



Virginia Oros
Wild & Scenic River Ambassador
Activities Report Summary
December, 2012 and January, 2013

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

- Prepared and delivered 30 *Birds, Plants, Turtles and Animals* identification cards for the Paddle Florida association during their visit canoeing/kayaking our Wekiva Wild & Scenic River System.
- Attended the Apopka's "Pet A Palozza". Spoke with approximately 100 festival goers regarding the Wekiva Wild & Scenic River System.
- Participated in the visit of Star Child Academy to Wekiwa Springs State Park featuring the Wekiva ECO Program. 15 adults and 69 students ages 5-8 went through a 4 station rotation where they learned about plants and animals in the Wekiva Basin, Anatomy of a Spring and took an upland tram tour.
- Participated in the Trout Lake Nature Centers paddle of Blackwater Creek. Presented 30 *Birds, Plants, Turtles and Animals* identification cards to the canoeist/kayakers. Discussed the Wekiva Wild & Scenic River System. The majority of participants had never heard of the W & S, so this was quite an interesting presentation.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

- Blackwater Creek Interpretive Trail Meeting – Continued work with an interagency team to create a low-impact, interactive interpretive paddling trail. Met with Barbara Howell, (Wekiva AP), Mike Martin (Florida Forest Service), Mark Schweder (volunteer).
- Downloaded, reviewed and organized pictures from various projects that I participated in to use for PowerPoint presentations and reporting purposes.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Meetings Attended

- Friends of the Wekiva River December 6, 2012 & January 10, 2013. Presented the Essay Contest to board and requested funding for PIT tags for Eric Munscher for \$1,125 which both was approved.
- Wekiva Wilderness Trust December 5, 2012.
- Wekiva Wild & Scenic Advisory Management Committee December 5, 2012
- FOWR Education Subcommittee Meetings. Participated in organization of online Survey Monkey questionnaire for use in determining future field trips.

Training

- Florida Master Naturalist Coursework – Began the Freshwater Wetland Class given by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension. Master Naturalist certification will provide me with techniques to teach others about Florida's ecology, natural history, and environmental issues. The class was given at Wekiva Island in their new Mike Barr Education Center with 12 students including private individuals and volunteers wishing to gain more knowledge about Florida's environment. The classes incorporate classroom presentations, discussions, videos, field trips and practical experience in interpretation.
- Complete "DEP P-Card" training. (Purchasing card training program for the State of Florida.)

Other

- Completed monthly DEP Admin. payroll and vehicles-vessel log submission.
- Contributed to the CAMA Quarterly Report.
- Prepared monthly AMC Reports.
- Participated in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count on the Lower Wekiva River.
- Attended the Florida Park Service Alumni Association weekend at WSSP. Spoke with rangers and peers from all over the State regarding the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System and assisted a ranger with training on the Enviroscape Model.

Volunteer Hours

- Wekiva ECO program = 1 volunteer = 5 hours

Wild and Scenic River Ambassador Project Description with ORV's Goals and Objectives

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

Expand current partnerships with private businesses and concessionaires who operate on the river or within the Wekiva Basin parks.

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

Continue to implement and strengthen the existing Adopt A River monitoring, control and removal plan for litter along and within the Wekiva River System.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

Develop and coordinate an "on the water" volunteer based stewardship program that provides a presence within the waters designated Wild and Scenic, state park and aquatic preserves with the goal of promoting stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources. Recruiting and training volunteers.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

Pursue events that encourage people to directly experience and learn about the Wekiva River System. Conducting educational and outreach activities to better acquaint the general public and resources users with the natural resources and resource protection needs of the State Preserve and State Park. Participating in public outreach events by preparing displays and conducting presentations.

Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

Pursue proactive development of educational programs for homeowners, developers, new residents, landscape professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to provide information on the impacts of various water uses and the health of the Wekiva River Basin.

Create and implement a communication program for residents, businesses, landscaping professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to address fertilizer application practices and the harm caused by nutrient loading to surface water and groundwater quality.

Recreational Assessment

Create a Recreation Assessment to determine who is currently using the river, how use is projected to change and what uses are compatible with each river segment.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

Develop literature, courses and presentations to promote stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources that emphasizes and foster the designation of the Wekiva River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Historic and Cultural Educational Materials

Incorporate historic and cultural research findings into educational programming, interpretation, and public relations materials, as appropriate.

