

Earth Day celebration “Rollin’ on the River”

April 24, 2019



Canoe paddle on New River led by Sierra Club

The Earth Day celebration “Rollin’ on the River” was held at Brooker on April 20, 2019 and was created by Bradford Environmental Forum and co-sponsored by Bridges Across Borders, Our Santa Fe River, and Suwannee St. John’s Group / Sierra Club. Representatives from these groups met local residents and gave information regarding the phosphate mine threat as well as other environmental issues.



OSFR table with Kristin Rubin and Mike Roth

The family-oriented event had entertainment for youngsters and an egg-shaped piñata to whack. Other highlights were many raffle items, pollinator cans to build, a presentation on the mine by Paul Still, and a great lasagna dinner.



Bounty from the piñata is gathered by Kate Ellison, Woody Blue, Carol Mosley and others.



Suwannee St. John Group Sierra Club table.

A very popular activity was guided canoe and kayak paddles on the new River, led by Sierra Club members Harriet Jones, Whitey Markle, Deanna and Chris Mericle. About 30 people took the trip, many for the first time on New River. Various types of wildlife were seen, including alligators and the somewhat rare alligator snapper.

OSFR was represented by President Mike Roth and board member Kristin Rubin, who provided information and free water at two tables. Your historian was also present.



Paddle leader Whitey Markle.

Most of the preparation was done by Carol Mosley, Kate Ellison and Cathy and Paul Still.



Paddle leader Chris Mericle.

Comments by OSFR historian Jim Tatum.

-A river is like a life: once taken, it cannot be brought back-

Photos by Kate Ellison and your historian.