

# Saving Our Suwannee

Newsletter of Save Our Suwannee, Inc

[www.saveoursuwannee.org](http://www.saveoursuwannee.org)

May 2010

## **Art and music depicts the delight of North Florida Springs**

If you love and appreciate North Florida's springs and rivers, you will be delighted by this presentation by local artist Johnny Dame. In his presentation as an independent Environmental Educator, he utilizes a unique blend of creative talents including painting, drawing, handmade maps, music, poetry and storytelling to express himself. It will be held on **Thursday May 13 at 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Ft. White Community Center in Fort White, Florida.** There will be light refreshments provided afterward.

Johnny Dame is a 7th Generation native Floridian, Naturalist and Artist. He is the resident artist and naturalist at The Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park in Live Oak from October through May. From June through September he is resident artist and naturalist at Panther Meadows in Mount Shasta, California. Johnny has been a member of The Ichetucknee Springs Basin Working Group since it began in 1995. His Artwork is found in private collections all over the world. For more info please contact Barbara Ferguson, SOS Board Member, at 386-487-2386.

## **Yahoo Group Email**

If you want immediate updates of important issues, join our Group Email. You can do so by emailing me, and I will have an invitation sent to you. My email is [joan.stephens56@yahoo.com](mailto:joan.stephens56@yahoo.com).

## **PARK'nership Program Awards**

It's that time of year again when the outstanding program connecting students with the wonderful Ichetucknee river and springs system in their own backyard. SOS contributes to their PARKnership Program for each child to learn about water protection.

**SOS is cordially invited to the 'End of the Year' Partnership awards Ceremony on Tuesday 11th April in the Ft White high school Cafeteria at 6:30 pm -Please RSVP to [cole\\_L@firn.edu](mailto:cole_L@firn.edu)**

## **New board member Doug Clifford**

has been hosting a weekly interview program for over 10 years that Save Our Suwannee members might enjoy. Doug's focus is on environmental and political issues and more on "One Hour Of Hope", broadcast on WSKY Newstalk 97.3 FM (and live on the web at [thesky973.com](http://thesky973.com)), every Saturday morning from 5-6 am and Saturday night from 11-Midnight. For instance, Doug just interviewed a senior policy advisor from Defenders of Wildlife on the massive oil spill off the coast of Louisiana which could impact Florida. He has from three to five guests weekly on the program. "Kind of like "NPR for people with A.D.D." jokes Doug.

## **Clean Up the River**

In the fall a major Clean-up of the whole Suwannee River is planned.

Save our Suwannee under the guidance of Annette Long will be participating. Details are still being worked out but what is known is that SOS will take a portion of the River and, using boats, clean the banks.

## **Santa Fe Basin Management Action Plan Meeting**

The fifth Santa Fe Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) meeting was held April 13, 2010 at the Fort White Community Center. Topics covered were Agriculture Best Management Practices (BMP) – Real World Application and Agriculture Conservation Plans, Personal Stormwater Management, and Introduction to Urban BMPs. The BMAP approach will initially focus on implementation of BMPs to address non-point sources of nutrients. The meeting began with Darrell Smith of the Suwannee River Partnership discussing Agricultural BMPs. The stated definition of best management practice is "... a practice or combination of practices determined by the coordinating agencies, based on research, field testing, and expert review, to be the most effective and practicable on-location means, including economic and technological considerations, for improving water quality in agricultural and urban discharges". The Office of Agricultural Water Policy at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has adopted at least ten BMPs statewide, including: citrus BMPs by region; Lake Okeechobee BMPs; Container Nurseries; Vegetable and Ag Crops; Sod; Manure Application; and Cow/Calf Operations. According to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) review of research literature, farms using BMPs have the potential to reduce nitrate to ground water by 77% for poultry and dairy operations, 90% for dairy spray fields, and 50% for crop farms. FDACS claims that over

140,000 acres or 75% of crop farms are participating, including more than 40,000 acres in the Santa Fe watershed. After Darrell's presentation, Columbia County farmer **Mike Tice?** provided a personal perspective on the implementation of BMPs and sources of assistance through the Suwannee River Partnership and the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Greg Hendricks, the State Resource Biologist for NRCS, gave a review of Agriculture Conservation Plans that are a core component of the USDA-NRCS conservation planning process. Conservation plans attempt to address all natural resource concerns on farm lands, and provide the backbone for implementation of conservation practices outlined by NRCS. These practices specify ways in which farm operations can be accomplished in order to conserve and protect soils, water quality and quantity, wildlife, plant communities, air, and other resource concerns. Some of these conservation practices correspond to the BMPs that have been adopted or are under consideration. NRCS has put a high priority on conservation planning to provide agricultural and silvicultural operations the knowledge to remain productive while preserving natural resources. In addition, the current Farm Bill provides financial incentives for implementation of certain conservation practices for farms with conservation plans.

Terry Hansen from the Watershed Planning and Coordination Section of FDEP gave a brief overview of Personal Stormwater Management and Urban BMPs. Many of these recommendations come from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' Florida Friendly Landscaping Program (<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/>). Mr. Hansen also discussed ways to avoid Pointless Personal Pollution; more information on this topic is available at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/nonpoint/ppp.pdf>.

The next Basin Management Action Plan meeting for the Santa Fe River will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 AM to approximately noon at the Fort White Community Center. To subscribe to the mailing list for news about future meetings contact Anita Nash at: [Anita.Nash@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Anita.Nash@dep.state.fl.us). You can find BMAP information and presentations posted at: [http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Santa\\_Fe/](http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/BMAP/Santa_Fe/). FDEP has also provided the following information links for additional information:

FDEP TMDL Homepage

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/index.htm>

FDEP BMAP News & Announcements

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/bmap.htm>

Suwannee River Water Management District

<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/>

Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) homepage

<http://www.suwannee.org/>

The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP) homepage

<http://ichetuckneeforever.org/>

Fertilizer ordinances (Senate Bills 494 & 2080)

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/nonpoint/sb494-sb2080-faq-80609.pdf>

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Office of Agricultural Water Policy BMPs

<http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/BestManagementPractices.html>

USEPA TMDL Home Page

<http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/TMDL/>

International Stormwater BMP Database

<http://www.bmpdatabase.org/index.htm>

Florida DEP nonpoint source management

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm#Best%20Management%20Practic>

Report by Joe Prenger

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**Marvelous Program May 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at the Ft White Community Center- Don't miss it!**