Research Grants and Track Funds

Research grants, complete applications for submittal and track projects funded by awarded grants.

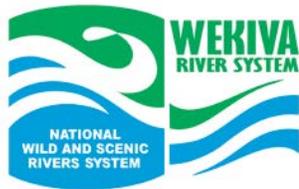
State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Assist key State Park and Aquatic Preserve personnel with implementation of projects identified by the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Committee

Training

Training and Educational Seminars

Other Work associated with Position



Virginia Oros
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February and March, 2013

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

- Continued dialog with Bob Loomis, Kings Landing, regarding the Adopt-A-River program. Bob has adopted the entire Rock Springs Run from Rock Springs Run Bridge/Kelly Park down to the confluence of the Wekiva River. He has organized clean-ups with Rep. Bill Nelson and other political personnel and will continue to do so. He has offered to donate his canoes, nets, etc. for any other group or organization who wishes to organize a clean-up. Bob is also interested in meeting to discuss creating an interpretive trail down Rock Springs Run.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

- Recruited 20 volunteers to assist with the North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group turtle survey on Wekiwa Springs Run and lagoon from March 25th – 29th.
- Organized and participated in two bird surveys on the Wekiva River. Recruited two experienced birders to assist with the surveys. Observe 1,468 individuals in 56 species. We heard, recorded and later verified a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a rare occurrence for this area and a new species for our Wekiva River bird list. Volunteer birders contributed 14 hours to the survey.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

- Attended the Speak Up Wekiva event at Wekiwa Springs State Park. Set up booth displaying maps and information for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System and Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve. Approximately 100 event goers visited our display.
- Organized and participated in the North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group survey March 25th, 27th, and 28th, 2013. Spoke with many park visitors about the 8 different species of turtles of the W & S River. Swam in the lagoon and caught a large Florida Peninsular Cooter and a Loggerhead Musk.
- Coordinated and assisted with two Live Turtle Presentations at WSSP with Dr. Brian Hauge from the North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group. 40 people attended the presentation Thursday and 60 people attended on Saturday 30th. Attendees' learned about the natural history of the Wekiva turtle species, the ongoing turtle study and what people can do to help protect turtles in the Wekiva Wild & Scenic River System and all over the world. Prepared and distributed an information notice about the presentation.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

- Coordinated and scheduled several presentations for various schools and organizations for the coming months ranging from 4th grade students to the Seminole County Tourism Development Group.
- Blackwater Creek Interpretive Trail Meeting – Continued work with an interagency team to create a low-impact, interactive interpretive paddling trail. Had meeting with Barbara Howell, (Wekiva AP), Mike Martin (Florida Forest Service), and Mark Schweder (volunteer) to discuss specific points of interest for the trail. Presented my "*Birds, Turtles and Plants of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System*" PowerPoint Presentation that we will use for some of our points of interest. We may also

revise and utilize my laminated critter Identification Sheet for points of interest. Visitors will be able to retrieve the Identification Sheet from the kiosk and return it after their trip.

- Downloaded, reviewed and organized pictures from various projects that I participated in to use for PowerPoint presentations and reporting purposes.
- Sent a copy of the Live Turtle Presentation flyer notice to Sherry Brunson of the Apopka Chief who wrote an article about the presentation.
- Assisted the Wekiva Wilderness Trust with the Wekiva Paint-Out for several hours. Spoke with several artists about the plants and birds found along the Wild & Scenic River System and provided several Identification Sheets for their use.
- Assisted videographer Scott Taylor with a river tour to obtain video on birds and scenery for the production of a video about the Wekiva W & S River and aquatic preserve.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Meetings

- Friends of the Wekiva River Feb. 7, 2013, and March 7, 2013
- Wekiva Wilderness Trust March 6, 2013.
- Wekiva Wild & Scenic Paddle Guide Subcommittee Feb. 15, 2013 and March 21, 2013.
- Mike Shirley, Environmental Administrator of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, visited our offices February 19, 2013.
- FOWR Education Subcommittee Meeting Feb. 7, 2013 to discuss member's survey results and what type of field trips we should move forward on scheduling. March 27, 2013 field trip planning schedule and organize leaders for each field trip.
- Deede Sharpe, President of FOWR, to organize our Annual FOWR Essay Contest.
- Betty Moore, Chairman of the Camp Wekiva. Requested and received two 1-week camp scholarship donations for this year's FOWR Essay Contest from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

Training

- Florida Master Naturalist Coursework – Assisted instructor with teaching the class at the Springhead at Wekiwa Springs State Park. I discussed nitrates, MFL's, how water is connected on and below land, pollution and how the Wekiwa W & S River is affected by all. Completed the Freshwater Wetland Class given by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension. As my final project I prepared a 45 slide PowerPoint Presentation titled "*Birds, Turtles and Plants of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System*" that I will utilize for various other presentations. My goal is to complete all three Core Modules by the middle of 2013 to receive the Florida Master Naturalist designation. Coastal Systems will be my final course.

