Paddle Georgia Spring on the Satilla 2019 - Register Today!

Spring on the Satilla is the ultimate south Georgia river adventure. In early April while north Georgia is just emerging from the winter doldrums, the Satilla River in far southeast Georgia will be brimming with life... (and in early April, not brimming with the eternal heat of summer!)

For two nights, April 6-7, you'll tent camp atop Long Bluff at the rustic Satilla Lodge overlooking the river and over the course of two days of paddling you'll experience nearly 21 miles of this blackwater gem where moss-draped cypress and tupelo crowd the banks and where it seems oxbow lakes and sloughs radiate from every bend. Educational programs, catered meals, campfires and camaraderie round out a weekend of leisurely paddling and first-rate camping.

Your Spring on the Satilla registration includes all meals, shuttle services and campsites as well as a t-shirt, boat decals, maps and river descriptions, a year’s membership to Georgia River Network, entertainment, activities, and educational programs.

For more details and to register today visit garivers.org/spring-on-the-satilla

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HIGH FIVE to the 100+ Paddlers who joined Georgia River Network and Flint Riverkeeper for 3 amazing days on Fall Float on the Flint 2018!

Thanks to everyone’s participation, we generated more than $7,000 for river protection projects during the weekend...not bad for having a super time on a beautiful Georgia river!

PHOTOS
Joe Cook and Gwyneth Moody shot lots of photographs and video during the trip. You can view and download these for your own files from the Georgia River Network Facebook page or from Joe Cook’s Flikr.

SPONSORS
Hennessy Land Rover Centres; Cedar Creek RV & Outdoor; Cary Baxter, CPA; China Clay Producers Association, CYA Agency, Inc.; Og lethorpe Power; Terry Pate, PC, CPA; Stream Techs; The Rain Barrel Depot; EarthShare of Georgia; Len Foote Hike Inn; Nomadic Flow Outfitters; Storm Water Systems; Stream Techs: Friends of Georgia State Parks; and Patagonia

PARTNERS
Flint Riverkeeper, American Canoe Association, Georgia Canoe Association, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Project Wet
Paddle Georgia 2019 – 15th Anniversary

Paddle Georgia 2019 will take place June 15-21 over 92 miles of the Withlacoochee and Suwannee rivers in far south Georgia and north Florida. It marks the first time that this event has crossed state boundaries.

Trip Details
Paddle Georgia 2019 will begin on the Little River near Valdosta. After launching, paddlers will immediately meet the Withlacoochee River and spend five days following its winding course through Georgia and into Florida. The final two days of the trip will descend the Suwannee River in Florida, ending June 21 near Mayo.

Both the Withlacoochee and Suwannee are known for the breathtakingly cold and scenic blue hole springs that feed into the blackwater rivers. Along the paddling route, participants will have the opportunity to dip their toes—or their whole bodies—in no less than a dozen of these springs that boil up through karst limestone from the Floridan aquifer.

Among the highlights will be Madison Blue Springs and Lafayette Blue Spring state parks in Florida. And, though the Withlacoochee travels through flat land, the river does offer up some shoals along its route and is flanked in places by high limestone bluffs. The Suwannee, which has its beginning in Georgia’s Okefenokee Swamp, is also characterized by limestone bluffs.

The route will take participants near the towns of Valdosta, Quitman and Lake Park, Georgia as well as Jennings, Madison, Live Oak and Mayo, Florida. On the river by day, paddlers will camp at nearby facilities where catered meals, educational programs, and entertainment will be served up nightly.

Proceeds from this year’s event will support Georgia River Network and Suwannee Riverkeeper and the WWALS Watershed Coalition.

The trip is open to paddlers of all skill levels. Participants have ranged in age from 4 to 84. Registration will open in early February. Registration fees range from $70 to $425. Options are available for the seven-day journey as well as two-day portions of the trip. For more information visit: www.garivers.org/paddle_georgia

Thank You to our Partners and Sponsors to Date!

