Apalachicola Basin Trails
Trail photos by Doug Alderson
First, about Apalachicola Riverkeeper and the river basin. We are dedicated to the protection, restoration and stewardship of the Apalachicola River and Bay…
Apalachicola Riverkeeper… member of the Waterkeeper Alliance and Waterkeepers Florida
Non-profit group with 2 full-time staff, 2 part-time staff and 1,400 members. Funded through memberships, donations and foundations. Advocacy at local, state and federal levels is a priority.
Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin Ecosystem

19,600 Square Mile Watershed spans 550 miles. Apalachicola Basin is 15% of ACF Basin.

• 4 Geologic Provinces from foothills of the Smoky Mountains to Gulf of Mexico

• 3rd largest river draining to the Gulf of Mexico. Impacting Fisheries 250 Miles out into the Eastern Gulf

• Sustains 8 Million+ People
Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin

- 3 States (AL, FL, GA)
- Chattahoochee River – USACE operates 5 Federal Reservoirs
- Lower Flint & Chipola Rivers - breadbasket of the SE
- Water uses include: Hydropower, Flood Control, Navigation, Ag, M&I, Water Quality, Cooling, Recreation
Primary Threat:

Impacts of low water on oysters and livelihoods...
Floodplain impacts:
4.3 million trees lost, impacting bay and tupelo honey production…

Addressing problems through legal challenges, regional stakeholder groups, outreach and public education
Slough Restoration Project underway!
East River, Douglas Slough and Spider’s Cut will be opened up after being choked off by past dredging practices, reconnecting the sloughs to the main channel during times of low flow. Water will push out into the floodplain during high flows.
Microplastics and water quality sampling and analysis by staff and volunteers
Volunteer River and bay Clean-ups
Eco-educational Outings on land and water!
Welcome to the Apalachicola Basin Trail Guide webpage. Here is where you can find hiking, biking and paddling trail information for the Apalachicola Basin. We will be scouting and mapping more trails and adding them to the website in the months to come thanks to a $4,000 grant from the Felburn Foundation, so check back often.

Two FSU students, Tyler Osha and Dasha Kosheleva, created story maps of some of the Apalachicola Basin’s many hiking and paddling trails as part of the Sustainability Fellows Program. Tyler is graduating in Environmental Science and Policy while Dasha is finishing her Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Their story maps, accessed from one’s phone or computer, combine interactive maps, photos and descriptions of the trails. Check out Tyler and Dasha’s story map project. It doesn’t cover every trail in the basin, but it provides a good sampling. Here is a video of Tyler and Dasha’s presentation about the project. And here is a link to the Tallahassee Democrat article about the project.
Fascinating pitcher plant bogs near Sumatra.
Unique dwarf cypress forest in Tate’s Hell
More than 1,300 species of plants, including 103 that are threatened or endangered, are found in the Apalachicola drainage basin. The basin is one of six biodiversity hotspots in North America.
More than 50 species of mammals, including the Florida black bear and the threatened West Indian Manatee, are found in the Apalachicola drainage basin.
More than 282 avian species, including 164 migratory bird species, reside for at least part of the year in the Apalachicola floodplain and bay.
More than 131 species of fresh and estuarine fish live in the Apalachicola River, more varieties than in any other river in Florida. More than 140 species of fish are found in the Bay.
More than 40 species of amphibians and 80 species of reptiles live in the Apalachicola River basin, the highest diversity in all of the United States and Canada!
30 federally threatened or endangered animal species inhabit the Apalachicola River Basin. Shown here: track of a Florida black bear, Apalachicola dusky salamander, fat three ridge mussel shells.
Hickory Landing along Owl Creek
Kennedy Creek
Paddling upper Kennedy Creek
Cypress trees along Kennedy Creek
Kennedy Creek
Little blue heron
Brown water snake on Kennedy Creek
Ft. Gadsden Creek, Poplar Creek and South Prong
Unusual cypress along South Prong
Access at Cash Creek
Paddling Graham Creek
East River paddlers
New River
Lower Dead Lakes
Ocheese Pond
Chipola River wonders
Merritt’s Mill Pond
Merritt’s Mill Pond underwater scenes
106-mile Apalachicola Blueway
Wildlife along the Blueway
RiverTrek kayakers taking a swim break along the Blueway
Garden of Eden Trail near Bristol
Along the Garden of Eden Trail
Garden of Eden Trail views
Torreya State Park scenes along the trails
Florida National Scenic Trail
Enjoy the Trails!