A dancer with the Core Dance Company demonstrates movement that will be showcased during their performance on April 14 on Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island.

The sweeping beauty of Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island has inspired artists of all types for generations. Countless photos and paintings have been made of the ancient petrified trees that dot the shore of the beach on the north end of the state-owned island.
But at 4 p.m., April 14, a new type of art will be coming to the shoreline — dance. That’s when Core Dance’s Performance Company will join 1,500 dancers from across the country to perform in the Third Annual National Water Dance.

The performances will be site-specific, taking place near water — rivers, bays, lakes and oceans. The goal of the event is to bring awareness of the importance of clean water and protecting that resource. The event will be streamed live on Core Dance’s YouTube and Facebook Pages that can be found at coredance.org.

For the performance, the company commissioned a new work by Frank Van de Ven called "Carrying Water to the Sea," which will underscore the value of repairing the devastation done to the planet. Locally the group, which is based in Atlanta, has partnered with Glynn Environmental Coalition, Satilla Riverkeeper and the Brunswick Stewdio to unite area arts under the banner of environmentalism.

Dale Andree, founder and artistic director of National Water Dance, said the purpose of the project was to stress the connectivity between all creation.

“What we’ve done is create a community of dancers across the country, including Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico, who want to involve dance in the national conversation about water issues.” Andree said. “For the April 14th event, each dance institution will engage with their community, creating their own event; and connecting everyone is the internet, where dancers share movement phrases, personal choreographic processes and local stories about water. On Saturday, April 14, at exactly 4 p.m., everyone will begin their performances with the same phrase, uniting us all through movement.”

Lindsey Adkison