

Ichetucknee Alliance, Inc.
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ALLIANCE TO HONOR FT. WHITE PARKNERSHIP PROGRAM ON SEPT. 23, 2014

The Ichetucknee Alliance—a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring, protecting and preserving the Ichetucknee River, its associated springs and the Floridan Aquifer that provides our drinking water—will recognize the Fort White PARKnership Program with a check for \$400 to be presented at the Columbia County School Board meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014, in the Fort White Middle School Cafeteria.

“By using Ichetucknee Springs State Park as an outdoor classroom and service learning site, the Fort White PARKnership Program educates students and raises awareness of this wonder in their backyards,” said Cathy Street, vice president of the Ichetucknee Alliance. “The program helps students forge connections to the Ichetucknee—an Outstanding Florida Water and National Natural Landmark—and encourages students to become good citizens by finding their advocate voices to speak on the river’s behalf.”

Trini Johannesen, the science teacher at Fort White Middle School who sparked the founding of the PARKnership, and Valerie Thomas, PARKnership coordinator, will accept the check from the Alliance.

The Ichetucknee Alliance was formed in March 2013 by a group of local citizens who were concerned about the continuing deterioration of flow and water quality on the Ichetucknee River and in the springs that feed the river. The organization’s vision is for “a healthy Ichetucknee River System that is preserved and protected for future generations.”

“Our springs are the top layer of the Floridan Aquifer that supplies our drinking water and it’s important that people understand that connection,” Street explained. “The Fort White PARKnership Program is ensuring that our students are getting the information they need today so that they can become leaders and advocates for strong, responsible water stewardship tomorrow. If we can save our springs, we will save our aquifer too.”

For more information, call Cathy Street at 561-214-2108.

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