Other

- Completed required DEP Admin. payroll and vehicles-vessel log submission.
- Contributed to the CAMA Quarterly Report.
- Prepared monthly AMC Reports.
- Requested and participated in the exotic plant survey with Nathalie Visscher of FWC in the Wekiwa Run and Lagoon areas. Documented massive growth of *Hydrilla* in the run and some in the lagoon of which they treated with herbicide.
- Maintenance on DEP vehicle, boats and trailers.

Volunteer Hours

- Turtle Survey = 4 volunteers for 5 days X 5 hrs/day = 105 hours
- Bird Survey – 2 volunteers 2days 7hrs/day = 14 hours
- Videographer – 2 volunteers 1 day = 14 hours

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS 133

Wild and Scenic River Ambassador Project Description with ORV's Goals and Objectives

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

Expand current partnerships with private businesses and concessionaires who operate on the river or within the Wekiva Basin parks.

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

Continue to implement and strengthen the existing Adopt A River monitoring, control and removal plan for litter along and within the Wekiva River System.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

Develop and coordinate an "on the water" volunteer based stewardship program that provides a presence within the waters designated Wild and Scenic, state park and aquatic preserves with the goal of promoting stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources. Recruiting and training volunteers.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

Pursue events that encourage people to directly experience and learn about the Wekiva River System. Conducting educational and outreach activities to better acquaint the general public and resources users with the natural resources and resource protection needs of the State Preserve and State Park. Participating in public outreach events by preparing displays and conducting presentations.

Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

Pursue proactive development of educational programs for homeowners, developers, new residents, landscape professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to provide information on the impacts of various water uses and the health of the Wekiva River Basin.

Create and implement a communication program for residents, businesses, landscaping professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to address fertilizer application practices and the harm caused by nutrient loading to surface water and groundwater quality.

Recreational Assessment

Create a Recreation Assessment to determine who is currently using the river, how use is projected to change and what uses are compatible with each river segment.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

Develop literature, courses and presentations to promote stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources that emphasizes and foster the designation of the Wekiva River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Historic and Cultural Educational Materials

Incorporate historic and cultural research findings into educational programming, interpretation, and public relations materials, as appropriate.

Research Grants and Track Funds

Research grants, complete applications for submittal and track projects funded by awarded grants.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Assist key State Park and Aquatic Preserve personnel with implementation of projects identified by the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Committee

Training

Training and Educational Seminars

Other Work associated with Position

Virginia Oros
Wild & Scenic River Ambassador
Activities Report Summary
January – February 2012

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

- Responded to complaint about litter on the Wekiva River under the SR 46 Bridge. Removed 3 large bags of litter and 2 chairs.
- Participated and assisted in the organization of the FOWR clean-up in Little Wekiva River; provided the W&S canoes for participants.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

- Discussions with Carrie Mohanna, Orange County EPD for a Wild Taro removal or clean up on RSR with 20 Volunteers for April 21, 2012.
- Scheduled volunteers for the Central Florida Freshwater Turtle Research Group Survey March 13-17th.
- Created contact information for Volunteer Spreadsheet and worked on required Volunteer W & S DEP Form.
- Solicited for and obtained 9 new volunteers to assist in Wekiva clean-ups, Invasive Plant removals and the Recreational Survey.
- Organized and conducted a bird survey and nesting wood stork recon on the Lower Wekiva River with volunteers.

