



RRC continues in its effort 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 December 5th starting at 9 AM at the Rainbow Rivers Club. For directions refer to www.rainbowriverconservation.com for a map. All members and guests are welcome. Our keynote speaker will be Jeff Sowards, Rainbow River Aquatic Preserve Manager, who will discuss the state of the river and impacts of recreational uses of the river. RRC members will also provide an overview of RRC activities and accomplishments for the year.

This is membership renewal time. For those receiving this correspondence by email please download the accompanying membership application form. For those receiving this correspondence by USPS mail the membership application form is enclosed. Please return the completed form with your membership fee as soon as possible.

A Successful Forum

RRC co-sponsored a Forum on Springs Protection and Land Use Policies with the North Central Florida Smart Growth Coalition on October 12th at the Rainbow Rivers Club. There were approximately 125 attendees on hand including representatives from city, county and state governments as well as from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Guest speakers included Charles Pattison, President of 1000 Friends of Florida, who reviewed the impact of recent state legislation on quantity and quality of our water resources. Charles Lee, Chief Advocate for Audubon of Florida, addressed the threats to the Rainbow and Withlacoochee River basins. Tracy Straub, Marion County Storm Water Engineer, gave an overview of the recently adopted Marion County Springs Protection Ordinance.



Standing Room Only at the Springs Protection and Land Use Ordinance Forum held on Oct. 12, 2009

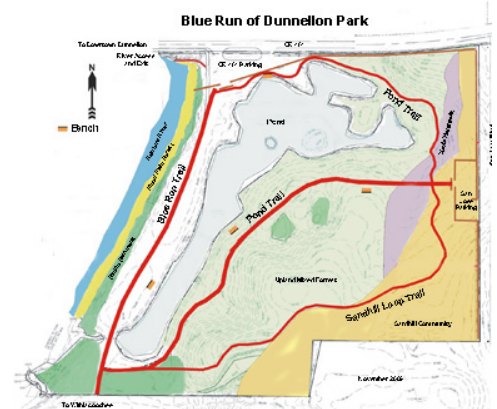
Education Efforts

The Education Committee has been busy. Members of the Committee have developed a DVD which shows the aquatic vegetation and the fish and wildlife in the river that depend on this vegetation, as well as the destruction wreaked by some of the recreational uses of the river. This DVD will be shown at the

annual meeting. Members of the Committee have also been working with Rainbow Springs State Park personnel and Dunnellon High School teachers to assist in teaching students about the ecology of the springs and river. Other educational programs are being planned but the Education Committee could use more members. If you are willing to help the Education Committee please call Terry Blaes at 465-6492.

Blue Run of Dunnellon Park

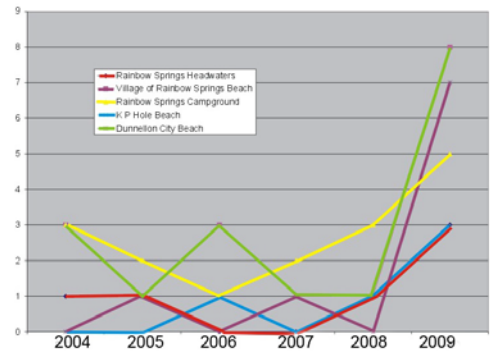
Marion County has completed its design of the CR 484 parking lot and river access ramp. Construction work should begin next month with a completion target of April. The City of Dunnellon has granted a 30' easement to the Office of Greenways and Trails on the south end of the Blue Run Park property for construction of its extension of the Withlacoochee Trail and bridge across the Withlacoochee River. Neither of these projects should hinder use of the walking trails already established in the Park. A Trail Map of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park has been posted on the RRC Web Site. www.RainbowRiverConservation.com



Threats to the Rainbow River

There continues to be many threats to the welfare of the Rainbow River and its wildlife. There are increasing levels of hydrilla and lyngbya due to excessive nitrate levels from fertilizers. Last summer there were several swim area closures due to high enterococci bacteria readings. Because of this the FDEP may place the Rainbow River on its "impaired waters list". Also, record numbers of recreational users occupied the river, most entering the river through KP Hole and the newly opened Rainbow Springs State Park campground.

Rainbow River Beach Closings



There continues the threat of the consequences of intense development close to the river. The Rainbow River Ranch recently sued the City of Dunnellon for loss of land value due to its comprehensive plan update and its River Corridor Protection Ordinance. A plan submitted for a 21 lot subdivision on the northeast portion of this property includes a primitive system which pipes storm water runoff directly to wetlands adjacent to the river.

Florida Forever Program and Springs Protection

As mentioned in our last newsletter the Florida legislature failed to fund the Florida Forever program this year, thus halting our efforts to secure state funding for our Rainbow River Corridor Project, our Cool Springs Project, or improvements for the Blue Run Park. RRC members are encouraged to contact their state senators and representatives to advocate for renewed funding for Florida Forever next year. You are also encouraged to advocate for a statewide bill for springs protection.

Secretary Needed

The RRC Board of Directors needs a secretary to record and transcribe meeting minutes. This is a voluntary office requiring attendance at Board meetings the third Monday evening of each month and enough time to transcribe the minutes each month. If you can serve this important function please contact President Eno at 465-2828.

