

# Suwannee River Breaches its Banks in Fowlers Bluff Before Cresting



All but the top railing of the stairway along the boat ramp at Fowlers Bluff is covered by the swollen Suwannee River.  
*Photo by Terry Witt.*

By Terry Witt  
Senior Staff Writer

It wasn't exactly the flood of the century, but the Suwannee River sent water over its banks in portions of Fowlers Bluff last week, inundated Clay Landing Park in Chiefland and made for interesting conversation at the Treasure Camp on the Suwannee. Missy Roesch, who operates Treasure Camp on the Suwannee for her father, said the worst part of the flooding is the alligators and water moccasins that take up residence on high ground near the restaurant as the water rises.

"People don't realize the high water drives the wild

critters to dry land," she said.

Levy County Emergency Management Director Mark Johnson said the Suwannee River should begin dropping by the middle of next week, and assuming no major rains hit Southeast Georgia, the flood waters should gradually subside.

Johnson said the Suwannee Valley was fortunate that the big weather front that dropped 22 inches of rain on Pensacola in a 24-hour period made a left turn before it reached southeast Georgia and the Okefenokee Swamp.

"We dodged a bullet," he said.

Heavy rains in southeast Georgia can mean flooding on the Suwannee River.

In Fowlers Bluff, where seasonal visitors sometimes

outnumber the regulars, flooding is nothing new. But no one was thrilled to see the big river begin to swell and breach its banks at the western end of the town.

Roesch was busy serving the weekly Mexican buffet on Wednesday evenings at Treasure Camp as the river flowed over the Fowlers Bluff boat ramp next door and customers watched the river a few feet below them. The restaurant is elevated several feet above the ground for just such occasions.

The river was 7 inches above flood stage on Tuesday but was cresting. The high water was considered a minor flood event, according to Johnson.

Johnson said he has been advising people to track river levels online at the Southeast River Forecast Center, which is part of the National Weather Service. The forecast

center gives daily changes in river levels in Levy County and elsewhere along the Suwannee and Santa Fe rivers.



The main street in western Fowlers Bluff is partially flooded. Some site built homes that stand on a foundation are surrounded by water. *Photo by Terry Witt.*

Clay Landing Park and the boat ramp were completely covered with flood water from the Suwannee River. *Photo by Terry Witt.*

