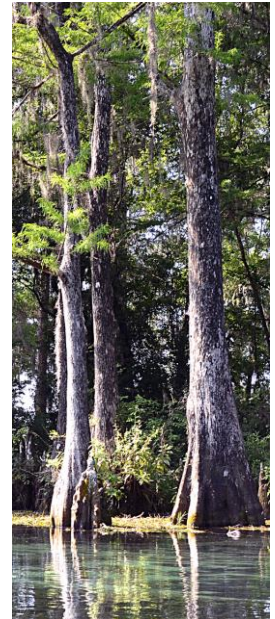




RRC continues to advocate for protection of the Rainbow River and its environment.

### Rainbow River Ranch Litigation

On July 3<sup>rd</sup> a case management conference was held in judge's chambers to discuss the direction of the Bert Harris lawsuit brought by the RRR developer against the City of Dunnellon. The City capitulated to the developer in 2010 in a settlement agreement that promised land use and facilities that would be very expensive to the City and threaten the Rainbow River. Thus, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), RRC, and 15 individuals legally intervened in the settlement agreement. In the interim Governor Scott eliminated the DCA and replaced it with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Last year the DEO joined the developer and the City in a renewed settlement agreement which effectively is the same as the 2010 version. The developer's attorney moved for a non-evidentiary hearing in hopes of getting the court to accept the settlement agreement while our attorney has responded with a request for an evidentiary hearing with witness testimony. A date will be set for the non-evidentiary hearing and we hope that the result is an order for an evidentiary hearing where our objections to the settlement agreement can be fully heard by the court. For further information see the court filings items 29 through 33 under Litigation at [www.RainbowRiverConservation.com](http://www.RainbowRiverConservation.com).

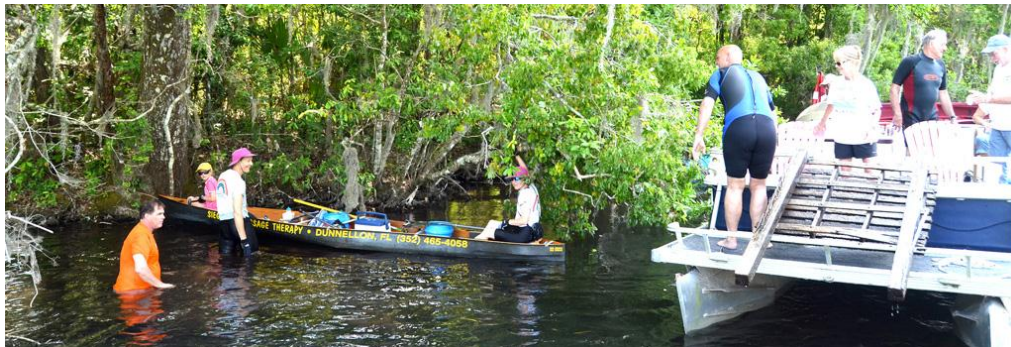


In our Spring newsletter we appealed for donations to our legal fund at the address in the footnote below. It is very important that we raise enough money to pay our attorney and our expert witnesses and, because of this, President Burt Eno has promised a 50% match to all such donations. Donations to date have been \$1600 and President Eno wrote a personal check for \$1000 at our last Board meeting. Please consider helping this worthy cause with your tax deductible contribution.

### Projects

RRC had its education booth set up for Boomtown Days in April and engaged in good conversations with visitors. Rain dampened the event on Saturday but Sunday was busy. Approximately 250 signatures were gathered on the Water & Land Legacy petition.

The Annual River Cleanup in May was a robust success with about 175 volunteers participating. Vice-President Jerry Rogers did his usual outstanding job of organizing this event and all attendees had a good time at the picnic.



Using teamwork to clear large wood structures during river cleanup 2013

## River Recreation

The Recreation Guidelines Project headed up by Kathryn Taubert has garnered input from a large number of stakeholders including representatives from city, county and state agencies as well as 11 stakeholder groups involved in river recreation. The final draft is now being reviewed by FWC, Florida Parks and Recreation, and SWFWMD. The Guidelines will be distributed in a variety of formats to river recreational users, commercial operators and property owners to help individuals learn what specifically they can do to protect the river.

One of the problems on the river is the enormous number of tubers on the summer weekends. Motorboats, in an effort to avoid the tubers, often move into shallow areas and tear up the natural vegetation which provides habitation for the aquatic life. This is particularly bad when tubers tie themselves together in large groups while floating down the river. The City of Dunnellon, within its area of jurisdiction, has an ordinance which disallows this grouping of tubers while the County does not have such a restriction. Some resolution between the two jurisdictions needs to be found with regard to river ordinances.



Tubers floating down the Rainbow River on a May weekend. Crowds grow larger on summer weekends.

## Membership and Minutes

RRC now has approximately 250 members. Some members are in arrears on their dues and will be dropped from membership at the end of the year if dues are not paid. Some members have requested copies of the minutes taken at Board meetings. If you would like to receive a copy of the minutes after approval by the Board, and have an email address on file with us, please let us know by return email.

Enjoy the beautiful Rainbow River Aquatic Preserve but please realize its fragility and treat it with care. The water quality and habitat allow many species such as Sandhill Cranes, Gallinules and Anhingas to breed and flourish in this preserve.

