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**DISTRICT CELEBRATES APRIL AS SPRINGS PROTECTION AWARENESS MONTH**



**LIVE OAK, FLA., April. 3, 2018** – With over 300 documented springs, the Suwannee River basin is home to the largest concentration of freshwater springs of anywhere in North America. District springs represent significant historical, economic, environmental and recreational value to local communities and Florida. The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) is celebrating April as Springs Protection Awareness Month to bring attention to these unique natural wonders.

“Our springs are the literal lifeblood of our communities, and they face some major challenges,” said Hugh Thomas, executive director for the District. “This outreach effort showcases the powerful role we all play in the protection and stewardship of our resources. Thank you, Governor Scott and DEP, for continuing to promote these natural wonders and preserving a centuries-old way of life – we are proud to stand alongside you.”

The District is home to 21 of state’s 33 first-magnitude springs, which discharge at least 65 million gallons of water per day. Springs are natural windows into the aquifer and reflect groundwater conditions, which serves as the primary source of drinking water in Florida.

Springs Protection Awareness Month kicks off a three-month outreach initiative by the state and local water management districts to bring attention and awareness to one of Florida’s most critical ecosystems and what is being done to protect them.

The state of Florida is renowned for its work in water quality assessments and restoration programs. In fact, since the inception of the SPRINGS funding in 2013, more than \$75 million has been spent on District projects. These projects provide almost 20 million gallons per day in water savings, reduced more than 2 million pounds of nitrogen leached to the aquifer and created almost 7,200 acres of wetlands.

“We all have a role in ensuring the livelihood of our springs,” said Thomas. “It’s not just one person or one agency’s job. We all need to be a part of the solution.”

Participate in the effort by visiting [mysuwanneeriver.com/mysprings](https://mysuwanneeriver.com/mysprings) and [myhomemysprings.org](https://myhomemysprings.org) and share your springs story with us on [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #mysprings.

The mission of the Suwannee River Water Management District is to protect and manage water resources using science-based solutions to support natural systems and the needs of the public. The District holds true to the belief of water for nature, water for people. Headquartered in Live Oak, Florida, the District serves 15 surrounding north-central Florida counties.

For more information about the District, visit [www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com) or follow us on Facebook and Twitter, search @SRWMD.

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