



PETER MILLER

the host of Bass 2 Billfish TV, hoists a hearty largemouth bass from its river residence.

THE SUWANNEE RIVER

MORE THAN JUST A FOLK SONG...

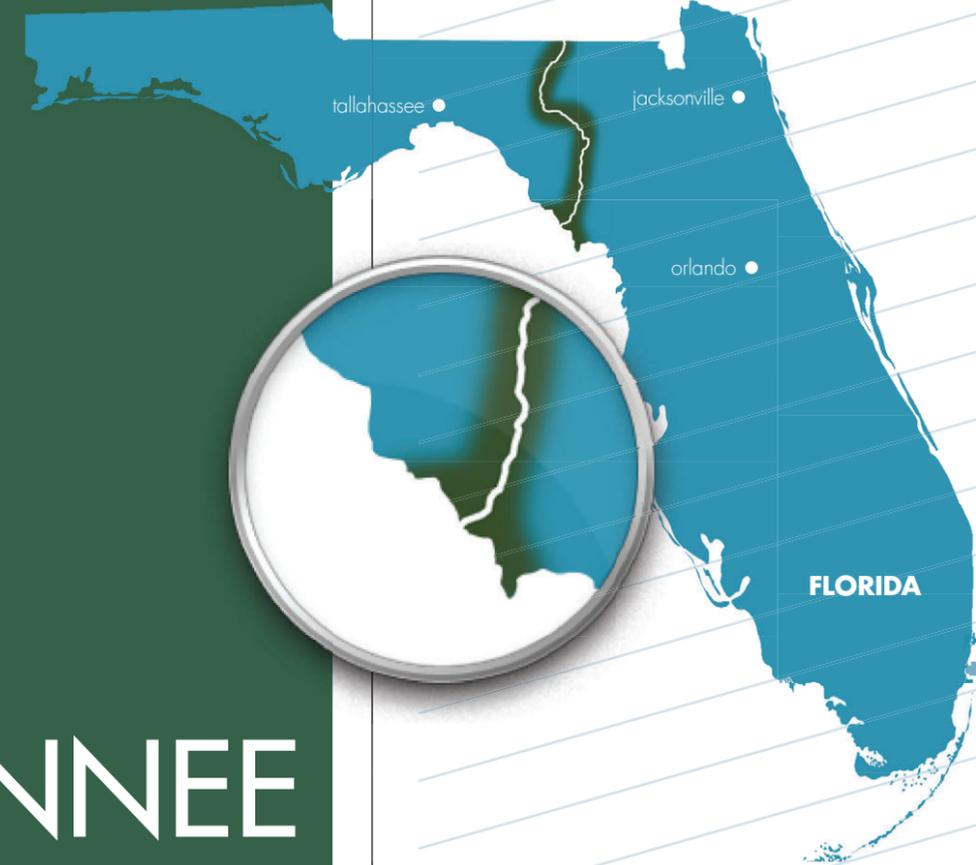
by Peter Miller

Florida is literally inundated with water. Lakes, ponds, and rivers dot the landscape. None, however, hold as much charm as the Suwannee River. Beginning in the expansive Okefenokee Swamp in Southern Georgia and terminating in the Gulf of Mexico, the Suwannee is truly a hidden gem. Arguably one of the country's most scenic rivers, its almost 250-mile stretch of beauty snakes through many natural springs, cypress swamps, and delightful historic towns.

The Suwannee River is also one of the best historical reminders of Florida's storied past. One of Florida's oldest cemeteries is located along the river, along with many long earthworks that were constructed during the Civil War to ward off Union Navy gunboat intrusion and several trails that span from a quarter mile to 18 miles wind through the area woodlands.

History aside, anglers know the Suwannee for an entirely different reason. It's the only place they can catch the elusive and highly prized Suwannee bass.

Suwannee bass are a diminutive cousin to the better known largemouth or smallmouth bass. What they lack in size, they more than make up for in power. These pint-sized brawlers frequent fast-moving current, which gives them incredible strength.



NEED TO KNOW

GUIDES TO KNOW

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WHERE THE LOCALS HANG

Black Dog Bar & Tables
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WHAT THEY'RE CHEWIN' ON

Crawfish, soft plastics, and crank baits.

"THE ONLY PLACE YOU CAN CATCH THE ELUSIVE AND HIGHLY PRIZED SUWANNEE BASS"



This Suwannee bass looks strikingly similar to its cousin, the smallmouth bass to the left.



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The Crawbug is a super realistic, scent-infused crayfish imitation that can be threaded on a jig hook or Texas rigged for bass of all kinds. It looks so real, it even works great in clear water.

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Targeting Suwannee bass is not much different than targeting any other species of bass in Florida waters, save a few exceptions. A little-known secret technique is to make sure all of your lures resemble the Suwannee bass' favorite forage: the crayfish.

Other tackle tips include using soft plastics and crank baits fished in faster current edges or riffles around sandbars. Following these guidelines will help anglers get a step closer to checking the Suwannee bass off their bucket list. And light to medium spinning or bait casting tackle is perfectly suited for favored haunts frequented by the Suwannee bass.

The Suwannee River bass isn't the only piscatorial treasure – in its murky flow, other fish call to anglers who target panfish. They have long regarded the Suwannee as the go-to place for two other species of panfish: bream and crappie. Anglers fishing the Suwannee in the spring and early summer rarely have trouble filling a cooler with a limit

of these tasty fish. Catfish anglers also excel in fishing the Suwannee River.

Where the Suwannee River terminates into the Gulf of Mexico, anglers can target saltwater species including redfish, sheepshead, and some of the largest sea trout found in the state. The shallow grass flats adjacent to the river mouth are a near perfect buffet of in-shore fishing that local anglers take full advantage of year round.

Probably the easiest tactic for fishing the mouth of the Suwannee is to employ the tried and true live shrimp under a popping float. This simple rig accounts for untold numbers of catches statewide and is especially effective in the Suwannee.

No trip to Florida would be complete without a stop on the lazy Suwannee River as it twists its way to Gulf of Mexico. And because this is a place of such rich history and rustic Cypress landscape, just about any waterborne activity will be memorable for the whole family. 📍

top 5 suwannee targets

Suwannee bass

Largemouth bass

Red-breasted bream

Speckled perch (crappie)

Catfish: spotted, brown bullheads, and channel cats.



Bass 2 Billfish

with Peter Miller

Episodes air every
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& Saturday at 9:30 AM on:
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