

# The Flow

April 2011 Newsletter  
Pete Quasius, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- May 3: A panel discussion [What's the Everglades Worth to You?](#) from 4:30-6:00 pm at Hodges University in Naples.
- May 4: [Riverwatch Board meeting](#) at 6:30 PM in the Beef O'Brady's in LaBelle.
- May 8: [Oxbow & River Tour](#) with Rae Ann Wessel.

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [cra.caloosahatchee.org](http://cra.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online



*Volunteers are needed for Oxbow research project in May & June.*

## Riverwatch in LaBelle



The May 4 Riverwatch Board of Directors meeting will be held in LaBelle at 6:30 PM in the Beef O'Brady's event room located on SR80 just east of the Lee Street intersection. All members are welcome to attend. [\[Map\]](#)

## Help Oxbows Research Project



You can assist this summer's river oxbows research project by hosting a USF graduate student from France who will be conducting her Master's thesis research in May and June. If you have space in your home or need a housesitter, contact Riverwatch. [\[Host Chloe\]](#) [\[Earth Week 2009 Pic\]](#) [\[About the Oxbows\]](#)

## Thanks to Retiring Officers



Dr. Annette Snapp completes two years of gracious service as Riverwatch President. Also not seeking re-election was Marti Daltry who became treasurer after also serving two years as president. Sincere thanks to Marti & Annette for their leadership.

## River Research Volunteers



In 1996 & 2001 CRCA measured the Caloosahatchee oxbows. You are invited to be part of a 2011 research effort in May and June. You can help intern Jeremie Sage and USF grad student Chloe Delhomme who will again investigate our river oxbows. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Count Me In!\]](#)

## EvCo Resolution & Cover Letter



Riverwatch endorsed a letter and resolution from the Everglades Coalition urging the SFWMD and USACE to support a public policy to provide ecologically sufficient base flow releases to the Caloosahatchee. This dry season has been hard on the estuary. [\[Cover Letter\]](#) [\[Resolution\]](#)

## 2011-12 Riverwatch Officers



Pete Quasius takes leadership as the new Riverwatch President. Also serving as CRCA officers for 2011-12 are V.P. Margaret England, Treasurer Ron Zimmerly, Recording Secretary John Capece, & Corresponding Secretary Linda Mattos.

## Ceitus: EPA Response



EPA responded to Phil Buchanan's complaints regarding Ceitus. The response treats the MS4 permit and the Ceitus issue as related. It also notes that North Spreader area stormwater treatment has to be addressed in the MS4 permit. It's progress. [\[Letter\]](#)

## Obama Stops Harmful Move



Congressman Tom Rooney & Senator Marco Rubio tacked an amendment onto the "must pass" federal budget proposals that would block EPA water quality enforcement action in Florida. However, Obama cut these bad clauses out of the budget compromise deal. [\[TCPalm\]](#)

## Growth (mis)Management Bill



The Florida House passed legislation that could essentially undo Florida's 25-year-old growth-management laws, following Scott's mantra that stripping away regulations that govern development will spark the state's sluggish economy. [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#)

## SFWM District Budget Axed 40%



What we get from our Water Management District is, fundamentally, our way of life which we tend to take for granted. Let's all tell Gov. Scott & our legislative leaders that we are doing just fine and to leave our district's main funding source alone [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#)

## Archeology, Not Agriculture



Gene Logsdon believes that a farmer can learn more about sustainable farming from history rather than from current science. He talks about ancient and modern agriculture having markedly different philosophies, and why archeology teaches good farming. [\[Contrary Farmer\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

## 1 Step Forward, 2 Steps Back



The Florida House passed a bill to repeal the septic tank inspection requirement that was adopted last year. The repealer bill passed overwhelmingly & goes to the Senate. Florida's government seems content with septic tank pollution of our waterways. [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

## Wehle Sets Record Straight



At the district board's monthly meeting on Apr 14 Carol Wehle, executive director of SFWM explained the reasons for her retirement from SFWM. Addressing her staff in the audience, she said that she never violated an ethical law or district policy. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[Wehle Speech\]](#)

## Local Fertilizer Laws Safe



A fertilizer bill passed the Florida House on April 15 by a vote of 113 to 0 that preserves all aspects of every current ordinance and provides local governments the ability to adopt stronger than the state's DEP model ordinances in the future. [\[Details\]](#)

## Sugar Daddies



In challenging the cry of "socialism" every time government enforces reasonable rules for capitalism, Wayne Daltry commented on documentary "Political Contributions: The Sugar Daddies." He explains reasonable social contracts are good for the USA. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Watch the Documentary\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

## Our Legislator Strikes Again



Florida Rep. Trudi Williams supported a bill blocking EPA water quality standards but added insult to injury by also amending the legislation to create a new waterbody classification system long sought by industry groups and rich in loopholes. [\[Naples News\]](#)

## Good Judges are Like Gold



Federal Court Judge Alan S. Gold is the only thing standing between Florida and its environmental succession from the Union. Judge Gold is in semi-retirement on the U.S. District Court. Presidential appointment of judges are important to Florida. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[The Federal Lawyer\]](#)

## Tough Love from Federal Judge



The state of Florida has failed to protect the threatened Everglades and the U.S. EPA must step in to enforce anti-pollution rules, a federal judge ruled on Apr 26. U.S. District Judge Alan Gold says EPA, not Florida must lead Glades fix. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[Ruling\]](#)