Recruited and scheduled volunteers for the 14th year of the Ctr. FL. Turtle Research Group which will take place March 13 - 16th.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

- Attended the Annual Air Potato Raid held at Lower Wekiva River Preserve and also discussed with volunteers the importance of removal of Exotic Plants from our river system as well as uplands.
- Continuing coordination with FOWR on BioBlitz and Essay Contest.
- Procured Grand Prize for the Essay Contest of two 1 week each Camperships for Camp Wekiva this summer at WSSP from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.
- Participated in the City of Apopka's first Old Florida Outdoor Festival. I shared display space with Wekiwa Springs
- State Park's CSO, The Wekiva Wilderness Trust, spoke with visitors about the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River and volunteer opportunities in the Wekiva Basin. 11 new volunteers signed up for various W&S volunteer activities.
- Finalized FOWR Bioblitz Essay Contest Guidelines with Sub-Committee and Chairwomen of Camp Wekiva.
- Prepared draft flyers/information to be distributed to students/teachers/parents at Bear Lake Elementary and Teague Middle School for the FOWR Essay Contest.
- Participated with approx. 40 FOWR members and public in FOWR's Hidden Springs hike in Seminole State Forest. Visited "Shark's Tooth", "Rock Cub" and "Helene" Springs. Bill Belleville and Steve Phalan led the hike.

Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

- Researched procurement for two landscape models: the Enviroscope, a non-point source landscape model and Envision Education "Ant Farm" type Spring Model for use this summer at Camp Wekiva with approximately 600 children. I negotiated a 40% discount for the Envision Model which is to be purchased by Wekiva Wilderness Trust. I will also use these models at the swimming area/Nature Center at Wekiwa

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Springs. Both models are used to educate children and adults on the importance of keeping our groundwater clean; sources of some of our river pollution and nitrates; and how and where the water for the spring boil comes from.

- Adapted a Power Point presentation received from "Springs Protection" UF/IFAS workshop that educates about water quality and quantity issues we have in our Wekiva River Basin.

Recreational Assessment

- Continued solicitation of volunteers to distribute Recreation Assessment at canoe/kayak take out points. Continued finalizing Recreation Assessment to begin tentatively in May.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

- Downloaded and reviewed hundreds of pictures from various projects that I participated in to use for presentations and reporting purposes.
- Requested and received permission from UF/IFAS to use specific photographs of invasive plants and various other photographs in my Wekiva Wild & Scenic Power Point Presentation.
- Working with Don Philpott of Wekiva Wilderness Trust to adapt his Wet to Dry Trail guide at WSSP to a Woods to Water Program for W & S use.
- Preparing a W&S education program for the Nature Club at Piedmont Lakes Middle School to be given in April.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Meetings

- Friends of the Wekiva River January 5, 2012 & February 2, 2012
- Wekiva Wilderness Trust January 4, 2012 & February 1, 2012
- AMC Subcommittee Meeting January 11, 2012
- Attended several Bioblitz Sub-Committee meetings to discuss FL Federation of Garden Clubs Guideline to win two Camperships for Camp Wekiva. In process of securing 2 Camperships annually for FOWR Riverfest (or other venue) for years to come.
- Gave a brief presentation to FL Federation of Garden Clubs regarding details of the FOWR's/Bioblitz Nature Essay Contest.
- Assisting Amy Kotrola, WSSP Assistant Park Manager, in the preparation/production of a Wekiva Wild and Scenic Paddle Guide.

Training

- Contacted Jeff Loflin/DEP Safety Officer to participate in the "Train the Trainer" class for Boat Safety Course for W & S volunteer Boating Certification.
- On-going reading materials assignments including: Existing Water Conditions, Wild and Scenic River Assessment, Wekiva Management Plans, and other pertinent job related materials.
- Attended two IFAS training seminars. At the Eco-Nomic Living Expo in Orlando I attended sessions on natural alternatives to popular insecticides and invasive plants and animals. I acquired posters, ID sheets, brochures, new sources for additional information, and exotic snail shells that will be very helpful in future educational presentations. The Training for Volunteer Educators for Springs Protection program in Ocala provided springs-specific education materials, including a PowerPoint that can be adapted for our local

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springs. The program also provided tips and techniques for teaching about springs and the aquifer to a variety of audiences. This included a Field Trip to see Karsts and Swallets. I provided Wekiva Promise magazines to workshop organizers.

