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○ VOLUME 3 | ○ SPRING | ○ 2006

THE Kingfisher

Keeping watch over your river



RIVERKEEPER UPDATE

Spring is upon us and the beauty of the St. Johns River abounds. Like the natural world, the Riverkeeper office is flush with new and exciting growth. A few months ago, one of our supporters, Barbara Ketchum, told Jimmy and me this was going to be the "year of the river". Positive events seem to be lining up, and Barbara now appears to be a visionary.

Year of the River

Senator Jim King is working on legislation that will create a state driven, long-term funding source for river restoration. His legislation includes a partnership with the City of Jacksonville, St. Johns River Water Management District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, JEA and others.

Word is filtering out of Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton's Office that he will be introducing a "river initiative" in late spring. We haven't been included in the discussions, but we are optimistic the mayor's plan bodes well for the river's future.

A team of talented Riverkeeper members

have been working hard on our River Friendly Yards Program. (See inside). This exciting program will allow us all to become part of the campaign to improve our river's health.

Freedom Commerce

The outcome of the Freedom Commerce property is still in question. The developer, The Goodman Company, withdrew its appeal of the Army Corps' denial of the federal wetland permit. The company has submitted a new plan that would reduce wetland impacts to about 50 acres. This is a positive step in the effort to protect the headwaters of Julington and Pottsburg Creeks, but we are very concerned that a substantial amount of high quality wetlands would still be destroyed. We are currently evaluating the latest proposal and will keep you posted about any actions that we take.

Sedimentation

Sedimentation is still a serious threat to our waterways. We've been working with citizens in St. Johns County to protect Cunningham Creek from sediment runoff

from the Aberdeen development currently under construction. We recently worked with members on another sediment issue on Craig Creek in the San Marco area. We've made some progress in this battle; Jacksonville now has over 20 inspectors monitoring sediment runoff. However, we still have a long way to go. Thanks to each of you who are helping Riverkeeper monitor our waterways. If you see a muddy river or creek, give us a call.

TMDL

The US. EPA established a legal and meaningful nutrient pollution standard (TMDL) for the lower St. Johns River in January. The federal judge refused to let the American Pulp and Paper Association, JEA, First Coat Manufacturing Association, and others intervene at the last minute to overthrow our legal victory. The new TMDL is an important step in reducing nutrient inflow into to the river, the cause of last summer's massive toxic algae bloom.

Finally, take some time this spring to get out and enjoy the beauty and wonders of

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Why is the St. Johns River important to you?

○ | GAY NIGHTINGALE

"What an interesting and informative program you gave at our Colonial Dames meeting last month! You opened our eyes about the needs of our beloved St. Johns River, and hopefully our members will 'look up' Riverkeeper in our community."

○ | LT. ALICIA DORSIE-FRANK, USN (RET)

"I have a photo of catching tarpon off of Dupont Avenue in the 30's. I love the river's changing "face." I love going over the Matthews Bridge, looking up and down the river."

○ | RICK AND KATHARINE JONES

"We live on Deep Bottom Creek that is filled in by Walmart construction and is on the JEA study list for high pollution. Thanks for all you do!"

○ | MR. AND MRS. BRUCE BULLOCK

"I am 72 and have spent about 60 years on and along the river, living in our home on the river since 1973. A 42" wastewater outfall enters the river next to our home. We see manatees, eagles, wood ducks, fish, and algae. We love the river and we want it clean and well again."

RIVERKEEPER UPDATE, CONTINUED

the St. Johns River. We are so blessed to have this resource in our community. As always, I

thank each of you for supporting our important work. Together, we are making a difference.

RIVER FRIENDLY YARDS: HELP PREVENT THE RETURN OF .. **THE GREEN MONSTER**

In March, Riverkeeper released its new educational program, River Friendly Yards. This project was created to raise awareness about stormwater runoff and the impact that lawn fertilizers and chemicals can have on the health of the river, and to recommend simple "river friendly" lawn maintenance and landscaping practices to homeowners.

The "river friendly" tips that we provide are based on the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods principles that were developed by the University of Florida IFAS Extension.



(this page) Bill and Annie Kirill during the filming of the television program, The Green Monster: It Came From the River! *(next page)* Preston Haskell being interviewed for the tv program.

Thanks!

Barbara Ketchum, Ray Hays, Bill Retherford, Karen McCombs, Bill and Annie Kirill, Jeff Lageman, Tammy Shaughnessy, Kayak Amelia, Jean Schubert, Shorty Robbins, Leslie Pierpont, Anthony Versis, Cotton Morlock, Barbara Beyerl, Andy Johnson and AM1530, DiscoverTec, Tammerlin, Jeanne Shaw, S.S. Marine Taxi, Chris Wirth, Nan Jobson-Armingeon, Tim Cebulko, Linda Orth, and Mark Davis

RIVER FRIENDLY YARDS, CONTINUED



In case you missed it, we aired our River Friendly Yards television program, *The Green Monster: It Came From the River!*, in March on WTLV-12 NBC. The Green Monster, hosted by former Jaguar Jeff Lageman, discusses the massive algae bloom of last summer and how we can adopt "river friendly" lawn practices that will help to prevent The Green Monster from returning. River Friendly Yards DVDs, brochures, website information, and presentations are now available from Riverkeeper. Visit the Riverkeeper website for more information about how you can get started on your way to a river friendly lawn!

