

The Flow

August 2011 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Sep 7: [Riverwatch BOD Meeting](#) at 6:30pm in Ft. Myers
- Aug 18: [SWF Watershed Council Meeting](#) from 1:30–3pm at the Royal Palm Yacht Club in Ft. Myers
- Oct 27: [Eco-Breakfast](#) from 7am-9am at Riverside Community Center in Ft. Myers

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



International students conduct depth surveys of Caloosahatchee oxbows.

Thank You Dan & Nancy



Riverwatch awarded Dan Morrissey & Nancy Smith of Alva certificates of appreciation for hosting USF graduate student Chloe Delhomme in their home during her oxbow thesis research data collection project. Dan is owner of FAFCO Solar Energy. [\[Data Collection Photo\]](#) [\[FAFCO Solar Energy\]](#)

Estuary Report Card



The next SWF Watershed Council meeting is scheduled for August 18 from 1:30–3:00 pm at the Royal Palm Yacht Club. Jennifer Hecker, Director of Natural Resource Policy will be presenting the results of the Conservancy 2011 Estuaries Report Card. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Report Card \(2.93MB\)\]](#)

Fertilizing the River



Lawn fertilizing practices that would be illegal in Lee County are common practice in Hendry & Glades Counties, where lawn maintenance companies & homeowners regularly improperly fertilize, adding more nitrogen & phosphorus flowing to the Caloosahatchee. [\[Lee Rules\]](#) [\[Hendry/Glades Photo\]](#)

Riverkeeper at Riverwatch



George Jones, Riverkeeper for Indian River Lagoon, will speak to the Sep 7 meeting of Riverwatch at Abes Kountry Kitchen in Ft. Myers at 6:30pm. Members & guest are invited. The CRCA board will meet at 7:30pm, after the Riverkeeper presentation. [\[Location Map\]](#)

Another Step Backward in Cape



To avoid a water rates increase, Cape Coral City Council supported moving forward with outsourcing its biosolids production and downgrading its biosolids wastewater product from Class AA to Class B. When given a choice, the Cape typically chooses cheap over clean. [\[Daily Breeze\]](#)

Oxbows Research Report



At the Aug 3 meeting of Riverwatch two Intelligentsia International students, Sean Foorman from Stanford and Jeremie Sage from the National School of Public Works Engineering (France) reported on the 2011 survey of all 38 Caloosahatchee oxbows.

Caloosahatchee at Risk



The Caloosahatchee is in trouble. From toxic algae blooms to waterborne fecal bacteria, the river's health is under near-constant assault. Scientists now know more about it but whether research will be enough to restore the river is an open question. [\[Web Site\]](#)

Mercury and Agriculture



The entire state of Florida is under a mercury advisory for more than 70 species of saltwater and freshwater fish, explains Melodie Naja, a water quality scientist. Eating them too frequently can cause serious neurological problems. [\[TCPalm\]](#)

Stearns Shuts Out Public



In the latest example of one-sided public policy, Congressman Cliff Stearns of Ocala is refusing to invite any clean-water advocates or members of the public to testify at an Orlando Congressional hearing on EPA's proposed limits for sewage, fertilizer and manure in Florida waters. [\[Florida Sportsman\]](#)

Regulating Water Pollution



Florida is restarting efforts to develop tougher water pollution regulations to avoid an impending federal takeover of that responsibility. The EPA, though, remains set to implement its own standards if it finds the new state rules unacceptable. [\[Naples News\]](#)

Ignorance Is Bliss



FL Dept of Health plans to curtail beach safety testing and is seeking federal approval. It seems the simplest way to solve the problem of unsafe beaches caused by bacteria and other contaminants is to stop the programs that test the water for safety. No more information, no more problem. [\[News Journal\]](#)

Oxbow Restoration Revisited



As his internship with Intelligentsia International, Environmental Engineering student Sean Foorman of Stanford Univ is studying Oxbow 24. Sean is trying to assess the success of the 2005 restoration of the oxbow at Old Ft. Denaud. Some of the equipment has been provided by John Cassani of LCHCD. [\[Photo 1\]](#)

How Wrong Can She Be?



Nancy Smith of Sunshine State "News" assails Audubon's Eric Draper and misrepresents the causes of improper Lake O water releases. Anyone involved in the process knows the Corps often tries to do the right thing, but SFWMD sways the decisions. [\[Sunshine News\]](#) [\[Draper Response\]](#) [\[Audubon Letter\]](#)

Who Is Sunshine State News?



Who are these people at Sunshine State News that operate as the Fox News of Florida print journalism? Editor Nancy Smith of Tallahassee (unrelated to CRCA member Nancy Smith of Alva) produces much of its content after, self admittedly, spending "30 minutes in a rubber room to recover." [\[Eye on Miami\]](#)

Algae Blooms Everywhere Now



Algae blooms and dead zones are an annual occurrence for many water bodies, and this year seems to be worse than many. A dead zone is developing in the Chesapeake Bay and in the Gulf of Mexico. A huge algae bloom is covering Yellow Sea in China too. [\[Stormwater\]](#)

Watching, Not Doing



Rodger Schlickeisen, President of the Defenders of Wildlife in his recent commentary analysis stated that Obama's administration's conservation record falls far short of what it promised, what was expected of it and – most importantly - what we need. [\[Details\]](#)

Facts & Fiction



Rae Ann Wessel of SCCF in her recent commentary said that the serious and persistent algae blooms that continue to affect Southwest Florida — and other areas of the state — are the direct result of too much nutrient enrichment of our region's waters. [\[Captiva Sanibel\]](#)

Nutrients Not The Cause?



A long list of companies and organizations attempt to claim that nutrients are not the cause of the 2011 algae blooms in the Caloosahatchee. They blame the lack of flow. Obviously they are wrong. Clean stagnant water will not bloom into algae. [\[Sunshine News\]](#)