

# THE KINGFISHER

KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR RIVER



Vol. 9 Summer 2012

## Riverkeeper Update



I want to thank each of you for your ongoing support, your love for the St. Johns and your insatiable appetite to defend our great river. Serving as your St. Johns Riverkeeper is the most challenging yet the most meaningful work that I have ever experienced. Your passion and commitment fuel our team each day as we keep up the good fight. The most rewarding aspect is working with each of you to celebrate the St. Johns and to protect her from harm.

Unfortunately, the St. Johns needs our help and our voice now more than ever. From the state's proposed watered-down nutrient standards to the declining flows of Silver Springs, all of Florida's waters are at great risk.

Our fight continues for truly protective standards to guard the St. Johns from harmful algal blooms. Along with our Florida Water Coalition partners, we continue to advocate for the stronger federal standards that will result in cleaner water and less of the nutrient pollution that causes the green slime. If you see any algae outbreaks this summer or any other problems, please report to me at 904-256-7907.

Many of you joined me and more than 1,700 other concerned citizens at Silver River State Park on June 23 to voice our concerns over the dire conditions and significant threats to Silver Springs and so many

of Florida's waters. The latest threat to Silver Springs, a massive cattle operation seeking over 13.2 million gallons of water a day from the aquifer, has galvanized the environmental community to call for meaningful water policy change in Tallahassee. Learn how you can "speak up" for Silver Springs on the following pages.

On another front, we are gearing up for a fight with the Water Management District to protect Florida's Conservation Lands that were purchased to protect the St. Johns River. There is a growing desire in Tallahassee to sell off these priceless assets. We need your help to sound the alarm and to tell the District to save these lands that are necessary for a healthy St. Johns.

Finally, we are evaluating a proposed plan from the Department of Environmental Protection and Georgia-Pacific to protect the river from harmful dioxin. We will continue to work hard to make sure that necessary protections are in place and that GP and DEP are held accountable.

I am honored to be your St. Johns Riverkeeper and look forward to continuing our work together to defend and restore the mighty St. Johns River.

For the River,

Lisa Rinaman – Your St. Johns Riverkeeper

Governor Bob Graham, Lisa Rinaman, and FCC Leaders  
Photo: John Moran



# Take Action for the St. Johns

1. Sign the petition asking **Governor Rick Scott** to take immediate action to protect Silver Springs and to restore its health. Go to [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org) and click on "Speak Up for Florida's Waters."

2. Ask the **St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)** to deny the permit request by Adena Springs Ranch for over 13 million gallons of water a day. Silver Springs is already suffering from serious declines in flow and increases in nutrient pollution. Learn more and submit comments. Visit our website and click on "Save Silver Springs." Also contact the SJRWMD Executive Director Hans Tanzler at [htanzler@sjrwmd.com](mailto:htanzler@sjrwmd.com).

3. The SJRWMD is evaluating the potential sale of important conservation lands that were bought to help protect our river. Learn more and submit comments. <http://floridaswater.com/landassessment>

4. Let President Obama, members of Congress and EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson know that you want the EPA to enforce strong nutrient standards that will clean up the pollution that's causing toxic green algae outbreaks. It's time to end the slime in Florida's rivers, streams, lakes and waves! Find out how. <http://floridawatercoalition.org>

5.  us on Facebook for timely updates on important issues. <http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsriverkeeper>



## News & Notes

Since our last newsletter, all of these businesses, organizations, and people have helped to raise critical funds and awareness for St. Johns Riverkeeper (SJRK) and the river. Want to help? Contact [shannon@stjohnsriverkeeper.org](mailto:shannon@stjohnsriverkeeper.org).

- Since 2007, Black Creek Outfitters has donated 1% of all paddlesport sales each year to SJRK. They recently hosted a check presentation from last year's sales, donating \$8,500.



- During River Awareness Month in March, Bold City Brewery, Intuition Ale Works, European Street Café, and restaurants at The Jacksonville Landing displayed SJRK coasters and table displays.

