

# THE KINGFISHER

KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR RIVER



Vol. 7 Spring 2010

## MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE



### *Dear Friends of the River:*

Our members, like water to the St. Johns River, are the lifeblood of this organization. You sustain us financially. You advocate for the protection and restoration of the St. Johns. You volunteer your time and talents to help with events and programs. You use your voices to carry the river's message to your friends, family and elected officials. For all that you do to make this work possible, we thank you.

In these tough economic times, our river and St. Johns Riverkeeper need your help and commitment more than ever. As we conclude ten years of service and enter a new chapter in the organization's history, our river is facing tremendous threats to its health. A strong and effective St. Johns Riverkeeper organization is essential to the future of the St. Johns.

We can't afford to neglect the needs of the river. We can't allow it to slip down the list of priorities. Our river is too valuable and important to our economy, to our quality of life, and to who we are as a community.

Together, we can turn the corner on pollution and failed policies of the past. By growing our membership and involving more people in our important work, we can have a clean and health St. Johns River.

### **THE MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

Fortunately, a generous supporter has pledged to match all new membership contributions and increased contributions from current members in 2010. For every \$2 that you contribute in new and increased membership contributions, we will receive a \$1 matching gift up to \$50,000. Help us raise \$100,000 and win the challenge!

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We are asking that each of you make a pledge to help in some way to successfully meet this challenge.

- If possible, reach deep in your pocket and give a little bit more this year.
- Recruit your friends and family to join the team and become members. Share a copy of our 10-year anniversary commemorative magazine and help spread the word.
- If you are not a member or your membership has lapsed, please join or renew your support.

Our success is dependent upon you and your involvement.

Not many safe, sure-bet investments exist in today's economy. However, an investment in our river and St. Johns Riverkeeper continues to be a wise use of your time and money. The return is something we can all benefit from and be proud of – a clean and healthy St. Johns River.

For the River,

Neil Armingeon

Your St. Johns Riverkeeper

## Celebrating the Past, Preparing for the Future

The River Luncheon on March 3rd was a rousing success! Over 300 people attended to celebrate our 10-year anniversary and to learn about the challenges that lay ahead. Our speaker, Cynthia Barnett, articulated the need for a water ethic in Florida and a more sustainable use of our water resources. Barnett, the author of *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*, concluded by saying, "In the 19th Century, we over-drained this most important resource, held in the public trust for all Floridians. In the 20th Century, we over-pumped it. In the 21st Century, Florida has a chance to turn down a new, blue path. To show how a dynamic state can prosper using far less water."

We are grateful to all of the Patron Table Sponsors and to everyone who attended.

*Special thanks to:*

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>Presenting Sponsor</i> | <i>Pat and Wayne Hogan</i>                     |
| <i>Event Sponsors</i>     | <i>EverBank, CNL Bank, The Haskell Company</i> |
| <i>Host Committee</i>     | <i>Water Policy Group</i>                      |
| <i>Co-Chairs</i>          | <i>David Strickland &amp; Barbara Ketchum</i>  |



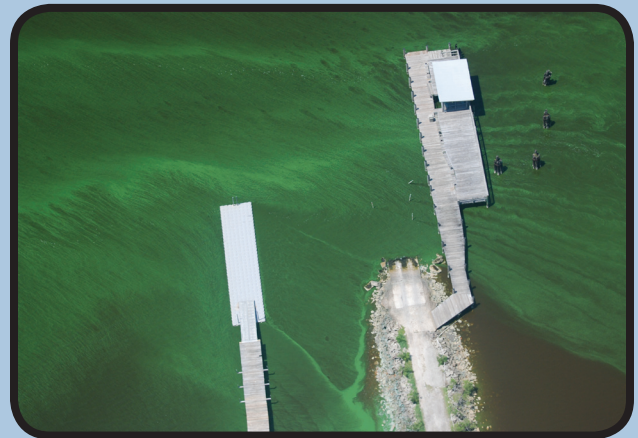
## St. Johns Riverkeeper Update

Our 10-year anniversary coincides with an important crossroads in the future of our river. Do we continue with the ways of the past that have resulted in the degradation of many of our waterways? Or, do we choose a new road that will lead us to a clean and healthy St. Johns River? The latter will require a significant commitment from us and our political representatives. We all must take responsibility to do our part to protect the St. Johns. We also must be willing to take a stand for the conservation of our water resources and the restoration of our river.