Other

- DEP Admin. payroll and vehicles-vessel log submission.
- Contributed to the CAMA Monthly and Quarterly Reports with project descriptions and photos.
- Prepared monthly AMC Reports.
- All Hands from Wekiva/Tomoka AP and four volunteers participated in a field trip to the local Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. The group was greeted by Audubon docents who provided close-up encounters with bald eagles, red-tailed hawks, great horned, barred and screech owls, and peregrine falcons. The group was also able to closely observe swallow-tailed kites; a species often observed soaring high above the Wekiva River. After the field trip, the group of eight had a delicious family style lunch at Golden Corral.
- Attended Michael Barr's Memorial Service at Wekiva Island. Michael was the founder of Keep Seminole Beautiful. For the past 5 years Mike organized, participated in and promoted river stewardship by conducting 2 monthly clean-ups on the Wekiva River at Wekiva Island and Wekiva Falls.

Volunteer Hours

- 21 hours – January birding on the Wekiva River
- 4 hours – Volunteer took me to what may be a new midden site (unconfirmed to date)

Wild and Scenic River Ambassador Project Description with ORV's Goals and Objectives

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

Expand current partnerships with private businesses and concessionaires who operate on the river or within the Wekiva Basin parks.

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

Continue to implement and strengthen the existing Adopt A River monitoring, control and removal plan for litter along and within the Wekiva River System.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

Develop and coordinate an "on the water" volunteer based stewardship program that provides a presence within the waters designated Wild and Scenic, state park and aquatic preserves with the goal of promoting stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources. Recruiting and training volunteers.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

Pursue events that encourage people to directly experience and learn about the Wekiva River System. Conducting educational and outreach activities to better acquaint the general public and resources users with the natural resources and resource protection needs of the State Preserve and State Park. Participating in public outreach events by preparing displays and conducting presentations.

Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

Pursue proactive development of educational programs for homeowners, developers, new residents, landscape professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to provide information on the impacts of various water uses and the health of the Wekiva River Basin.

Create and implement a communication program for residents, businesses, landscaping professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to address fertilizer application practices and the harm caused by nutrient loading to surface water and groundwater quality.

Recreational Assessment

Create a Recreation Assessment to determine who is currently using the river, how use is projected to change and what uses are compatible with each river segment.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

Develop literature, courses and presentations to promote stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources that emphasizes and foster the designation of the Wekiva River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Historic and Cultural Educational Materials

Incorporate historic and cultural research findings into educational programming, interpretation, and public relations materials, as appropriate.

Research Grants and Track Funds

Research grants, complete applications for submittal and track projects funded by awarded grants.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Assist key State Park and Aquatic Preserve personnel with implementation of projects identified by the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Committee

Training

Training and Educational Seminars

Other

Work associated with Position

Virginia Oros
Wild & Scenic River Ambassador
Activities Report Summary
July - August 2012

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

- Participated and assisted in the Little Wekiva clean-up with Friends of Wekiva River and Keep Seminole Beautiful.

"On The Water" Stewardship and Volunteer Programs

- On the 4th of July, I again kayaked to Shell Island from Wekiwa Springs State Park. Spoke with approximately 25 recreational users regarding litter pickup, birds, animals, plants and fish (non-native and native) found within our ecosystem. Cut down the rope swing; asked 5 people trespassing to leave Shell Island; discussed the importance of the archeological midden site. Several of the visitors assisted me in cutting the rope swing. Information about the site was enlightening to them as they were unaware of what this island represents and they left more knowledgeable as to why there are "No Trespassing" signs on the property. They assisted me in reposting the "No Trespassing" and Educational signs on the island.
- Participated, recruited and scheduled volunteers for the 13th year of the Central Florida Freshwater Turtle Research Group which took place July 23rd - July 27.th Volunteers provided 65 hours.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

- I participated with Barbara Howell in the seventh annual Rollins College "SPARC Day" by leading 35 students, five mentors and Professors Jonathan Walz and Robert Vander Poppen of the Anthropology & Archaeology Program to Shell Island for a litter clean-up and outdoor classroom. SPARC (Service, Philanthropy, Activism, Rollins College) is a fun way for incoming freshman to bond with each other and faculty while continuing the Rollins College tradition of community service. In addition to enjoying a beautiful morning on the river and examining artifacts from a 1980s dig, students witnessed trespassing firsthand and the resultant damage to the archaeological site from erosion, litter, harm to trees from people cutting them for firewood or from using climbing spikes to hang rope swings, and an increase in the erosion of the midden material from compacted soil. Addition erosion, further loss of midden material, and loss of trees are likely, as trees used for rope swings eventually fall into the river. The experience lent itself to conversations and lessons on topics including hydrology, anthropology, stewardship, and liability and fostered a renewed interest in the midden by Rollins College.
- Met with teachers and assistant principal of Piedmont Lakes Middle School with Don Philpott, President of Wekiva Wilderness Trust, to discuss and set dates for the Wekiva ECO program at WSSP in October, 2012.
- Solicited and coordinated with and scheduled volunteers from River Ambassador's list, Wekiva Wilderness Trust, Florida Forest Service and Florida Park Service to lead the five Wekiva ECO education stations along with tram drivers.
- Preparation of schedules for the teachers and chaperones in each group (1 – 5) to distribute to for the Wekiva ECO program.
- Envision Model Presentation given to Wekiva Wilderness Trust at monthly meeting

