

Our Mission | To protect  
and enrich the St. Marys  
River watershed



## RIVERKEEPER NEWS | FEBRUARY 2022

### *Your St. Marys Riverkeeper - Emily*

I am honored to join the St. Marys Riverkeeper family and am looking forward to getting to know the community that calls this watershed home. As a steward of the St. Marys River, I am charged with ensuring that all who care for the River are engaged in its protection. We must continue to give this small but mighty river a voice through scientific investigation, education, advocacy, and engagement. The St. Marys River is critically important to our community that relies on clean, fresh water for recreation, tourism and our livelihoods. Join us and together we can preserve and protect the St. Marys River!

See you on the river soon.

Emily Floore  
Executive Director/St. Marys Riverkeeper



*Photo credit Corwyn O'Neil Media*

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## 2021 Review

- In partnership with UNF Coastal Biology students, we launched our Living Shorelines Habitat Restoration Project to support our water quality and coastal resiliency efforts!



- Georgia Adopt-A-Stream awarded us with the "Watershed Award" (NGO) for our outstanding volunteer monitors, trainers and groups. The data collected has been integral in efforts to replace dozens of septic tanks and make other critical decisions regarding the health of the river.



- At our annual River Cleanup, 250 volunteers contributed more than 570 service hours to remove 8 tons of trash and debris from the St. Marys River and its tributaries. Way to go!



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Kendra Shafer** has been doing writing and communications for the Riverkeeper for the last year and a half. She and her husband, Matt, first attended a Riverkeeper event in August, 2020, with the intention of asking about the possibility of using their boat as a way to help volunteer. She has several Riverkeeper-related photo stories published in area newspapers and magazines, and continuously updates the website. A former middle school language arts teacher and journalist, she loves getting to put her skills to use and learn new ways to help the environment. "This is a wonderful organization to volunteer for, there's so much that can be done to help the river," she said. "You won't find a nicer group of people to work with."



Kendra and husband, Matt, helping install oyster beds for Living Shorelines project

## Citizen Science Opportunity

St. Marys Riverkeeper is focused on identifying sources of non-point-source pollution by regularly sampling more than 50 sites throughout the watershed. A dedicated system of Citizen Scientists are trained to monitor water quality using Georgia Adopt-a-Stream protocols, and we also train teachers and students at high schools in Georgia and Florida to provide the chemical and bacterial water data. We share our data widely and work closely with government agencies to provide critical information needed to maintain clean water systems. Upcoming training at Okefenokee Swamp Park in Waycross, GA



## Save the Date!

Visit our website for more information and event registration.

**FEBRUARY 18-20:** Georgia Adopt-a-Stream Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring training. Location: Okefenokee Swamp Park in Waycross, GA.

**MARCH 5:** St. Marys Riverkeeper's 6th Birthday Celebration. Location: Okefenokee Swamp Park in Waycross, GA.

**MARCH 26:** Paddle the Swamp! Inaugural Clean Water Act Event. Location: Okefenokee Adventures, Folkston, GA.

**APRIL 23:** Annual River Cleanup. Location: St. Marys River Watershed

## Annual River Clean-up



A River is only as healthy as its tributaries. Join us April 23rd for the annual watershed wide St. Marys River cleanup. All cleanup materials will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to wear a mask, closed toe shoes, rain boots and bring waders, if you have them. Feel free to bring your own heavy-duty gloves, reusable water bottles, and snacks. Volunteer registration will

be available soon. For those interested in becoming a Site Captain or a Sponsor, please contact Emily Floore. Thank you to Keep Nassau Beautiful and White Oak Conservation for their continued partnership to make this event a success each year.

### Members Only Event:

## 6th Birthday Celebration

Come celebrate St. Marys Riverkeeper's 6th birthday March 5 from 11:00a-2:00p! Make a day of it at Okefenokee Swamp Park in Waycross, GA. This is a MEMBERS ONLY family friendly event which includes a picnic style lunch, kids activities, boat and train tours before and after, raffle items, Riverkeeper merchandise, and a chat with St. Marys Riverkeeper about goals for 2022. Join us and together we can preserve and protect the St. Marys River! Volunteers and Sponsors needed, contact Emily Floore.

# CLEAN WATER ACT<sup>50</sup>

## #Act50

This year, we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. In 1972, this landmark piece of legislation established precedent-setting pollution standards and provided legal standing to citizens allowing them to advocate directly on behalf of their waterways. However, it has still not been fully implemented and much more needs to be done to address the ongoing and emerging threats to the health of our waterways. Join us to celebrate 50 years of the Clean Water Act and ways you can get involved to ensure our River remains swimmable, drinkable, and fishable.



Not a St. Marys Riverkeeper member yet?

**Become one  
TODAY!**



**YOU CAN HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**BECOME A MEMBER! MAKE A DONATION! VOLUNTEER!**



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**PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR ADVOCACY WORK FOR THE ST. MARYS RIVER.**