

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area. The river is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. The banks are rocky and covered with fallen leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Water Bottling Plants in the Santa Fe River Basin

Kevin Brown
NRLI Class VIII (2008)

One of the Most Controversial and Emotional Local Natural Resource Conflicts at this Time

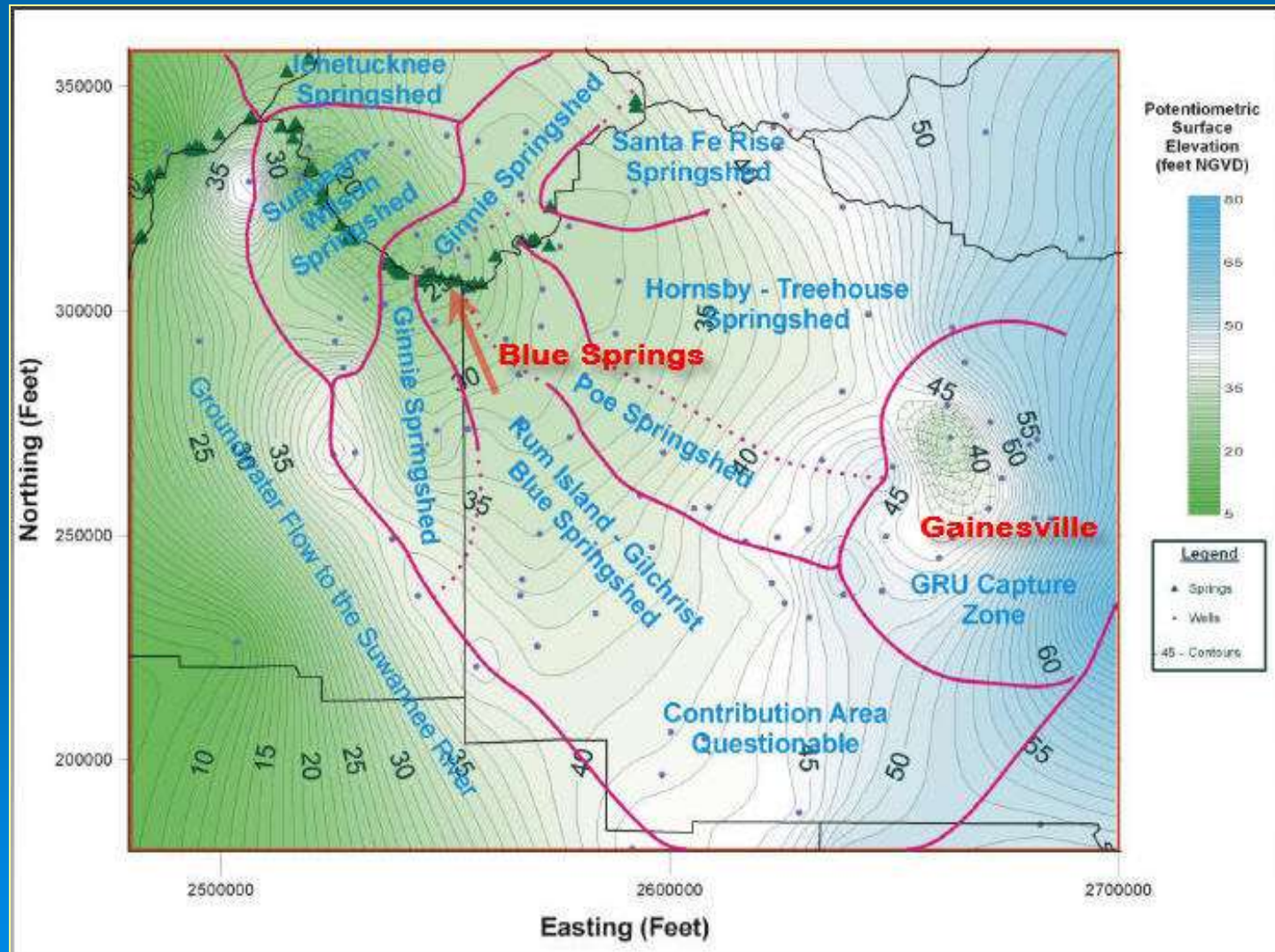


Many in the Neighborhood Organize in Opposition to Proposed .5 mgd Plant Near Blue Springs




Why do Bottlers Like the Lower Santa Fe Basin/High Springs Gap?

