

The Shape of Wekiwa



8/02/00

It-is-impossible-to-convey-in-words-the-continuity-fluidity-and-constancy-
 of-the-flow-of-the-Wekiva-River-from-everywhere-in-this-world-to-the-place-where-you-
 keep-it-confined-in-your-mind---and-your-mind-itself-a-flow-through-thing-some-talk-about-as-
 having-
 stream-of-consciousness-while-the-river-can-never-convince-you-she-is-the-only-way-to-think-
 but-your-.....
 problem-with-the-stream-is-that-it-never-seems-to-rest-or-stop-and-even-though-you-wish-you-
 could-.....
 always-get-non-stop-flights-to-wherever-you-fly-and-or-drive-the-results-of-never-landing-
 would-be-.....
 catastrophic-for-your-mind-which-thinks-it-needs-a-regular-rest-you-want-things-in-their-place-
 neatly-.....
 the-tree-in-its-bark-the-cloud-in-its-high-sky-the-swamp-percolating-into-the-aquifer—with-no-
 sense-of-the-
 yo-yo-of-the-river-and-no-mind-of-transpiration-up-the-sky-to-meet-the-clouds-on-winds-of-
 dew-over-deserts-
 and-oceans-to-fall-into-ice-and-wobble-the-planet-and-even- in-Antarctica-to-
 move-as-glacier-or-subsheet-flows-toward-the-penguin-dotted-waves-
 on-currents-to-carry-Magellan-
 (himself-a-river)-to-sail-from-
main-to-mainland-all-to-
match- a-path-that
 -may-return-on-butterfly-wings-like-the-

.....following variations on it will take you far and wide
.....across the landscape of nature and ideas and our human part
.....in it all. Wekiva runs through all the departments
.....of knowledge in the general education of the
.....global university system. It reaches.....
.....out with equanimity to all the cultures of the globe.....
.....but especially to the artists and writers of America and.....
.....Florida who have helped us to understand our river ecology.....
.....My hope in this flight of fancies is to kindle in the residents.....
.....of America and especially of central Florida an undying pride and caring for the
Wekiva.....

.....River basin that makes such a national example of how.....
.....to build a watershed community. But for those of you living.....
.....far from Wekiwa Springs and Rock Springs, there is a river of your...
.....own home place to follow, to yield to, to enjoy and.....
.....protect. The vision is the same, an archetype.....
..... of who and how we are.....
leave now the double pool of Wekiwa Springs.....
and come with me down the meander of.....
stream banks and snags that drop.....
.....from them...

the pace of the river

is slower

than writing

than reading

as long as you

don't paddle at

all

let yourself go and

spend lots of

energy in eye-ways

and hear-rings

from the woods or

in the stream

left and right

down and up

across and through

the hydric hammock

the cypress

watch

the patterns of

light fall

the reflections of green

inside the surface unsmooth

making cubes of ovate or

lanceolate palmate or

oblong

each cross-branch reaching to banks beyond

or settling to a creek bottom

throwing up to the sun

light and river combined

in the upright the leaves of

the snags growing

denser each day

the water goes by steadily

the light a new solar flash

each instant

only the snag stays the same

holds

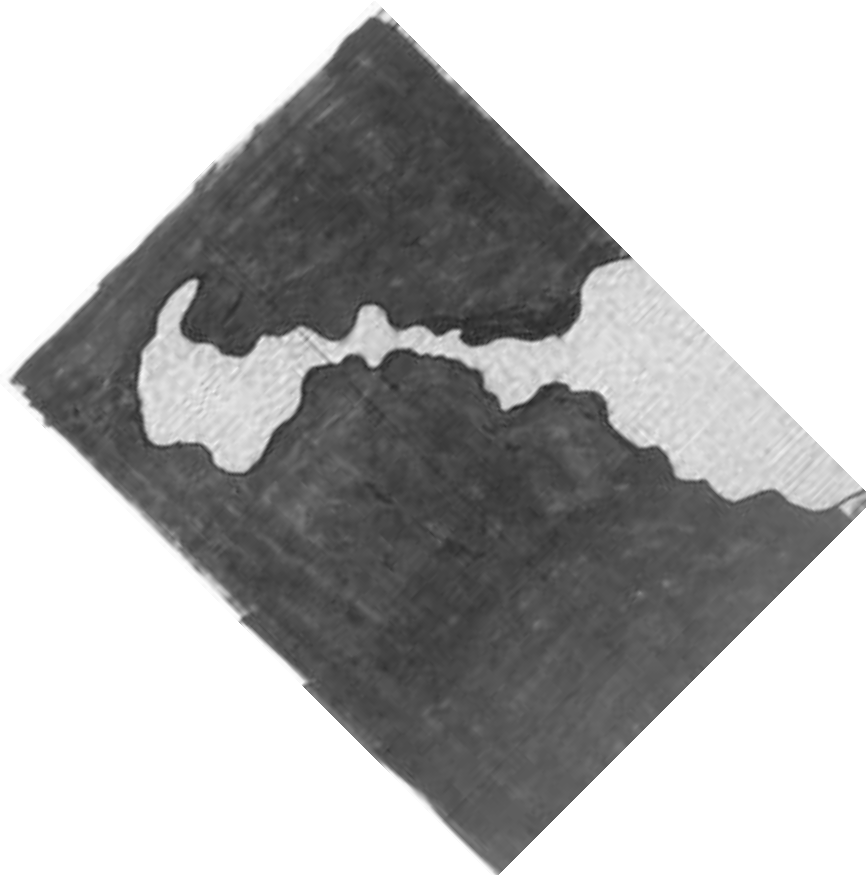
its head up

makes a right

angle

becomes the static figure in a kayak

not dug out set sideways for us to climb or sit and sun
 to leap off in frolic or fright to swing from by
 tail or silk and best of all to slither
 over and under touching each twig and
 feeling each pattern of bark the road aban-
 doned over midstream a preparation and
 a stance toward baptism and migration a limpkin's
 soap box for harangues against the destroyers
 of the snail world the float pace the holy congestion of
 the bank trees the million little damlets holding
 ground and apple snail eggs.
 Listen in Wekiva to the long curve of her beak
 the fine tune of her gargle to discover your
 proper motion to earth.



An Aerial View of Wekiwa Springs, Tilting to Show North

This poem is dedicated to Pat and Fred Harden on the occasion of their last official meeting on the Board of the Friends of the Wekiva River, Dec. 2, 2004. God speed in your new life ventures.