We need your help. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed Numeric Nutrient Standards (NNS) for Florida's rivers, lakes and springs. The nutrient standards would place limits on the nitrogen and phosphorous pollution that is triggering algal blooms and is poisoning our waterways. Please, tell the EPA and your elected officials that you support the proposed Numeric Nutrient Standards.

You can submit comments to the EPA online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by e-mail to [ow-docket@epa.gov](mailto:ow-docket@epa.gov). Be sure to include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0596 with your comments. You can find more information about this critical issue on our blog: [www.riverhugger.com](http://www.riverhugger.com).

Also, please let your elected officials know that you support water conservation and reuse as our first priority. By focusing on conservation, we can protect our springs and groundwater and avoid the withdrawal of millions of gallons of water from the St. Johns. Water conservation and reuse are simply more cost effective and pose far less risk of potential harm to our river.



2009 algal bloom at Bolles School in Jacksonville  
Dr. Gerry Pinto, Jacksonville University

*Visit [Riverhugger.com](http://Riverhugger.com) for the latest news and updates.*



**JOIN**  
ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER®  
[stjohnsriverkeeper.org/join](http://stjohnsriverkeeper.org/join)



cut off and mail to:

St. Johns Riverkeeper 2800 University Blvd. N. Jacksonville, FL 32211

**Join St. Johns RIVERKEEPER® today and help save our river.**

☐ \$500 Patron ☐ \$250 Supporter ☐ \$100 Contributor  
☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$30 Individual ☐ Other

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CC# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

## March – River Month

27. River Day at RAM – Riverside Arts Market, 10 am - 4 pm

St. Johns Riverkeeper will be offering educational activities and boat trips.

## April

8-9 & 10-11 Eco-Heritage Boat Trip: (Sold out!)

Contact Kelly Savage at [kelly@stjohnsriverkeeper.org](mailto:kelly@stjohnsriverkeeper.org) to be placed on a waiting list for future trips.

10. River Celebration Day @ Walter Jones Historical Park, 11 am - 4pm

Boat trips, Riverkeeper Kids Zone

17. Bartram Birthday Bash, Alpine Groves Park, St. Johns Co., 10 am - 4pm

Decorated bike parade

17. Guided River Walk, Theodore Roosevelt Park, 10 am - Noon

22. Speaking of Flora, Fauna & Geography with photographer and writer John Moran, MOSH, 6 pm, Donation requested.

23. PSA Video Contest Deadline

See website for more details.

## May

8. History Boat Trip, 10 am - noon

A two-hour family boat trip that focuses on the history of the river and our community.

15. Ripples on the River, JU

22. Kayak Eco-tour Fundraiser with Ripple Effects Ecotours

Kayak the Hontoon Dead River to benefit Riverkeeper. Call 904-347-1565 for more information and to register.

## June

19. Writer's Workshop with Victoria Freeman, House on Cherry Street

21. Summer River Camp, Walter Jones Historical Park, Week 1

26. Kayak Eco-tour Fundraiser with Kayak Amelia

Call 904-251-0016 for more information and to register.

27. Liquid Muse: A Benefit for Riverkeeper, Florida Theatre, Jacksonville

An array of outstanding musicians and artists will be performing to celebrate the St. Johns River and our 10-year anniversary.

28. Summer River Camp, Week 2

## July

5. Summer River Camp, Week 3

10. Kayak Amelia Sunset Fundraiser

12. Summer River Camp, Week 4

## November

19. 9th Annual Oyster Roast

For more information: [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org) or 904-256-7591.



## SJRK To Do's

- Create and maintain a river-friendly yard
- Conserve water
- Get a guidebook and explore the river
- Renew your membership
- Recruit friends to join St. Johns Riverkeeper



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Jacksonville, FL  
PERMIT NO. 4700

[www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org)  
phone 904.256.7591  
fax 904.256.7573



*This newsletter is Green-e certified, Green seal certified, recycled 30%, ECF and acid-free.*

## Ripples on the River

St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Marine Science Research Institute of Jacksonville University invite you to join us for a fun and informative celebration of the river.

We will have music, delicious food and drinks, boat rides and educational activities for the kids. Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fellowship and fun!

Saturday, May 15

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Jacksonville University

Negaard Rowing Center

Suggested Donation: \$10 per person, Kids FREE!

Cash or Check at the door.

RSVP to Lauren at 904-256-7095 by May 10.



The MSRI is almost complete. Come see the future offices of St. Johns Riverkeeper. For more information, go to [www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org](http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org).

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