A Lot of Head...and Marketing



The Popular Cachet of “Spring Water”

- 
- *FDA Regulation:* “water derived from an underground formation from which water flows naturally to the surface...may be labeled “spring water”...Spring water shall be collected only at the spring or through a bore hole tapping the underground formation feeding the spring.” 21CFR165.110A2

This is not what the SRWMD intended...

Spring Water Use Permit and Property for Sale in Madison County, Florida



A water use permit and property for sale located in Madison County, Florida adjacent to Nestle Waters North America's bottling plant.

The property consists of 41 acres MOL and includes a 650,000 gallon 20 year water use permit. The source is an unconfined portion of the Floridan aquifer that is hydraulically connected to Madison Blue Spring. Madison Blue Spring is a first magnitude spring that produces over 40,000,000 million gallons per day of clear sparkling spring water.

The source of the spring water on the property has been tested and certified by a Florida Professional Geologist and meets the requirements for spring water in accordance with the Florida Department of Consumer Service (DACS) and CFR source guidelines.

For more information please contact:

Willie Agner
4572 NE CR 255
Lee FL 32059
850.971.2874 (Warehouse)
229.563.0101 (Cell)
850.971.5648 (Office)

A PDF copy of the Aqua Blue Springs Sales Prospectus is included below and contains lab data, photos, maps, and additional information concerning the sale of the WUP and property. The download of the PDF file will take several minutes and requires a high speed internet connection.



[Aqua Blue Springs Sales Prospectus in PDF](#)

You can send e-mail inquiries to the following address:

