to the DEP and Army Corps of Engineers, and publicizing our side of the story. Perhaps the board, with your support, will consider a new post for me, Director Emeritus. This would provide me with unfettered access to governmental agencies and I would still be shielded by the organization's corporate umbrella.

Tarmac has experienced a slowdown in their permitting process. Several circumstances have combined to effectuate this deceleration. We of course erected huge hurdles that were totally unanticipated by them. Their own hubris in ignoring the Request for Additional Information (RAI) from the DEP, for several months, caused a further setback in their scheduling. It is now reasonable to assume that the economic climate for development in Florida today has all but eliminated any urgency that they were expressing when this process began, and thus they are in no hurry to obtain all their necessary permits, as they would have no customers for their rock.

Please don't be lulled into assuming that they are going away though. Battles remain in clear view and many more on the horizon. Examples of their intentions include, but are not limited to: recently reengaging in a disinformation campaign via press releases; making judicious donations to local groups to win favor; and continuing to lobby governmental groups and individuals for favorable considerations and determinations.

Our efforts to counter their hugely bankrolled endeavor rely on facts and the efforts by our supporters. Facts stand for themselves, but if not defended, can be distorted. If a lie is told enough times, and not exposed, it in fact, becomes reality to all who hear it often enough. We all see this during well-financed political campaigns. Sometimes the truth surfaces long after the damage is irreparably done. Therefore it is incumbent that all of us remain diligent and connected with each other. Please pass any word along that you find appropriate or disconcerting. Sometimes we assume that everyone else sees or hears what we hear, but that is not always the case. We all depend on each other.

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An issue before the Levy County Commission has thrown a bit of sand in the ointment for Tarmac LLC. It seems there were inconsistencies between what the Board voted for in approving the mine test pit Special Exception and what was inserted after the fact in the form of language that was not approved. The ERP extension approved by SWFWMD expired on 31 Dec 2009 and it would appear they will be required to either seek permit modification, revision to their special exception or fill in the test pit. I have been informed Tarmac applied for ERP extension to the SWFWMD on 28 Dec. 2009. Stay tuned.

Al Grubman, president of Too Far, Inc., is seeking appointment to the Governing Board of SWFWMD. Al's dedication to water resources is second to none in my opinion and he's the only person I know crazy enough to seek such a position for the pay that comes with the job. The annual salary of Board members is \$000.00/yr. If one is inclined to support his appointment, the sentiment may be addressed to Gov. Crist via email or snail mail as is appropriate.

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.

Dan Hilliard, Executive Director

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Members you too can participate and enjoy the fun, food and camaraderie. Race applications will be available shortly, so let all your family and friends know. Last year we had 27 participants and by changing the date, I plan we'll at least double the participants. Lets get involved and support the Withlacoochee Area Residents as either a volunteer or sponsor.

Jack Schofield,

Fundraising Chairman

Our Task Force is currently working with internationally acclaimed professionals that are providing information and in-sights that we would have previously not been able to garner. As events progress we will have periodic reports to explain our progress.

Once again, thanks for your support.

Edward Michaels

## Killing of the Lower Withlacoochee

Throughout Florida the Invasive Plant Bureau of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission conducts programs to eliminate "invasive plant species", from Florida waterways and lakes. This is done with a variety of herbicides also classified as pesticides in some literature. These chemicals are approved by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and awarded licenses and labels restricting their application. What could possibly be wrong with using these products?

These are after all toxic chemicals designed to kill specific aquatic vegetation. Evaluation and experimentation is almost always carried out in bodies of fresh water with little or no flow, like farm ponds. Application levels are determined through these tests. Consider what happens when these herbicides are applied in rivers or streams. In order to maintain a level of chemical concentration high enough to kill the target plants the total amount of herbicide chemical added must be drastically increased.

Let's do an imaginary experiment where ping pong balls will be the herbicide. The plants in an area ten feet by ten feet in front of your dock can be killed by exposing them to two ping pong balls for a 24 hour period. If your dock is in a pond 10 feet deep with almost no flow we simply drop two ping pong balls off the end of the dock and in 24 hours the job is done. But what if your dock is on a river where the water is flowing by the dock at a rate of 2 feet per second, (just under 1 1/2 mph)? We will need to add 2 ping pong balls to the river every 5 seconds to get the same contact time, (exposure), with the plants. Can you believe 34,560 ping pong balls will be needed? Unfortunately, instead of ping pong balls we are dealing with one or more toxic chemicals.

Where do these chemicals go? Obviously only a small portion will be reacted with the plants in the 10 foot square area in front of the dock. The rest will go down stream until it contacts and reacts with vegetation in the river or is adsorbed on to inert materials and settles to the bottom of the river. In the case of the Lower Withlacoochee River, we observed the feed of the herbicide Sonar in Lake Rousseau survived the trip all way down the River at full concentration. For years the Bureau of Invasive Plant Management had maintained that these chemicals would break down and never reach the river, but no monitoring was done. Now we know the truth. It is our position that campaign after campaign of herbicide application in Lake Rousseau has resulted in the complete lack of aquatic vegetation on the bottom and wetted banks of The Lower Withlacoochee River. This is what

### CONTACTS

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### Board of Directors

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Berkley  | Randy Peterson |
| John Fuchs    | Jack Schofield |
| Jack McCarthy |                |

### CD'S and Shirts

We still have about 500 to sell, now is a good time to start to suggest them as gifts for the holidays. If you need more CD'S let me know and we'll get them to you. Remember CD's sell for \$10 a piece. We also are hoping that we can get some air time on WUFT. Their shows *Across the Prairie* and *On the Bridge* feature local, regional and national musicians. This may be a way to promote the CD'S and also our organization.

Our polo shirts are still available, mainly in woman's sizes. What is left will be available at our meeting along with CD'S. Shirts are \$5. Don't forget to renew your membership (application on back).

our battle with the State is all about, excessive, unnecessary, costly herbicide treatment programs causing more harm than good. It is another example of bureaucracy out of control.

Join us in this important fight!

John Fuchs, River Task Force



# Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc.

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

“Dedicated to responsible stewardship of the Nature Coast”

## Membership Application

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

**Please Print**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR PRIVACY WILL BE PROTECTED, ADDRESSES ARE NEVER SOLD**

### Please Indicate Membership Level

Individual \$20

Family \$25

Merchant/Group \$100

Life \$1000

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Special Events

Fundraising

Publicity

Research

Area of Expertise \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. or W.A.R., Inc.

MAIL TO: PO Box 350

Inglis, FL 34449-0350

**Additional Contributions Welcome!**

General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cemex Task Force: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

River Task Force: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Tarmac Task Force: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

## About the

## Withlacoochee Area Residents

Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc is a 501(c)(3), not for profit charitable organization incorporated in 1984. Our underlying principal is promoting the social welfare and common good of the residents of our communities. Current focus is on coordinating with other public advocacy groups that share our interests in preserving and restoring the quality of the Withlacoochee River and associated ecosystems. Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. is engaged in improving state decision making oversight practices that continue to contribute to degradation and depletion of increasingly scarce potable groundwater that is the foundation for the survival of our communities.

Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. is responsible for the designation of the Withlacoochee River as an “Outstanding Florida Waterway”, and contemplates future actions to provide an umbrella of Federal protection over the river basin

**Withlacoochee  
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