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Ogeechee Riverkeeper®

Newsletter
May 2023



Welcome ORK's summer intern

John Hendrix is a Statesboro native who just finished his final year at Colorado State University. He studied human dimensions of natural resources with a minor in conservation biology. His upbringing in south Georgia fostered his passion for conservation and community outreach. He is excited to work with ORK and apply his experiences and knowledge to real world situations in the Coastal Empire where he grew up. During his internship, he will be working on various ORK projects including the [Don't Litter Lotts Initiative](#) and [Protect the Vernon](#).

Photos from Canoochee Paddle Race

We all had a great time at the revived Canoochee Paddle Race! Thanks to everyone for coming out for a beautiful day in Evans County. [View the final results.](#)



Paddle race photos



Be an active citizen

Legal Advocacy

One of ORK's roles is to provide expert comments on applications regarding water quality impacts. Recently, ORK has written official response to the following proposals:

- Hyundai-related Water Reclamation Facility
- Statewide Construction Stormwater Permit
- Skidaway Institute of Oceanography marshlands protection permit
- Conley Davis Industrial Park (Bryan County) wetland fill permit
- Arrowhead Dairy (Burke County) nutrient management plan

Adopt-A-Stream Training

ORK will host an Adopt-a-Stream training for chemical and bacterial monitoring at the Georgia Southern University, Biology Dept. (Statesboro Campus). New citizen scientists or those seeking recertification are encouraged to attend. The training is free. Pre-registration is required.



Details and registration



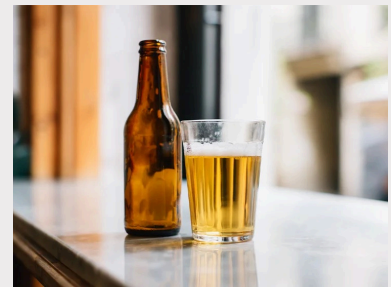
Don't Litter Lotts Initiative

Jump into the creek with Keep Statesboro-Bulloch Beautiful and ORK by participating in our regular creek cleanups in Statesboro. Help clean out a litter trap in Little Lotts Creek or sort and analyze the litter that is found.

[Sign up now](#)

Members Only: Botany and Brews

Join ORK and Horticulture Manager Joshua Jones for an early summer plant walk through the Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern. The walk will be followed with an optional get-together at Eagle Creek Brewery in Statesboro. **This is a members-only event.** [Become an ORK member now.](#)



[Join now](#)



Oyster Roast

Ogeechee Riverkeeper's annual oyster roast is back this fall! We'll have all-you-can-eat freshly steamed oysters, plus delicious barbecue and sides. **Most importantly, it supports the crucial work of ORK.** Mark your calendar.

[Save the Date](#)

Flora: Ilex vomitoria

Yaupon is hardy, and can thrive in salt spray, sandy soil, constant wind, harsh sunlight, and high temperatures. It is often found on streambanks, in dunes, woodlands and floodplains. All

of these conditions mean it flourishes in the Ogeechee River basin.

[More about Yaupon](#)[View articles](#)

In the news

Keep track of ORK in the news! Not only do we share the coverage of our work and events, we also act as experts for journalists seeking to understand water quality issues in our basin.

Riverkeeper profile

“I’ve always wanted to protect the resources. This job allowed me to do it. Most people don’t get to wake up every day and work and do something that makes a real world impact. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity.”

[Read the profile by Waterkeeper Alliance](#)

**There are many ways you can help the Ogeechee Riverkeeper protect,
preserve and improve the waterways within our basin.**

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