

The Flow

April 2009 Newsletter
Marti Daltry, President

Special Events & Meetings

- May 2 - CRCA Annual Meeting
- May 15-Jul 15 - Audubon Magazine Photo Contest
- May 26 - Free Lecture Special Event: Authors of Paving Paradise at FGCU
- Jun-Jul - Florida Master Naturalist Evening Class

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at crca.caloosahatchee.org
Also, you can renew your membership online



Photo Courtesy of Pete Quasius

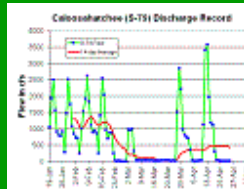
Delphine Morin demonstrates watershed runoff for Earth Day.

CRCA Annual Meeting



The CRCA annual meeting is 11 am on Sat, May 2 at Caloosahatchee Regional Park in Alva. Riverwatch will elect its board of directors. For food and entertainment, \$10 for non members & free for members. Featured speaker is Hank Mattson, a working Cracker Cowboy Poet from Lake Placid. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Lodge\]](#)

Pulse Flows to Estuary



A new pulse release to the Caloosahatchee Estuary begins on Apr 28. The Corps halted flow from S-79 (Franklin Lock) on Apr 17. They resumed pulse flows in late March & have maintained an average flow of 260 cfs. Pulse flows push salt water out of the estuary to maintain a proper

salinity balance.

[\[Flow Summary\]](#) [\[Flow Status\]](#) [\[Lake O\]](#)

The Political Sausage Factory



The Council of Civic Associations, via Ann Hauck, contributed significantly to a series of newspaper articles that were expanded into a new book. Craig Pittman and Matthew Waite, investigative reporters for the St. Petersburg Times, authored PAVING PARADISE. [\[Revealing Excerpts\]](#)

State Lawn Fertilizer Law



A bill in the state legislature would ban applying lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorous unless a soil test determined a need for it. Homeowners dump thousands of pounds of fertilizer on their lawns and gardens every year. [\[SF Sun Sentinel\]](#)

Group Consensus



In a 20 to 1 vote, the Cape Coral Spreader Canal stakeholders group adopted the recommendations of Phil Buchanan and will apply for permits to replace the Ceitus Boat Lift. However a final decision on construction is months away. [\[Analysis by Buchanan\]](#)

Port LaBelle Marina



Port LaBelle Marina, Inc. announced on Mar 31 that their Glades County application for land use change has been approved by the state Department of Community Affairs. New housing and commercial projects are planned. [\[SW Florida Online\]](#)

Sierra Club Calusa Group



The Swamp Cabbage Cruise would not have been possible without co-sponsorship of Sierra Club Calusa Group. Their aim is to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources. CRCA would like to thank them. [\[Website\]](#)

Green Training



Lee County's Dept. of Natural Resources now requires all professional landscapers to be trained in the Florida Green Industries best management practices for the protection of water resources. [\[Mail\]](#)

Drilling Well Offshore



A bill now going through the Florida House would allow drilling in Gulf of Mexico coasts less than 10 miles from Florida beaches. It would give the governor and cabinet power to lease sea bottom for oil and gas drilling. [\[The News Press\]](#)

FYN Rainbarrel Workshop



University of Florida's "Florida Yards & Neighborhoods" (FYN) program (Lee County Extension Service) celebrated Earth Day by having a Rain Barrel Workshop at the Eco Living Center at Rutenberg Park. [\[Report\]](#)

The Real Plan is...



While some say the scaled-back US Sugar land purchase looks more like a corporate bailout than an Everglades restoration, others point out that the targeted lands are consistent with a version of the "Rocking Chair" flowway west of Miami Canal. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[Purchase Map\]](#) [\[Rocking Chair\]](#)

CHNEP Mini-Grant



Riverwatch received a \$250 mini-grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program to help support educational programs on the Caloosahatchee River. The grant was used for educational expenses, including Swamp Cabbage cruise printed materials for the February 2009 event.

Reservoirs as Antidotes



Water Management Districts (SWFWMD & SFWMD) are considering reservoirs as a cure for all that ails us. Skeptics say that it won't solve anything, and all our water storage problems stem from society's destruction of Florida's wetlands. [\[Herald Tribune\]](#)

Earth Day 2009



On April 25 CRCA members participated in various Earth Day events, including Barron Park in LaBelle and at the Koreshan Center in Bonita Springs. Earth Week at the Hendry House in LaBelle delivered educational programs to 1057 students from Hendry and Glades Counties. [\[Photo Gallery\]](#)

Water Restrictions Info



Groundwater and surface water supplies are low throughout South Florida. Water restrictions are now in effect. On their website, SFWMD explains the various restrictions by region and what each of us can do. [\[SFWMD Website\]](#)

Frontline: Poisoned Waters



PBS recently broadcast a Frontline documentary titled Poisoned Waters. The show investigates how pollution is killing fish, mutating frogs, and threatening human health. In response to the show, viewers from around the nation have posted information about problems & solutions. [\[PBS Website\]](#) [\[Viewer Comments\]](#)

First Solar-Powered City



Sid Kitson plans to build a solar-powered city at Babcock Ranch. Babcock was where the state bought lands that should have been excluded from development anyway. The state thus subsidized sprawl. Is this solar pitch sincere or a ploy to secure more public subsidies for a private development. [\[New York Times\]](#) [\[Time\]](#) [\[Video Debate\]](#)

Just Move the River



In seeking a new redevelopment plan for downtown Fort Myers, some are suggesting moving the river a block farther south. (Actually it's just building a long inlet from the shore to Bay St.) But who would pay for such a project is unknown. [\[News Press\]](#)