



RRC continues in its efforts to protect the Rainbow River and its environment through conservation, education, advocacy, and stewardship.

Annual Meeting and Membership Renewal

RRC will hold its annual meeting the morning of December 7th starting at 9 AM at the Rainbow Rivers Club (Directions can be found at our website www.RainbowRiverConservation.com.) Our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert Knight, Director of the Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute, whose topic will be “Rainbow Springs Restoration Plan”. This plan was developed by Dr. Knight and his staff under a grant from the Felburn Foundation administered by RRC. The full document may be found on the RRC website. President Burt Eno will also provide an overview of RRC activities and accomplishments of the past year. *All RRC members and the public are encouraged to attend.*

This is *membership renewal time*. Enclosed are a 2014 membership form and a return envelope. Please send your membership fee and mail the completed form as soon as possible. Decals, which sport a new RRC logo, will be sent by return mail. New T-shirts with this logo will be available at the annual meeting.

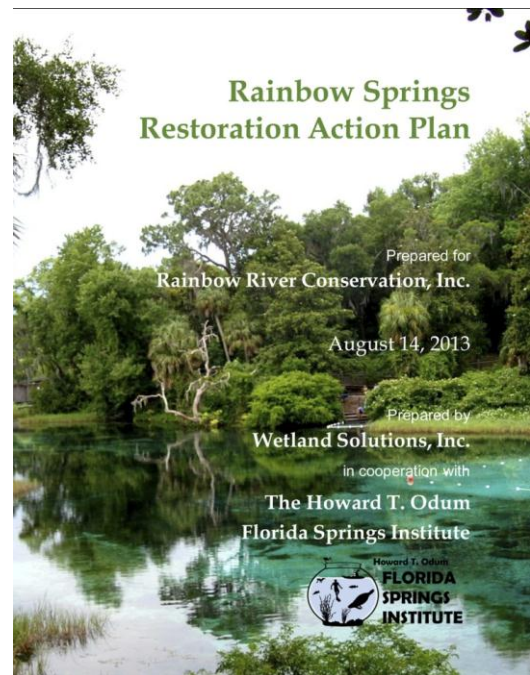


Guidestar “Gold” Rating

RRC has achieved a Guidestar “Gold” rating, one of little more than 1200 nonprofits of the 42,000 member base to do so. Guidestar disseminates information about every IRS-registered nonprofit organization to help donors and volunteers understand each organization’s impact, reputation, finances, programs, governance and more. A free overview of RRC’s Guidestar report is found at www.guidestar.com by searching for Rainbow River Conservation. RRC members are encouraged to add their personal reviews to that site.

River Conditions

Thanks to good rainfall this past spring and summer the Rainbow River is flowing better and clearer than a year ago. Long term reduction in flow and continued growth of algae in the river are still a problem, however, due to excessive aquifer pumping and deposition of nitrates in the 700 sq.mi. recharge area. This will be addressed in Dr. Knight’s presentation at our annual meeting. Targeting reductions in nitrate pollution has begun to be addressed by FDEP in its newly initiated Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) and Best Management Plans (BMPs) for agricultural operations.



Federal Anti-Degradation Policy

The federal Clean Water Act of 1972 contains an anti-degradation policy applicable to United States water bodies. The State of Florida interprets this to be applicable to Outstanding Florida Waters such as the Rainbow River. However, in practice, the FDEP separates water quality from water quantity in allowing water management districts to set minimum flows and levels (MFLs) without consideration of water quality. SOS NOW (Save Our Springs, Nature's Original Wealth) is a coalition of stakeholders which has sponsored petitioning the FDEP to amend their policy to include anti-degradation in determining MFLs. RRC has joined this coalition and President Eno serves on the SOS NOW steering committee.

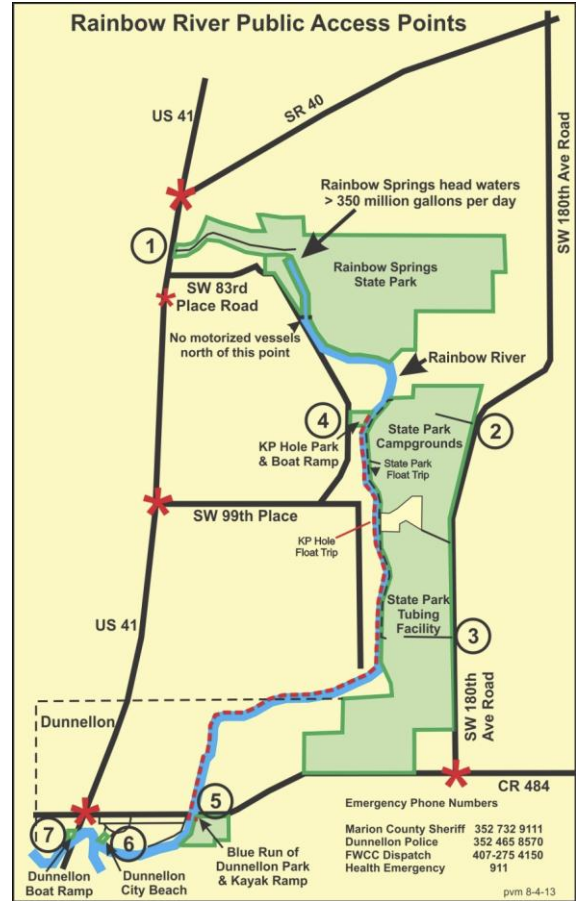
Recreation Guidelines Project

Recreational User Guidelines for the Rainbow River have been developed by a task force of stakeholders representing city, county and state agencies, as well as commercial operations and nine other user groups. The guidelines specify things recreational users and property owners can do to help protect the Rainbow River while staying safe and having fun. Funding is being sought to produce and distribute souvenir-quality brochures containing the guidelines.

Rainbow River Ranch Litigation

Based on a hearing held August 15th Judge Rogers determined that a non-evidentiary hearing would be held January 13th to hear attorney arguments pertaining to the RRR/Dunnellon settlement agreement. Attorney Brookes, representing RRC and the individual intervenors, will present his arguments as to why the settlement agreement does not meet the requirements of the Bert Harris Act and does not serve the public good. Documents from our experts, former Secretary of the Department of Community Affairs Tom Pelham and Environmental Scientist Mike Czerwinski, will be used to support his arguments.

Similar to an earlier challenge, donations to support the cost of this litigation will be much appreciated and will now be equally matched by President Eno up to a limit of \$10,000. Please consider adding a generous donation when you return your membership application.



Wood duck female with chicks in the safety of the emergent vegetation along the Rainbow River