Hennessy Land Rover Centres; Cedar Creek Park RV & Outdoor; Baxter & Harbin, LLC - CPAs; Oglethorpe Power; Terry Pate, PC, CPA; The Outside World; Brown & Caldwell; Colonial Pipeline Company; CYA Agency; EarthShare of Georgia

Partners - American Canoe Association, Café Campesino, Georgia Canoeing Association, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Project Wet, WWALS, Suwannee Riverkeeper
Area paddlers who pretty much have had the upper reaches of the Tugaloo River all to themselves may experience a change in that status next year.

That’s because a section of the river may become a part of the Georgia Water Trails Program as early as late winter 2019.

Georgia River Network (GRN) launched the Georgia Water Trails Program in 2010, in response to the need for a comprehensive source of information regarding the creation of water trails, to support representatives and communities in developing their water trails, and to provide information to recreational users about Georgia’s Water Trails.

The Stephens County Foundation, developers of the Tugaloo Bend Site on the upper reaches the Tugaloo, is seeking the water trail designation.

The Foundation has received the support of both county and city commissioners after both bodies heard recent presentations by the Foundation’s Tim Hale.

Hale told both sets of commissioners joining the water trail network will bring more visitors to Toccoa-Stephens County and the Tugaloo Bend site.

“It’s really free advertising,” he told county commissioners. “The trail designation would add the Tugaloo River to other similar destination spots in Georgia.”

The Tugaloo Water Trail would extend from “below the tail race at Yonah Dam to Stephens County Park and Broken Bridges,” Hale said.

Put-in would be at the Walker Creek boat ramp and take-out at the Stephens County Park near the Highway 123 bridge to South Carolina.

To unify the planning and management of the water trails throughout the state, technical staff from Georgia River Network (GRN) used best management practices from national organizations and other state and federal agencies to develop criteria that promote safe, legal and sustainable water trails.

Encompassed within the Georgia Water Trail Program are a variety of resources and projects supported and maintained by GRN.

The program helps form water trail stakeholder partnerships that encompass all sectors of a community (landowners, local and state agencies, county and city officials, river enthusiasts, educators, watershed groups, local businesses, attorneys, outfitters, etc.,) and introduces people to recreational, tourism and economic opportunities within communities and throughout the state.

Water trails are an effective way to introduce people to river issues and to engage them in the protection of their local waterways.

GRN designates a water trail after 6 criteria are fulfilled. Visit the Georgia River Network Water Trail website to learn more about the Georgia Water Trail Program and to view these criteria: https://garivers.org/criteria-to-become-an-established-water-trail

Cumberland Island Georgia Gem 2018

Another magical Georgia River Network trip exploring and indulging in the beauty of the enchanted Cumberland Island National Seashore.

We laughed, we learned, we hauled and we hiked... the locally grown farm fresh food prepared by Creative Catering did not disappoint and it was such a special treat to soak up the knowledge, passion for the island, and stories of Carol Ruckdeschel.

Special thanks to our volunteers Julie & Dennis Parsons, Robert Benson and Danielle Calenti.

HUGE THANKS to our SPONSORS: Grassroots Farms, Uncle Don’s Local Market, Sapelo Sea Farms, Sweet Grass Dairy, and The Southern Brewing Company! Stay tuned for details about next year’s events!

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Capitol Conservation Day February 20, 2019

Capitol Conservation Day is an annual opportunity for all Georgians to gather at the Capitol to tell our state representatives and senators that we value water for our families, economy, health, and future generations.

The exact issues and legislation that we will work on will be announced closer to the date of the event. This is a free event for all participants organized by the coalition’s 200+ partner organizations.

Event Details:
Date: February 20, 2018
Location: Central Presbyterian Church and State Capitol
Time: 7:30 am-12:30 pm

Advanced registration is REQUIRED. To register visit:
https://www.gawater.org/capitol-conservation-day-details
Mary Blain Grist:

Every single day I worked for Georgia River Network I learned something new about the organization of a nonprofit, website design, general computer skills, etc. There are so many different components that go into running a non-profit that I never thought about before such as managing finances, educating the public, posting on social media, collecting surveys, planning events and everything in between. I never expected to learn so many tips and tricks to marketing and fundraising on social media. I have a new respect for non-profits after seeing all of the hard work that Gwyneth and Dana put into every single event GRN had this fall.