wif@aquabluesprings.com

Search

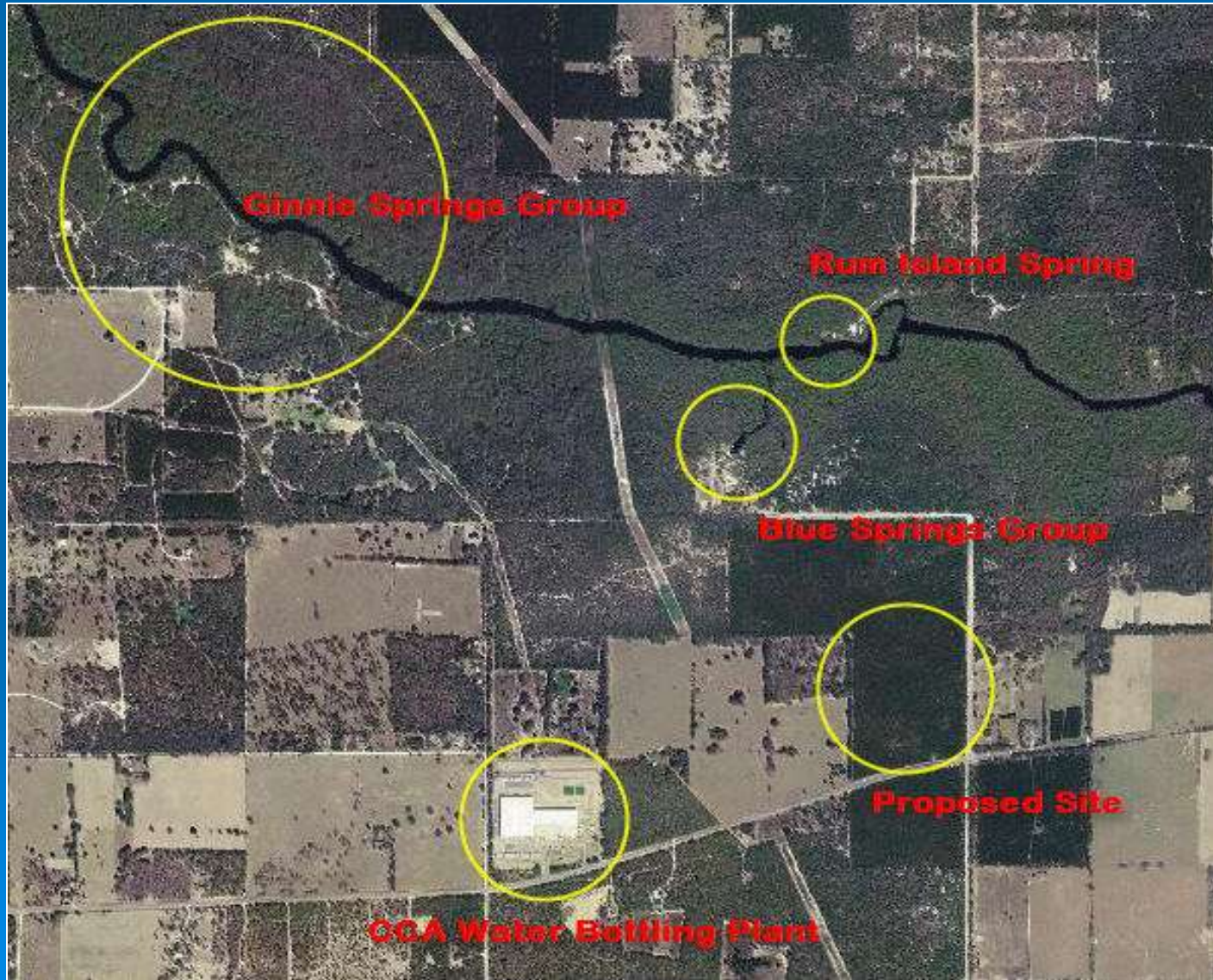


This site



The Web

Aerial View of Blue Springs



Interests Held by Local Group* Opposing New Bottling Plants

- Possible aquifer depletion & reduction in spring and river flows
- Increased traffic/reduced safety on rural roads
- Increased noise and light nuisances in neighborhood
- Incompatible with character of neighborhood
- Wasteful, unnecessary industry

*saveoursantaferiver.org

Issues and Positions of Applicants

- Value of real estate with permit/potential income
- Clean industry
- Permitted by SRWMD .5mgd adr
- Meets or can meet all site and legal regulations (impervious surface, road capacities, zoning, etc.)
- Property rights

Issues Considered by Gilchrist County Commission Concerning Proposed Blue Springs Plant

- Permitted by SRWMD to remove roughly one olympic-sized swimming pool-full of water per day; County and State charged with protection of water resources
- Existing Coke/Dasani plant one mile away; permitted for 1.15 mgd ADR; character of & conformity to neighborhood?
- Problems with existing bottle plant? Safety, nuisance, withdrawal?
- Operator of proposed plant as-yet un-named
- If approved, would likely directly add hundreds of thousands of tax \$ revenues to the county tax roll
- Also, indirect affect of employee wages on local economy
- Locally Unwanted Land Use: vocal, organized neighborhood opposition
- Tourism (springs & rivers) important contribution to local economy

Quasi-judicial Hearing on September 30, 2008 at Trenton High School

Gilchrist County Commission meeting regarding a Special Use Permit by the owners of Blue Springs for a new bottled-water plant. Zoning and Land Use changes were required. Audience was almost unanimously opposed to the proposal.

Decision: After many hours of hearings, the commission voted 4:1 to reject the owners' application. Applicants may appeal to Circuit Court.



Russ Augspurg, President of Our Santa Fe River, Inc.

- “It is important that as a community we become involved in the conservation and protection of our natural resources. With regards to the proposed Blue Springs Water Bottling plant, concerned citizens became involved, and the Gilchrist County Commissioners listened to and acted on those concerns.”



Ray Earl Thomas, Jr., P. A., agent for Blue Springs Properties, Inc.




- “This is a clean industry that will bring jobs to a county that needs them. The amount of water used by the proposed Blue Springs plant will be insignificant. ”

Naked Ed, Naturist “Caretaker” of Lilly Springs on the Santa Fe River

- “I’ve got nothing to hide. I’m up front about this thing: I don’t want anybody destroying our springs, but we do need jobs around here, too.”



OBSERVATIONS:

- The stakes and emotions in this issue are very high
 - Most stakeholders and parties to the issue would not be quoted
 - Arguable science allows conflict & confusion
 - But one thing I do know:
- 

A collection of various bottled water brands is displayed on a blue surface. The brands visible include Springin, Aquafina, Vista, and Crystal Springs. The bottles are of different sizes and shapes, some with labels and others without. The text "DON'T BUY THIS STUFF" is overlaid in large, bold, orange letters across the center of the image.

DON'T BUY
THIS STUFF