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

- Camp Wekiva Education Programs – Continued 4 weeks in July teaching 7 classes a week, every Mon. and Tues. for 6 weeks. I had a total of 636 students ranging from 1st grade through 8th grade and a total of 195 adults for a combined total of 831 students. I used the Enviroscope and Envision Model to teach Point and Non-Point Source pollution and Groundwater Pollution using the spring shed model. Two of the students actually drew pictures of the model in their Nature Journal. I randomly handed out questionnaires to both the students and volunteers.
- Participated with the Fish Biologist on Rock Springs Run in the collection of our endangered Bluenose Shiners by way of electro-fishing. I was in the water with the rod and net capturing bluenose shiners for DNA sampling. This was an additional trip made by teams from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation in conjunction with the University of Florida for DNA research sparked by the capture of the Bluenose Shiner during the Bioblitz event.
- Downloaded and reviewed hundreds of pictures from various projects that I participated in to use for presentations and reporting purposes.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Meetings

- Friends of the Wekiva River July 12, 2012 & August 2, 2012
- Wekiva Wilderness Trust July 11, 2012 & August 1, 2012

Other

- Completed bi-weekly DEP Admin. payroll and monthly vehicles/vessel log submission.
- Contributed to the CAMA Quarterly Report.
- Prepared monthly AMC Reports.

Total Volunteer Hours

- Central Florida Freshwater Turtle Research Group = 13 volunteers over a 5 day period X 5 hrs/day = 65 hours

Wild and Scenic River Ambassador Project Description with ORV's Goals and Objectives

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

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Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

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"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

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Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

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National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

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Historic and Cultural Educational Materials

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Research Grants and Track Funds

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State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by WWSRSAC

Assist key State Park and Aquatic Preserve personnel with implementation of projects identified by the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Committee

Training

Training and Educational Seminars

Other

Work associated with Position

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Activities Report Summary
March - April 2012

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

- Participated and assisted in the annual Ibini Tera clean-up on the Wekiva River under SR 46 Bridge.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

- Participated, recruited and scheduled volunteers for the 14th year of the Central Florida Turtle Research Group Research which took place March 13 - 16th at Wekiwa Spring Run.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

- Continuing working with FOWR BioBlitz and Essay Contest.
- Finalized FOWR Bioblitz Essay Contest Guidelines with Sub-Committee and Chairwomen of Camp Wekiva.
- Prepared, organized and sent out flyers/information to be distributed to students/teachers/parents at Bear Lake Elementary and Teague Middle School regarding FOWR Essay Contest.
- Attended the FOWR BioBlitz Celebration at Katie's Landing & assisted with canoe tours following celebration.

Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

- Ordered the Enviroscape, a non-point source landscape model.
- Ordered and picked up the Envision Springs Model with assistance from Don Philpott of the Wekiva Wilderness Trust. Continued preparation of power point presentations to show water quality and quantity issues, pollution and how our groundwater recharges our aquifer, rivers and lakes.
- Gave power point presentation to two 6th grade classes at Piedmont Lakes Middle School.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

- Reviewed and organized pictures from various projects that I participated in to use for presentations and reporting purposes.
- Finalized the presentation for the Nature Club at Piedmont Lakes Middle School (scheduled for April).
- Assisted the UF Invertebrate Biologists with research on Rock Springs Run for the Friends of Wekiva River BioBlitz
- Assisted the UF Fish Biologists on the Wekiva River for the Friends of Wekiva River BioBlitz
- Assisted the Bird Biologist on the Wekiva River for the Friends of Wekiva River BioBlitz
- Assisted with planning for the Friends of Wekiva River 30th Anniversary and BioBlitz Tally at Katie's Landing Grand Opening. Served as a river tour canoe guide.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Management Committee

Meetings Attended

- Friends of the Wekiva River regular monthly meetings March 1 & April 5, 2012
- Wekiva Wilderness Trust regular monthly meetings March 7 & April 4, 2012
- AMC sub-committee Meeting March 22, 2012 (Postponed until May 8th)
- Several Bioblitz sub-committee meetings to finalize the logo, flyer/postcard, food, canoe field trip etc.