I would encourage anyone to work for GRN because of the wonderful experience I had this past semester. GRN was very accommodating to my class schedule and allowed me to have flexible hours in order to balance school and work. I truly felt like I was always helping and making an impact because I was never given any mundane tasks or busy work. I was often challenged in the tasks I was assigned but I never felt overwhelmed because Gwyneth was always willing to answer questions and provide help when needed. This experience taught me patience and flexibility because often tasks Gwyneth and I were working on would change and we would just have to adapt and get the job done. Because of this experience, I have gained more confidence in the workplace and many new skills.

Working for Georgia River Network taught me more about myself than I ever thought an internship would be able to. I learned my strengths i.e. organization, staying on task, multitasking, and meeting deadlines. I also learned I need improvement in flexibility in the workplace and communication skills. I do not know exactly what career path I would like to take in the future, but working for GRN showed me I can handle a little more flexibility in the workplace than I originally thought. Because I was encouraged to do my best work in such a positive learning environment, I feel more confident applying for jobs in the future and taking on new challenges. Learn more about GRN Intern opportunities by visiting http://GaRivers.org.

Oconee River User Guidebook - Available this Spring!

Georgia River Network will release its 5th Guidebook in a series written by Joe Cook. The Oconee River User’s Guide will be available for purchase in the Georgia River Network online store in Spring 2019. The guide features:

- an introduction and overview of the river
- chapters describing each river section with detailed maps and notes on river access and points of interest
- a compact natural history guide featuring species of interest found along Georgia’s rivers
- notes on safety and boating etiquette
- a fishing primer
- notes on organizations working to protect the river
Weekend for Rivers Makes an Impact
2018 River Hero Award Winners

Weekend for Rivers is a gathering of river lovers from across the state to share information, learn about rivers, network with other river lovers and celebrate successes. In 2018, we awarded several of our members for their dedication to protecting Georgia’s water resources.

Volunteer of the Year: Chuck Moody
This award is given for purely freelance heroics in the field of river conservation. The winner of this award generally doesn’t get paid for looking after their river, but does it because it’s just important to them. This dedicated person has not only demonstrated that they care about their local streams and rivers, but has also inspired river love in others.

Conservationist of the Year: April Lipscomb
Conservationist of the Year goes to someone whose work has had a direct impact on the health of their river. This may be through education, science, outreach, policy, and will be given to someone who has demonstrated heroic leadership, inspiration, creativity and dedication to a vision of clean, healthy, plentiful water for our communities, our families and wildlife.

River Group of the Year: Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
This award is given to a group of river heroes that is out there on the front lines every day, working on behalf of all of us to keep our rivers flowing clean. The River Group of the Year generally has done something spectacular during the year, and achieved significant results through their leadership, dedication and abilities.

Sally Bethea Lifetime Achievement Award: Joe Cook
The Sally Bethea award is a lifetime achievement award given by Georgia River Network in honor of Sally’s leadership in protecting Georgia’s water resources. This award is given every ten years.

Take Action - Sign Up for Protect GA Alerts
Protect Georgia is an electronic system that alerts you to important water issues, matches you up with your elected officials based on your address and provides a letter that you can send with a click of a button. Sign up for action alerts by visiting: http://www.protectgeorgia.org/georgia-river-network---sign-up-form.html.
CALeNDAR OF EVENTS

February 20, 2019
Capitol Conservation Day

April 6-7, 2019
Spring on the Satilla

June 15-21, 2019
Paddle Georgia 2019

October 12-14, 2019
Fall Float on the Flint

Stay tuned for more upcoming events!

JOIN GEORGIA RIVER NETWORK

Type of Membership:
☐ $1,000 River Hero    ☐ $500 River Guardian
☐ $250 River Supporter ☐ $100 River Friend
☐ $50 River Watcher (Family Membership) ☐ $35 Individual River Enthusiast

Additional Tax Deductible Contribution: $ _______

Total Amount Enclosed: $ _______ Check #: _______ Date: _______

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.
First & Last Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________

City: _________________________ State: ______ Zip: ___________

Phone #: ______________________ Fax #: _______________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________________

☐ Check here if you do not want us to share your information with other organizations.

Mail To: Georgia River Network, 126 S. Milledge Ave, Ste. E3, Athens, GA, 30605
GRN is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organization.
Contributions are tax deductible.