

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

The WAR Report

May 2010

WAR Fundraising

Withlacoochee Wilderness Challenge

The second annual Withlacoochee Wilderness Challenge was held April 10, 2010 on the Withlacoochee River and was a huge success. Competitors had the opportunity to participate in a seven mile race or a more casual 5.2 mile River Rally. Forty seven participants from all over central and south Florida launched on the Withlacoochee River at the Inglis By-Pass spillway and finished at the Winding River Park in Yankeetown. The Withlacoochee Wilderness Challenge is an annual fundraiser for the Withlacoochee Area Residents who promote the protection of the quality and quantity of our Nature Coast waters.

Winners By Class

Overall Winner Mike Mondral, single canoe 1 hr 11 min

Men's Kayak: 1st Steve Cournoyer 1 hr 17 min
2nd Emerson Claus 1 hr 18 min
3rd Norm Weist 1 hr 30 min

Women's Kayak: 1st R.K. Whitehurst 1 hr 27 min
2nd Sue McLam 1 hr 34 min
3rd Emily Casey 1 hr 43 min

Tandem : 1st Jack & Kelly Fuchs 1 hr 21 min

Men's single canoe: 1st Mike Mondral 1 hr 11 min
2nd Terry Johnson 1 hr 15 min

Women's single canoe: 1st Jan Streib 1 hr 30 min

Rally: 1st Bridget Merchant;
2nd Mike Sapp;
3rd Rae Jean Neiland

The Challenge was extremely fortunate to have great support from local businesses. **Platinum sponsor** was Citrus County Chronicle. **Gold sponsors:** Perkins Financial Group, Tow Boat Yankeetown, Sunrise Outpost BBQ and Kayak Rentals and Sales, Yankeetown. **Bronze sponsors:** Beasley Tire, Inglis; Our Pub, Inglis; River Coast Realty, Inglis; Pine Lodge B & B, Inglis; Captains Cove, Inglis; Hook Line & Sinker, Inglis; NAPA Auto Parts, Dunnellon and Inglis; Aqua Power Marine, Inglis and Capital City Bank, Inglis.

The Withlacoochee River, an Outstanding Florida Water, with its abundant water and wilderness, allows the public to enjoy many water related activities. It also gives us the ability to move the race and rally to different parts of the river, which in the future will give participants new areas to race and explore.

The Withlacoochee Area Residents want to thank all sponsors and participants in helping us support and promote awareness in our efforts to protect and preserve the waters of the Nature Coast.

Jack Schofield,
Fundraising Chairman



THIS IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

Look at what we've accomplished!

You have membership in a remarkable organization, one that brims with potential! WAR, Inc is known by the US EPA in Washington, DC and the Atlanta Region 4 Office. They view us very favorably. We are known throughout the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Water Management District, likewise favorably. Politicians seek our council and Staff in the Executive Office in Tallahassee is favorably disposed toward our mission. You remember the mission, right?

WAR, Inc. Mission Statement

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

Good things have come from that philosophy! We have converted to a 501.c3 status (accolades to John Fuchs for that!) which means contributions to the organization are tax deductible. It also means we are eligible for grant money! Would you be surprised to know we are party to several pending grant applications that will, if approved, give us great influence on the future of the Withlacoochee River? Would you be surprised to know enhancement of system flows in the Lower River is still on the table with SWFWMD? We have been persistent and they are running out of "No's".

Let me tell you what a very few folks have accomplished in addition to those things already mentioned.

- ◆ We have influenced FDEP/BMR to include review of extracted matrix volume in water budget calculations for mine applications.
- ◆ We have an excellent and dynamic web site up and running! www.warinonline.com Take a look! Give us your ideas and feedback!
- ◆ We have hosted two quarterly meetings with excellent guest speakers and more food than we could eat....and made money in the process!
- ◆ We have received favorable review from the Florida Senate Committee on Inland Waters in their report to the Senate regarding springs protection. Specifically, our proposal to use economic incentive

to promote reversion of pasture to wetlands was adopted in the report.

