

# The Flow

April 2015 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Special Events & Meetings

- **May 1-3: Florida Paddling Trails Reunion** in Apopka
- **May 6: CRCA-Riverwatch Board Meeting** in LaBelle
- **May 7: Sea Level Rise Summit** at FGCU in Ft. Myers
- **May 13: NRC Everglades ASR Study Webinar**

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CRCA & FGCU students delivered Earth Day water programs in LaBelle.

## Green Slime in Lake O...AGAIN!



Wow! Check out this video produced by Capt. Mike Conner and Kenny Hinkle Jr. taken at the Port Mayaca Lock and Dam at Lake Okeechobee. Samples are still being tested to see if it's the same toxic blue-green algae that devastated the Indian River Lagoon and St Lucie Estuary in 2013. [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Water Quality Reports\]](#)

## CRCA May BOD Meeting



The May 6 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. Members are welcome to attend. [\[Map\]](#)

## Saved By The Bell



Bad water policy and fracking bills failed due to a dispute among Republicans over Medicaid funding. The chambers will have to return to pass a budget before July. EAA land purchase funding progress might be possible at that time, but it is unlikely. [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#) [\[Orlando Sentinel\]](#) [\[Friends of Florida\]](#) [\[Florida Clean Water Network\]](#) [\[Bill Day Cartoons\]](#)

## Joe Negrón Support



As he seeks his party's selection as Senate president while also trying to maintain home voter support, Joe Negrón gingerly endorsed the EAA land buy project. He says that he's researching options for the \$500 million land purchase. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[TC Palm\]](#)

## Do What I Say, Not What I Do



John Cassani points out the disconnect between Lee County Commissioners' positive statements of support for water quality restoration while at the same time they dismantle or generally thwart progressive land use and development planning. Actions consistent with the rhetoric are needed. [\[News Press\]](#)

## Lee Commission Supports Purchase



Lee County commissioners added an important voice to the chorus urging the governor and Legislature to acquire U.S. Sugar land south of Lake Okeechobee. Voting in favor were Commissioners Pendergrass, Manning, and Mann. Voting against were Commissioners Kiker and Hamman. [\[Naples Daily News\]](#) [\[Skink Cartoon\]](#) [\[BOCC Video Link\]](#)

(1:56:00)

## New Riverwatch Officers



The April CRCA Board of Directors meeting elected new officers: President-John Paul; VP-Gene Gibson, VP for Development-Mary Rawl, Treasurer-Ron Zimmerly; Corresponding Secretary-Linda Mattos and Recording Secretary-John Capece. They serve until April 2016. **[New Officers]**

## Thanks To Our Rally Sponsors



CRCA-Riverwatch extends its gratitude and appreciation for the generous donation provided by our members David and Cheryl Copham of Ft. Myers. Your support made it possible for 7 Riverwatch student members stand prominent at the Floridians for Clean Water & Amendment 1 Rally on Feb 18.

**[David & Cheryl Copham] [Rally**

**Photo 1] [Rally Photo 2]**

## Gov Scott Orders Water Tests



CRCA-Riverwatch Directors Ray Judah and John Cassani comment on recent Corps scheduled water releases from Lake Okeechobee, months earlier than normally required. Gov. Scott ordered a halt to the planned releases pending water quality tests for potential harm from nutrients and toxic algae. **[Fox 4]**

**[Video]**

## Expensive But Immediate Storage



Some assert that the state is currently overpaying big agricultural operators to store water on their property. These do help filter pollutants and moderate estuary salinity, but come at a higher cost when the US Sugar's land option can achieve greater public storage for our water. **[Tampa Bay Times]**

## Everglades ASR Regional Study



The National Research Council has completed its Everglades Aquifer Storage and Recovery Regional Study. NAS will be hosting a webinar on May 13 at 11am to discuss report findings. Register in advance if you are interested in participating. **[NAS ASR Report]** **[Webinar Registration]**

## FL National Earth Day Focus



President Obama spent Apr 22 in the Florida Everglades. The choice of highlighting Earth Day in Florida, where sea levels are rising rapidly & state officials aren't allowed to discuss climate change, brings Obama to the front lines of the debate over how to address the changing environment. **[The Washington Post]** **[Huffington Post]** **[Time]** **[USA Today]** **[USA Today]**

**[Earth Day Cartoon]**

## Obama & Luther Are Angry



In his annual comedic address to the White House Correspondents Dinner, President Obama used humor to blast climate change deniers, saying "What kind of stupid, shortsighted, irresponsible bull"... before Luther (his anger translator) had to interrupt. **[Climate Progress]** **[Climate Change Comments]** **[Entire Luther Segment]**

## Sea Level Rise Summit



CRCA is co-sponsoring a Sea Level Rise Summit on May 7 at FGCU. Similar meetings are held every year in our area, but none have yet achieved the goal of facilitating creation of a SW FL regional climate change "compact" like the one in SE FL. **[Summit Program]** **[Sea Level Rise Summit]** **[SE FL Regional Climate Change Compact]**

## Caloosahatchee & Lake O Status



Lake O level was 13.76ft on Apr 27. Flows to the estuary at S79 averaged 1,961 cfs from Apr 21 to 27. The salinity is in an optimal range at Shell point for oysters but still below at Cape Coral. In general, it's still low for both fauna and flora. **[SCCF Caloosahatchee Condition Report]** **[Salinity Graphic]** **[Lake O Water Level]** **[SCCF**

**Website]**

## Price of Water Rising



The price of water in the USA has risen 41% since 2010. The economics of water - particularly the cost of treatment, pumping, new infrastructure and retail price for consumers - has gained renewed prominence as states face historic drought & water managers seek to rein in water consumption. **[Circle of Blue]** **[Infra Manage]** **[Cartoon]** **[Pricing Graphic]**

## Hiaasen Speech & Buffett Show



During the Everglades Day, we saw how much Floridians care about their environment. But if you missed this event and the show, follow the link and listen to Carl Hiaasen's inspired speech and Jimmy Buffett's joyful songs! **[Hiaasen & Buffett]**

## Everglades Action Day



CRCA directors Rae Ann Wessel and Nargiza Abduvohidova along with 12 student members traveled to Tallahassee to join the Everglades Action Day on Apr 6-7. Our group met with decision-makers and joined the rally. Special thanks to Everglades Foundation, EvCo and David & Cheryl Copham for sponsorship. **[w/Rep. Caldwell Astd.]** **[w/Rep. Passidomo]** **[Group]** **[Rally]** **[FSU]**

**[Fitzenhagen]** **[w/Rep. Caldwell Astd.]** **[w/Rep. Passidomo]** **[Group]** **[Rally]** **[FSU]**

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