- Wekiva Wild and Scenic Paddle Guide - Review the first draft of the guides; provided edits; suggested revisions. Discussed same with Amy Kotrola, WSSP Assistant Park Manager.
- Hiked Lower Wekiva River Preserve with volunteer Mark Earle to inspect a possible new midden site on the Lower Wekiva River near Boatman's Slough.

Other

- DEP Admin. payroll and vehicles-vessel log submission.
- Contributed to the CAMA Quarterly Report.
- Prepared monthly AMC Reports.
- Attended Michael Barr's Memorial Service at Wekiva Island. Michael was the founder of Keep Seminole Beautiful. For the past 5 years, Mike promoted river stewardship by conducting 2 clean-ups a month on the Wekiva River from Wekiva Island and Wekiva Falls.

Volunteer Hours

- Central Florida Freshwater Turtle Research Group = 13 volunteers over a 4 day period. X 5 hrs/day = 65 hours

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

Expand current partnerships with private businesses and concessionaires who operate on the river or within the Wekiva Basin parks.

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

Continue to implement and strengthen the existing Adopt A River monitoring, control and removal plan for litter along and within the Wekiva River System.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

Develop and coordinate an "on the water" volunteer based stewardship program that provides a presence within the waters designated Wild and Scenic, state park and aquatic preserves with the goal of promoting stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources. Recruiting and training volunteers.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

Pursue events that encourage people to directly experience and learn about the Wekiva River System. Conducting educational and outreach activities to better acquaint the general public and resources users with the natural resources and resource protection needs of the State Preserve and State Park. Participating in public outreach events by preparing displays and conducting presentations.

Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

Pursue proactive development of educational programs for homeowners, developers, new residents, landscape professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to provide information on the impacts of various water uses and the health of the Wekiva River Basin.

Create and implement a communication program for residents, businesses, landscaping professionals and public employees whose work involves landscaping to address fertilizer application practices and the harm caused by nutrient loading to surface water and groundwater quality.

Recreational Assessment

Create a Recreation Assessment to determine who is currently using the river, how use is projected to change and what uses are compatible with each river segment.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

Develop literature, courses and presentations to promote stewardship and understanding of local riverine resources that emphasizes and foster the designation of the Wekiva River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Historic and Cultural Educational Materials

Incorporate historic and cultural research findings into educational programming, interpretation, and public relations materials, as appropriate.

Research Grants and Track Funds

Research grants, complete applications for submittal and track projects funded by awarded grants.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Management Committee

Assist key State Park and Aquatic Preserve personnel with implementation of projects identified by the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Committee

Training

Training and Educational Seminars

Other

Work associated with Position

Virginia Oros
Wild & Scenic River Ambassador
Activities Report Summary
May - June 2012

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

- Coordinated with Wekiva Island regarding giving Wild and Scenic presentations to their patrons at their new education building. I will use various education materials including the Envision and Enviroscape Models that demonstrate the Anatomy of a Spring, groundwater and surface water pollution.
- Coordinated with Bob Loomis to obtain launch access for researchers from UF investigating freshwater fish, specifically the Bluenose Shiner.

Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

- Kayaked to Shell Island from Wekiwa Springs State Park. Spoke with approximately 20 recreational users regarding litter pickup, birds, animals, plants and fish (non-native and native) found within our ecosystem. Cut down the rope swing; asked 11 people trespassing to leave Shell Island; and discussed the importance of the archeological midden site. The majority of the visitors assisted me in cutting the rope swing and cleaning up the island. Information about the site was enlightening to them as they were unaware of what this island represents and they left more knowledgably as to why there are "No Trespassing" signs on the property. They assisted me in reposting the "No Trespassing" signs as well.

"On The Water" Volunteer Programs

- Continued discussions with Warren Poplin and David Scharr, Jr., Environmental Supervisor II, Surface Water Biologist, to assist and get certified to teach the canoe water safety class to our volunteers.

Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

- Donation of two camperships to Camp Wekiva - Met with Bette Moore, next year's Chairwomen of Camp Wekiva; discussed the potential for an annual donation of camperships for the winners of FOWR Nature Essay Contest and the continued support from the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.
- Earth Day at Lawton Chiles Middle School - focused on education about animals and pollution. Approximately 700 students came through the courtyard and approximately 200 students stopped by my W & S booth and Wekiva Wilderness Trust booth. WWT brought a rat snake and Lucky, the gopher tortoise which were a big hit.
- Continued coordination with the Assistant Principal and teachers at Piedmont Lakes Middle School and Don Philpott from WWT on a Pilot Outdoor Education Program at Wekiwa Springs State Park. Approximately 80 students could be accommodated in four groups of 20, rotating thru 4 different learning stations. The stations would include the Wet to Dry Trail, an uplands hike, Anatomy of a Spring, and lastly a guided tour of the Nature Center. Each learning station would be guided by an educator and several teacher chaperones. My goal is to branch out to various schools around the counties for 1 school trip per month.

National Wild and Scenic River System-Wekiva River System

- Camp Wekiva Education Programs – Taught 7 classes a week, every Mon. and Tues. for 6 weeks. I had a total of 636 students ranging from 1st grade through 7th grade and a total of 195 adults for a combined total of 831 students. I used the Enviroscape and Envision Model to teach Point and Non-Point Source pollution and Groundwater Pollution using the spring shed model. Two of the students

actually drew pictures of the model in their Nature Journal. I randomly handed out questionnaires to both the students and volunteers.

- Wekiva Promise Magazines to 1st Lady of Florida, Ann Scott - While at Camp Wekiva, 1st Lady of Florida, Ann Scott made an appearance to read to the campers promoting her Literacy Program. I had the opportunity to present 2 Promise Magazine's, one for her and one to give to Gov. Scott.
- Wekiva Wild and Scenic Management Plan Celebration – Attended this gathering at Katie's Landing. I chaired the Refreshment Committee, purchased food and drinks for the celebration and assisted in the canoe tours following celebration.
- Blackwater Creek Cultural Survey – On May 24th, I surveyed Blackwater Creek in Seminole State Forest with an interagency team working to create a low-impact, interactive interpretive paddling trail. Barbara Howell, (Wekiva AP), Richard Estabrook (USF Department of Anthropology), Joe Bishop and Mike Martin (Florida Forest Service), Jean Marie Conner (FWC), Bill Belleville (environmental author and filmmaker) and Mark Schweder (volunteer) made up the rest of the team.
- Downloaded and reviewed pictures from various projects that I participated in to use for presentations and reporting purposes.

Research Grants and Track Funds

- Joined the Wekiva Wilderness Trust Grant sub-committee to research grants for the funding of their new Nature Center at Wekiwa Springs State Park and also for funding potential future Wild and Scenic River projects.

State Park and Aquatic Preserve Projects Identified by Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Advisory Management Committee

Meetings attended

- Friends of the Wekiva River regular monthly meeting May 3, 2012
- Wekiva Wilderness Trust regular monthly meeting May 2, 2012 & June 6, 2012
- AMC sub-committee Meeting May 8, 2012
- Responded to a citizen's report of a possible new Midden site within the Lower Wekiva Reserve State Park near Boatman's Slough on the Wekiva River.

Training

- On-going reading materials assignments including: Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Florida, and other pertinent job related materials.

Other

- DEP Admin. payroll and vehicles-vessel log submission.
- Contributed to the CAMA Quarterly Report.
- Prepared monthly AMC Reports.

Volunteer Hours

- Central Florida Freshwater Turtle Research Group – as in March, I coordinated 14 volunteers over a 5 day period. 14 volunteers @ 5 hrs/day = 70 hours
- Attended a training workshop on the use of the Enviroscape model. I used the model at Camp Wekiva and will use at future presentations. The experienced teacher volunteered 5 hours to teach me about use of the model.

Wild and Scenic River Ambassador Project Description with ORV's Goals and Objectives

Scenic Goal 1, Objective D & Recreation Goal 2, Objective B

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Scenic Goal 2, Objective H

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Public Outreach Goal 1, Objective D

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Public Outreach Goal 2, Objective A

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