



About the sponsors

The Hydrogeology Consortium is an informal organization of scientists and water resource experts whose mission is to convey the evolving scientific understanding about groundwater in Florida to the general public and thereby foster more effective management of Florida's water resources.
<http://hydrogeologyconsortium.org> - (850) 386-1944

Friends of Wakulla Springs State Park, Inc. is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Wakulla Springs State Park. We meet in the Wakulla Springs Lodge on the first Thursday of every other month. Visitors are welcome. We especially welcome lovers of Florida's fresh water springs, manatees, alligators, wading and other birds and those who are enthralled at this outstanding opportunity to visit a unique natural attraction.
www.wakullasprings.org - 550 Wakulla Park Drive - Wakulla Springs - FL - 32327-0390 - (850) 224-5950

The Woodville Karst Plain Project (WKPP) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to explore, survey, connect, and protect the underwater cave systems of the Woodville Karst Plain (WKP) by promoting public awareness and education through the excitement of exploration and scientific discovery. Working through partnerships with state, federal, and private landowners, the project's goal is to assist scientists to collect the information needed to make responsible land use decisions to protect the WKP for future generations.
www.wkpp.org - Casey McKinlay, Project Director - (727) 517-9589 - mckinlay@tampabay.rr.com

The Big Bend Environmental Forum is an alliance of organizations which have come together to conserve the region's environmental qualities through education, advocacy, research and, networking among its members. The Forum's primary goals are (1) to identify threats and opportunities to protect and/or enhance the natural resources of the Big Bend Region; (2) to explore potential courses of action to resolve the region's most pressing environmental problems and needs through networking among Forum members and facilitating public input, dialogue, and debate through public forums and workshops; and (3) to conduct research concerning environmental threats and opportunities so members and the public can make informed choices about alternative courses of action to be taken to protect and/or enhance the natural resources of the Big Bend Region.

www.tfn.net/BigBendEnvForum - Steve Urse - (850) 385-2864 - surse2@earthlink.net



October 7, 2004

R.A. Gray Building
Tallahassee, Florida

*Friends of
Wakulla Springs, Inc.*



*BIG BEND
Environmental
Forum*

About the speakers

Sandy Cook is the Manager of Wakulla Springs State Park, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Natural Landmark. These designations are a result of the park's vast array of natural and cultural resources, including a historic 27-room lodge, a fleet of eight tour boats, and nearly 6,000 acres spattered with karst formations. Sandy began her career as a seasonal employee at the age of 16 through a program called the Neighborhood Youth Corps. After graduating from high school, she became a park ranger and eventually progressed through the ranks, working at six different parks from one end of Florida to the other. In 1992 she accepted her current position. Her knowledge of managing the resources is a result of on-the-job training and information exchange with people who care about the resources. The difficult task of being the steward for a wonderful place like Wakulla Springs is made much easier by the many people who provide funding, research, knowledge, and support. She feels fortunate to have worked in state parks for 32 years, and her passion for her work continues to grow. (850-224-5950)

Todd Kincaid is Vice-President of Hazlett-Kincaid, Inc., where he develops digital and visual models of complex geological environments such as karst. He is also Science Director of Global Underwater Explorers, where he coordinates GUE's involvement with underwater research activities. Todd earned BS and MS degrees from the University of Florida in geology and hydrogeology in 1991 and 1994 and a Ph.D. in karst hydrogeology from the University of Wyoming in 1999. His work has addressed various aspects of karst hydrogeology including: quantifying groundwater/surface water interactions in the unconfined Floridan aquifer, identifying hydraulic mechanisms for conduit development and their implications for groundwater protection efforts, and field characterizations and conceptual model development to support advanced numerical modeling techniques in karst aquifers. He is an active underwater cave explorer, having mapped and documented extensive cave systems in Florida, Turkey, and the Yucatan Peninsula. (cell: 775- 722-3974; kincaid@hazlett-kincaid.com)

Jim Stevenson retired as a senior biologist with the Department of Environmental Protection in 2003. Jim began his career with the Department as a park ranger while attending the University of South Florida. He served as Chief Biologist for the Florida State Park System for 20 years, during which he developed the educational and the land management programs for the state park system. Jim organized and chairs spring basin working groups for Wakulla Springs and Ichetucknee Springs. He was Chairman of the Florida Springs Task Force, which develops protection strategies for Florida's springs, and he was Director of the Governor's Florida Springs Initiative, which implements springs protection projects. In recognition of his dedication to the protection of Florida's springs, the State of Florida named a spring on the Suwannee River "Stevenson Spring" in his honor. And for his longstanding stewardship of Florida's public lands, the Governor and Cabinet named the Department of Environmental Protection's highest award after him. The "Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year Award" is given annually to the most deserving state lands manager. (florida_springs@comcast.net)

For more information:

Florida's Springs: Protecting Nature's Gems
(Florida Department of Environmental Protection)
www.floridasprings.org

Hydrogeology of Wakulla Cave
<http://research.gg.uwo.edu/kincaid/Modeling/Wakulla/wakhydro.htm>

Woodville Karst Plain Project Updates
www.gue.com/wkpp

Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park: Science and Research
www.floridastateparks.org/wakullasprings/science.asp

Hazlett-Kincaid, Inc.
www.hazlett-kincaid.com/FGS

Exploring the Secrets of Wakulla Springs

7:00 - 8:30 pm – Presentation

Opening Remarks by Jim Stevenson, Chairman Emeritus, Florida Springs Task Force

Why is Wakulla Springs an international landmark?

Exploring Wakulla – The Mount Everest of Cave Diving, video made by the Woodville Karst Plain Project, narrated by Todd Kincaid

Where are the caves?

Who are the explorers?

Miles back & hundreds of feet down, what's it like to explore Wakulla?

The Scientific Quest for the Source of Wakulla Springs and Answers to Why its Water Quality is Declining, by Todd Kincaid, Vice President, Hazlett-Kincaid, Inc.

What are the problems facing Wakulla?

What are the goals of scientific research in the Woodville Karst Plain?

Tracing studies show that surface water runoff emerges in Wakulla Springs

Collecting groundbreaking data from the depths of Wakulla

What do we know now that we didn't know before?

Making science matter – the REAL challenge!

Success Stories: Making a Difference for Wakulla Springs, by Sandy Cook, Manager of Wakulla Springs State Park

Rethinking sinkholes: cleanup efforts in Wakulla County

Getting involved to make a difference

Closing Remarks by Jim Stevenson, Chairman Emeritus, Florida Springs Task Force

A Vision for Tomorrow

8:30 - 9:00 pm – Reception with the Experts