

The Flow

December 2013 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- ♥ Jan 8: [Riverwatch meeting & program](#) at the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium in Ft. Myers
- ♥ Jan 25: [Billy's Creek Cleanup](#)
- ♥ Jan 31: [23rd Annual Water Conference](#) at the FGCU Cohen Center in Ft. Myers
- ♥ Feb 15: [3rd Annual Love the Lake 5k/10k and Half Marathon](#) in Clewiston

Editorial Disclaimer
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crca.caloosahatchee.org
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CRCA Pres. asks legislators about solution timeline for basin storage.

1st CRCA President Passes



Jim Haggart passed away Oct 2 in Ft. Myers. A Nebraska lawyer and activist, he moved to Florida in 1992. In 1995 Jim was a co-founder and first president of Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (Riverwatch). He incorporated CRCA then filed for its IRS non-profit status. We continue his vision. [\[Obituary\]](#) [\[CRCA Incorporation by Haggart\]](#)

2014 Donations and Dues



On Dec 4 Riverwatch sent out its 2014 dues notice & donations invitation. Thank you to those who responded so generously in the first weeks. This annual appeal accounts for almost half of CRCA income, so please send what you can as soon as you can. [\[Join/Renew\]](#) [\[Donate\]](#)

Corps Speaks to Riverwatch



The Corps of Engineers will discuss Everglades Restoration, including Caloosahatchee River issues, with CRCA members and visitors at the Calusa Nature Center on Jan 8 at 7pm. Location: 3450 Ortiz Av, Ft. Myers. It will be given the Negrón recommendation to eliminate the Corps from Lake O authority. [\[Event Details\]](#)

Wolves, Sheep, Water and Politics



Politicians are using the 2013 rivers crisis as an opportunity to get the Corps out of the Lake O water release decision process. The likely net effect of this would be more ecological problems - depriving the estuary of water in the dry season & drowning the lake littoral zone in the wet season. [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[Report\]](#) [\[Analysis\]](#)

Get Canoe Contest Tickets Now



The Win-A-Canoe Contest is back again thanks to The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Get tickets online, at Estero Outfitters, or from CRCA directors. Also, Riverwatch can mail your gift of contest tickets and card to friends & family. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. This could be your lucky year. [\[Card\]](#) [\[Email for Tickets\]](#) [\[Order\]](#) [\[Canoe\]](#)

CRCA President Questions Politicians



CRCA President Wayne Daltry also serves on the News Press editorial board. He asked politicians about Caloosahatchee issues & when the FL Legislature will finally address storage needs of our basin. Answers summary: In concerned tones they said the needed levels of money are not coming anytime soon. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Once More Unto the Breach



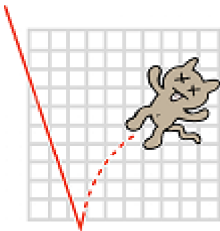
On Oct 29 Attorney Ralf Brookes (on behalf of Riverwatch and 6 other petitioners) filed notification for a Dec 29 legal action against DEP and Cape Coral for restoration of the Spreader Canal System, demanding replacement of the northern barrier structure (previously the Ceitus Boat Lift). [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[Notice\]](#) [\[Reaction\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Notice \(7MB\)\]](#) [\[Lehigh Citizen\]](#)

Spot On!



The political cartoonist team of Cathy Cochrane and Sherry Snowden once again captures the essence of ecopolitics with their latest image on the Ceitus Boat Lift issue and the legal action Riverwatch and others have engaged in over the past 6 yrs (since 2008) against Cape Coral and DEP. [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Dead Caloosahatchee Cat Bounce



The Nov 20-21 Caloosahatchee Science Workshop at FGCU brought together an impressive group of scientists all asked to compare various ecological indicators as tools in documenting how high the Caloosahatchee "dead cat" Estuary will bounce. New indicators are needed since the previous ones died off. [\[Agenda\]](#)

Plan What?



In his Nov 19 Caloosahatchee Science Workshop speech, SFWMD Executive Director Blake Guillory said, "I didn't know anything about Plan 6 until two weeks ago." This is despite a decade of flow way advocacy to SFWMD. He also said, "Are we completely discounting Plan 6? No, we are looking into it." [\[2006 White Paper\]](#) [\[Plan 6 Diagram\]](#) [\[2007 Powerpoint\]](#)

Oxbow Science Update



In her presentation on Oxbows as a potential restoration indicator, Chloe Delhomme summarized her 2011 research, formalizing CRCA work going to 1996. Oxbow restoration should parallel general river flow & water quality restoration efforts, but are not themselves primary indicators of river health. [\[Presentation\]](#) [\[2014 Oxbow Tours\]](#)

Hello! Anybody Home?



The Watershed Council wrote to SFWMD asking they explain how new developments in this basin will achieve a net improvement in nutrient loads to the Caloosahatchee Estuary as required by the TMDL BMAP. New projects do not appear to meet this requirement. No response has been received since Oct 22. [\[Letter\]](#)

Water Resources Development Act



Florida Members of Congress (Frankel, Brown & Webster) serve on the conference committee to reconcile the House & Senate versions of WRDA, which will authorize but not fund the Caloosahatchee Reservoir. The bill will be final in early 2014. [\[Senate Version\]](#) [\[House Version\]](#) [\[Conference Com Members\]](#)

Heavies Talk Solutions



A who's who list joined Radel & Murphy at an Oct 3 Congressional hearing: Senator Nelson and Reps Pelosi, Hastings, Diaz-Balart, Deutch, Frankel, Garcia, Rooney, Wasserman-Schultz & others. Rep. Corrine Brown chastised Negron for blaming only the Corps for Lake O problems. Florida is guilty too. [\[Hearing Video\]](#) [\[Analysis\]](#)

Salvaging Trust



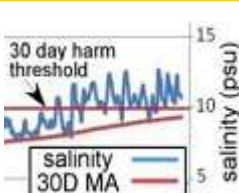
Lee commissioners used 20/20 land conservation money to plug their 2013 general budget shortfall. Riverwatch and many residents are not happy about it. To restore the public's trust in the program that voters approved years ago, Pendergrass says the future of 20/20 should again be left up to voters. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Theft By Deception\]](#)

Sea Level Insurance Rise



If you don't believe in climate change and sea level rise, then maybe you can ask the federal government for a waiver on the tenfold rate hike in your Flood Insurance Program premiums. Some are asked to pay an additional \$10,000/yr or more. [\[Legislative Setup\]](#) [\[NRDC\]](#) [\[Florida Premiums Increase\]](#)

Salinity Approaches Harm



For the period Dec 3-9, average flow at S-79 was 739 cfs. Estuary salinity was 9.4 psu. While these are marginally acceptable levels, it is amazing that after a extremely wet summer, the estuary is already suffering a lack of fresh water flows. It shows the lack of proper water management & storage.

[\[Conditions\]](#) [\[Past Reports\]](#) [\[Salinity\]](#)

23rd Annual Water Conference



Riverwatch is co-hosting the 23rd Annual SW FL Water Resources Conference. The theme is "Sea Level Rise, Fight or Flight" and will explore choices facing our state whether to harden our shorelines or plan a gradual retreat from advancing waters. Students & the general public are also invited.

[\[Sponsor a Student\]](#) [\[Conference\]](#) [\[Register\]](#)

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