- ◆ We rendered testimony to the EPA on numeric nutrient criteria for Florida's inland and estuarine waters. EPA will require Florida to take action across the State to curtail the effects of phosphate and nitrate pollution in our once pristine waters. EPA will use testimony such as ours and many other organizations to determine the appropriate standards, and they will use water quality summaries gathered by Yankeetown specifically for our river.
- ◆ We have testified to the Citrus EDC on matters of economic development in the county.
- ◆ We have testified in public hearings before SWFWMD on their Northern Area Plan, that being developed for the first time and the "Area" includes us.
- ◆ We have submitted both our concerns and position to SWFWMD on their ongoing MFL determination for the Withlacoochee River, to include options which will preclude the necessity for further reduction of system flows to the Lower River.
- ◆ We have hosted our 2nd Annual Wilderness Challenge and it was a **HUGE** success, garnering the organization nearly \$2,000.00!

There's more, but the point is made. Virtually all of this was done by a very small handful of folks who took the time to promote our organization and purpose. Excluding the meeting contributions and effort by the large and enthusiastic kayak committee, we are talking three or four folks and all of it has transpired in the last 6 months. Can you imagine what might be possible if a dozen of our members turned to and took on a project that languishes for lack of participation?

WHAT LAYS AHEAD

An example of one endeavor that suffers at present is the Tarmac LLC Mine application being overseen by the Tarmac Task Force. When community interest in this project blossomed over two years ago I warned everyone at the public meeting that this issue would not be settled quickly, and it has not. Part of the reason was...would you believe it....WAR, Inc! That fact notwithstanding, the permit processing has continued. Tarmac has been issued a wastewater management permit and FDEP/BMR

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The Annual Meeting

We were blessed with an outstanding presentation by Dr. Bob Knight of Wetlands Solutions, Inc. on the subject of nutrient pollution in Florida springs and resulting degradation of natural systems downstream. This included discussion on Silver Springs, Rainbow Springs, Lake Rousseau and the Lower River. Although such presentations are a recent addition to our meetings, we have been fortunate to have the highest caliber speakers to date, and our 19 May meeting promises to be a barn burner! **DON'T MISS THAT ONE!!!!**



Dr. Bob Knight at the
Yankeetown-Inglis Woman's Club
WAR, Inc. Annual Meeting
Jan 2010

CD'S and Shirts

We still have about 500 CD's to sell...stock up to give as gifts throughout the year. 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).

CONTACTS

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- Jenny McCarthy, Secretary/Treasurer
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Board of Directors

Dave Berkley	Randy Peterson
John Fuchs	Jack Schofield
Jack McCarthy	Edward Michaels

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is near conclusion in its review of Tarmac's ERP application. On 12 May Mr. Schofield and I will venture to Tallahassee to review the application file and will no doubt return with a plethora of copies of information submitted to and reviewed by FDEP. The question at that point will be, "Who among you will assist in reviewing this information and formulating responses, position and strategy?" The answer to that question cuts to the bottom line. Either we will have help from the membership in general and particularly those aligned with the Tarmac Task Force, or we won't. If we don't gain your assistance on this matter we most certainly will be welcoming the destruction of about 4,000 acres of wetlands and timber land in our back yard. We will have acquiesced to the destruction of Big and Little King Springs and set the stage for permanent alteration of Waccasassa Bay. The choice is in your hands. Two people alone cannot do this job. **Think about this please.**

At our quarterly meeting scheduled on 19 May 2010, 6-9 PM, we will have a cookout and a very special guest speaker, Mr. Craig Pittman. Mr. Pittman has a reputation as an excellent public speaker. He has publically assailed Biological Research Associates, Inc, a consultant for Tarmac LLC and has likewise engaged the Corps of Engineers and Florida DOT over issues of wetlands destruction in Florida. Tarmac proposes to destroy over 2,800 acres of wetlands in their King Road Mine so I rather imagine we'll have an educational and entertaining meeting. **I implore you to attend! Bring your friends and neighbors! This is one you definitely don't want to miss!**



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 and associated estuary.

Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc
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Inglis, Florida

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