

The Flow

April 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- May 7: [Riverwatch at Rotary at Sunrise Rotary Club, Ft. Myers](#)
- May 7: [CRCA BOD Meeting in LaBelle at 6:30pm](#)
- May 9: [National Public Gardens Day in Ft. Myers](#)
- May 11: [Caloosahatchee Oxbows & River Cruise](#)
- May 15-18: [FNPS Conference at FGCU](#)

Editorial Disclaimer
Visit the CRCA web site
crca.caloosahatchee.org
Join us at [Facebook](#)



Riverwatch members inform public at Swamp Cabbage Festival 2014

CRCA President Mary Rawl



Mary Rawl has been elected as the 2014-15 Riverwatch President. It's her second time serving as President; her first term was in 2006-07. Rawl is Executive Director of Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium. She also serves as Watershed Council Chair. Go Mary! [\[Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium\]](#) [\[Watershed Council\]](#)

\$ for St Lucie & Caloosahatchee

The Florida Senate
Press Release
April 28, 2014
**FULL FUNDING
OF LAGOON**

Senator Negron announced that lawmakers have agreed to fund short and long-term recommendations to improve the environmental and economic health of the Indian River Lagoon, St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River. It provides 3% of what's needed to build the C43 West Reservoir. [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[More Information\]](#) [\[IRLLOB Report\]](#)

Seeking Board Members



Applicants for additions to the Riverwatch Board of Directors are welcome. If you think you might be willing to take on a greater level of participation this year then please complete the form and submit to Riverwatch. Directors attend monthly meetings and help with community projects. [\[Form\]](#) [\[Email Your Interest\]](#)

CRCA Vice President: John Paul



CRCA 2014-15 Vice President is John Paul, a fourth-generation citrus man and owner of Car Two citrus haulers. He also manages & harvests groves. John Paul is a maverick, determined to be both an agriculturalist and an environmentalist. In addition to citrus, John is experimenting with energy crops. [\[John Paul's Profile\]](#)

Judge Rules in Favor of Estuary



The Conservancy of SW FL caught SFWMD trying to give the Estuary more water with one hand while taking it away with the other. In its C43 Reservation Rule, SFWMD tried to exclude reopening of existing and new water use permits for reductions when the reservoir fails to eliminate low flow violations.

[\[Court Ruling on C43 Reservoir\]](#)

BOMA Land



Lee Co. & SFWMD bought BOMA for \$37 million in 2007 to improve Estuary water quality by removing nitrogen. The current plan emphasizes water storage - up to 2000 acre-feet. Estimates are that SFWMD needs \$7 million more. But to justify the high total cost requires a nitrogen water quality function. [\[News Press\]](#)

[\[Comments\]](#) [\[BOMA Land\]](#)

Progress on Multiple Fronts



A court ruling requiring agencies to get a permit when transferring polluted water was 11 years in the making, says Rae Ann Wessel of SCCF. The ruling affects Lake O backpumping and other practices. Also, the new WRRDA includes the C43 reservoir project, but not all other projects of area interest. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[WRRDA, C43 & CEPP Explained\]](#)

Joint Ceitus Discussions



Lee County Commissioner Mann asked about the Ceitus issue at a joint Cape Coral - Lee County meeting. With the primary Ceitus advocate (Ray Judah) and the primary opponent (Mayor Sullivan) both out of office, it will be interesting to see the net outcome in 6 months. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[SunGloPhoto.com slides\]](#)

Rally Against Power Plant



On April 21-22, Seminoles & environmental groups held a rally at Hendry County Courthouse in opposition to a proposed FPL power plant adjacent the Seminole Reservation. They fear impacts on their drinking water & other aspects of the region. Some only want renewable power plants for the future. [\[More Information\]](#) [\[Flyer\]](#) [\[Banner\]](#) [\[Earth First\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

[\[Video\]](#)

Not Always What It Seems



John Poggi asks a good question...if the objective is to store MORE water north of Lake O, why are higher drainage rate structures being built on lakes feeding the Kissimmee & Lake O? Riverwatch followed up on the question and Dr. Paul Gray explains that it is not really a contradiction. [\[The Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[Explanation by Dr. Paul Gray\]](#)

EPA Asserts CWA Upstream



In a 371-page document released on March 25, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy clarified that wetlands & tributaries to navigable waters are subject to the Clean Water Act. However, EPA is maintaining the exemption for permits for agricultural runoff. [\[EPA\]](#) [\[Circle of Blue\]](#) [\[Huffington Post\]](#) [\[Clearer Protections\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[EPA documents\]](#)

[\[EPA documents\]](#)

C43 West Reservoir in WRRDA



Central Everglades projects are not in the Water Resources Development Act, but C-43 West Reservoir is. The reservoir is just a fraction of what's needed & Wayne Daltry says the \$580 million could go toward smaller projects that would have a bigger impact on local water quality than the reservoir. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[C43\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Most Endangered Rivers



Each year American Rivers identifies 10 Most Endangered Rivers. This year emphasizes western rivers, particularly California rivers suffering from drought & other hardships. The Caloosahatchee was on the list in 2006 and could easily

be again in a future year's list. [\[USA Today\]](#) [\[American Rivers\]](#) [\[Caloosahatchee\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Cassani on Court & Legislature



Despite lots of talk to fix the water pollution problem, GOP leadership have decided to postpone any substantive legislation on water policy until next year. It's no wonder conservation groups fighting for the public interest have to resort to the courts or state constitutional amendments. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Florida Water & Land Conservation Amendment\]](#)

New Director: Ross Wherry



Riverwatch welcomes Ross Wherry to its board. A former Foreign Service officer (US Agency for International Development), Ross served as Director of Iraq Affairs; a member of the Afghanistan Task Force; and Dep. Director of South American Affairs. [\[Bio\]](#) [\[Philippines Photo\]](#) [\[Background\]](#) [\[Linkedin\]](#) [\[CorpWatch\]](#)

[\[Bio\]](#) [\[Philippines Photo\]](#) [\[Background\]](#) [\[Linkedin\]](#) [\[CorpWatch\]](#)

DEP Secretary Discussion



DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard met with SW FL environmental leaders on Apr 2 in Ft. Myers. Jennifer Hecker of the SW FL Conservancy emphasized the need for DEP to revise the Caloosahatchee reservation rule to make it real and enforceable. [\[Letter To Vinyard\]](#)

Flushing Away the Future



According to Linda Young, some Floridians have resisted legislative efforts to better regulate the use of septic tanks. FL Clean Water Network will soon release a report on the use and regulation of septic tanks which hopefully will raise awareness. [\[FL CWN\]](#)

SB1464/HB703 Declared Dead



Sen. Wilton Simpson, the bill sponsor and chairman of the Senate Committee on Community Affairs, said he temporarily postponed his SB 1464, companion of HB 703. The committee won't be meeting again before the end of the legislative session on May 2. [\[The Florida Current\]](#) [\[SB1464\]](#) [\[Money vs. People\]](#) [\[Why It Is Bad\]](#)