- For Earth Day, Aveda salons in Northeast Florida raised over \$5,000, including a cut-a-thon by Panache that brought in \$3,600.



- On June 9, Jim Alabiso and two friends swam 12.1 miles of the St. Johns from Mandarin to the Riverside Arts Market.



- Kayak Amelia donated \$1200 from a guided kayak tour for 20 paddlers.

- Bold Bean Coffee Roasters contributed \$587 from the proceeds of its St. Johns Riverkeeper Roast.

# Speak up for Florida's Waters

The "Speak Up for Silver Springs and Florida's Waters" rally on June 23rd at Silver River State Park was a huge success, with over 1700 concerned citizens from all over the state attending.

The event was organized by the Florida Conservation Coalition (FCC) and its local partners to advocate for the protection and restoration of Silver Springs and all of Florida's imperiled waterways. St. Johns Riverkeeper is a charter member of the FCC.

Governor Bob Graham, Senator Lee Constantine, Lisa Rinaman, and other prominent conservation leaders encouraged the crowd to take action for Florida's waters.

Learn more about the event and how you can get involved on our website - [stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org).



Photos: brunetgarcia.com



Rising Tides members for volunteering.

- The first annual Hogtown Craft Beer Festival in Gainesville donated \$6,000 from the proceeds. Thanks Hogtown Brewers for making us one of the beneficiaries and thanks

• Ty Miller, Ryan Barber, and Courtney Harasz recently paddled the entire 310 miles of the St. Johns River on their standup paddleboards (SUPs), calling it "Standup for the St. Johns."



In March of this year, SJRK member Richard Moran became the first person to thru-paddle the entire St. Johns on a SUP.

- The North Florida Cruising Club donated \$750 from the proceeds of the First Coast Offshore Challenge.
- Shay and Theresa Hill invited guests to their birthday party to donate to SJRK in lieu of gifts, raising \$850 and several new members.

- For St. Patty's Day, All Wet Sports provided the kayaks to clean up Pottsburg Creek as part of the annual St. Johns River Cleanup, and 96.9 The Eagle and SweetWater Brewing provided the after party.



- As part of a grant from River Network, Anheuser-Busch employees and families partnered with SJRK for a cleanup of Blue Cypress Park and Reddie Point.

- Engine 15 and the Times-Union Amber Waves columnists brewed a special beer for our new Riverkeeper, Lisa Rinaman, donating the proceeds (\$850) to SJRK.

- Over 90 runway models displayed outfits made from recycled materials for the Eco Latino Conservation Fashion Show in May, raising \$577 and a lot of awareness for the river.



- The SweetWater Brewing "Save the St. Johns" campaign began with a pub crawl involving O'Brothers, Grassroots Natural Market, Birdies, and European Street Café and ended with a fantastic benefit concert by Railroad Earth at Freebird.

## Calendar

- August 10, Sunset River Trivia Cruise
- September 15, 5-8pm Stand Up for the St. Johns, SUP event  
Live music/free lessons  
Sadler Point Marina
- October 6  
History Boat Tour
- October 11-14  
Eco-Heritage Boat Trips
- October 20  
Race Across the St. Johns
- November 16  
Annual Oyster Roast

For more info:  
[stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org)

  
**ST. JOHNS  
RIVERKEEPER®**  
2800 University Blvd. N.  
Jacksonville, FL 32211

Address Service Requested

[www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org)  
phone 904.256.7591



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## 2-Day Eco-Heritage Boat Trips

ALL ABOARD! Spend two days traveling and exploring the majestic St. Johns River!

October 11-12  
(Palatka to Sanford)

October 13-14  
(Sanford to Palatka)

Trip includes:  
Historical re-enactors, fascinating speakers (including author Bill Belleville), stops at Blue Springs and Hontoon Island, wonderful wildlife-viewing opportunities, lodging, delicious lunches, and chartered bus transportation.

Cost: \$325 per passenger.

Reservation forms are available on our website or call 904-256-7591.



*Become a member or donate online at [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org).*