This project is made possible thanks to the generous support of CSX, JB Foundation, Helen Lane, Late Bloomers Garden Circle, The Haskell Company, PRC Digital Media, The Florida Times-Union, and EverBank.

ST. JOHNS RIVER: CAPTURED THROUGH THE LENS

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens exhibit, *Ansel Adams and Edwin Land: Art, Science and Invention - Photographs from the Polaroid Collection*, is currently open to the public. This exhibition explores Adams's key involvement with the historical development of Polaroid film, invented by Edwin Land in 1940.

As part of this exhibit, St. Johns Riverkeeper and The Cummer are partnering to offer a community photography show that is opening on May 11 at Cummer Café Night. This cameo show, called *The St. Johns River: Captured through the Lens*, is a juried photography show featuring community perspectives. Submissions will be accepted until May 1. Submission guidelines are available at www.cummer.org or contact Chrys Yates at cyates@cummer.org or 904-899-6003. **So, dust off your cameras and get out on the river!**

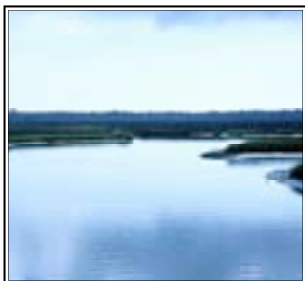


Photo submissions will be accepted until May 1.

The St. Johns River: Captured through the Lens Opening - May 11

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

829 Riverside Avenue, Jacksonville

The mission of the St. Johns Riverkeeper is to protect, preserve and restore the ecological integrity of the St. Johns River watershed for current users and future generations through advocacy and citizen action.

WAYS TO HELP

There are plenty of opportunities to help out. Come join us.

○ | VOLUNTEER

Volunteer at an upcoming event. Call 256-7591 for more information.

- Earth Day at The Landing, April 22

○ | BE "RIVER FRIENDLY"

Use "river friendly" lawn maintenance practices and help put an end to "The Green Monster"!

○ | GIVE A GIFT

Give someone a gift membership, a Riverkeeper t-shirt or hat, or passage on our three-day Eco-Heritage boat trips.

○ | JOIN THE BOAT PATROL

Help Riverkeeper patrol the river and its tributaries. Contact Bill Kirill for more information at 707-1511.

○ | INVITE RK TO SPEAK

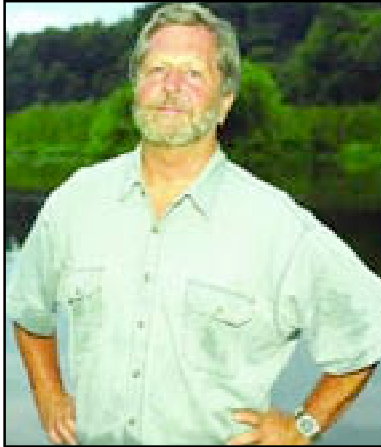
Invite Neil to speak to your civic group or homeowners association.

○ | JOIN, TODAY!

If you are not a member, return the enclosed envelope with your check or credit card number.

WWW.STJOHNSRIVERKEEPER.ORG

AN EVENING WITH BILL BELLEVILLE



Jacksonville University and St. Johns Riverkeeper are co-sponsoring "An Evening with Bill Belleville" to celebrate the release of his new book, ***Losing It All to Sprawl: How Progress Ate My Cracker Landscape***. Belleville's new book is an account of how he came to understand and love his historic Cracker farmhouse and "relic" neighborhood in central Florida as development closed in around him. Belleville accounts for the impacts that a community in the crosshairs of growth ultimately must bear, but he also offers Floridians the hope that can be found in the rediscovery and appreciation of the natural landscape.

Come join us for engaging dialogue and inspirational words, as Bill reads from *Losing It All to Sprawl* and answers questions. Belleville has written for such publications as Newsweek, New York Times Syndicate, and Oxford American. His books include the critically acclaimed ***River of Lakes: A Journey on Florida's St. Johns River***.

Tuesday, April 11 at 7:00PM

Jacksonville University / Gooding Auditorium

2800 University Blvd. N., Jacksonville

CONTACT US ANYTIME

phone 904-256-7591

fax 904-256-7573

RK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | **The St. Johns River: Captured through the Lens**
Opening - May 11, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.
Photo submissions will be accepted until May 1.
- | **Riverkeeper TV show**
Every Friday at 5:30pm
Comcast Cable Ch. 29
- | **Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic, May 20**
jaxkayakfishing.com
A portion of proceeds to benefit Riverkeeper.




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