

2 0 0 9 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

the DCCE Insider

DEMOCRATIC CARIBBEAN CAUCUS OF FLORIDA



The Florida State Senator Anthony C. “Tony” Hill from Jacksonville

Florida sponsored the Senate Bill SB 1558 to change the State of Florida Official State Song. (Florida Senate Bill Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement) “House Concurrent Resolution No.24, adopted in 1913, designated “Florida my Florida,” written in 1894, as the state song. It was repealed by House Concurrent Resolution No. 22, adopted in 1935, which designated “**The Swanee River (Old Folks at Home)**” written by Stephen Foster in 1851, as the official song of the state of Florida. This song has long depicted black in a negative view.

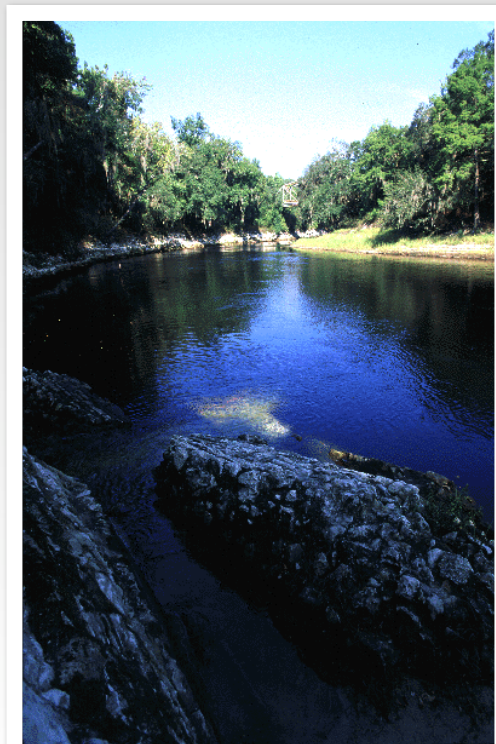
Present situation: In January 2008, the Florida Music Educators Association held an online vote in a contest to find a new state song. “Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky” won, receiving more than half of

✧ News Corner ✧

SWANEE RIVER NO MORE

the 8,020 votes cast for the three final songs.

The new bill that passed creates 15.0326. F.S., to designate “**Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky**” music and lyrics by Jan Hinton, as the official song of the State of Florida. The act took effect July 1, 2008.



The Swanee River