

Friends,

10,000 folks crowded Blue Spring State Park in January for the annual Manatee Festival.

March 10 to 13, the 2nd annual River Classroom of the St. Johns River Alliance will have the park to itself – to ourselves, the manatees and us -- early mornings and evenings.

*Newly this year we'll have dean of outdoors photographers John Moran, who will offer learn-by-doing photo instruction early mornings and late afternoons. Also filmmaker and author Bill Belleville who has made the St. Johns River focus of his respected advocacy.

*Classroom participants will hear disparate agendas for the river, some for precedent-setting removal of river water for public supply, others for new moves to fund removal of the Rodman Dam, and still others work to make the river more accessible for recreation.

*You'll newly participate in field trips on land and water that showcase the ecological and historic values of the river, the spring, and the state park.

*You'll preview "Florida's American Heritage River: The Art of the St. Johns Region," co-authored by Mallory McCane O'Connor and Gary Monroe (with extensive Introduction by Bill) for University Press of Florida. View educator/filmmaker Michelle Thatcher, "One Woman's Adventure on the Nile of the Americas," and enjoy the river-region music of singer-songwriter Magda Hiller. Overnights are in the park's cozy cabins. Day visitors are newly welcomed this year.

Details attached. Please register and bring your friends, though with only six cabins, no more than 18 can stay overnight indoors. First come, first served. Cost is \$295 per person including three dinners and two lunches as well as all programs, instruction and tours. For the full schedule and registration forms, please visit our website: www.stjohnsriveralliance.com and click on "River Classroom" menu button.

Email or call with questions: hiller@funport.net, 386/467-8223.

We welcome your participation,

Herb Hiller
Coordinator