

The Flow

August 2012 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

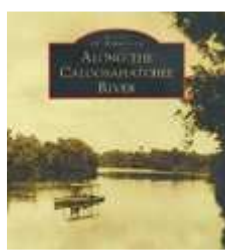
- Aug 30: [Caloosahatchee Estuary BMAP](#)
- Sep 1-3: [Swamp Walk at Big Cypress](#)
- Sep 5: [CRCA Dinner & Presentation](#)
- Sep 13: [CHNEP Conservation Lands Stewardship](#)
- Oct 14-20: [Ding Darling Days](#)

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



Dan DeLisi discusses estuary water at a Riverwatch meeting in LaBelle.

Along the Caloosahatchee



Images of America released a new book entitled "Along the Caloosahatchee River" by Amy Bennett Williams, a journalist and editor of Tropicalia magazine. The book tells the Caloosahatchee's story in a photographic-focused historical chronicle. [\[Cape Coral Daily Breeze\]](#) [\[Order one for \\$21.99\]](#)

Dinner & Presentation



On Wed, Sep 5, Riverwatch hosts a presentation "Along the Caloosahatchee River" by Amy Bennett Williams. Join CRCA for the gourmet buffet dinner at 6pm (\$25) and the presentation at 7pm (free) at Royal Palm Yacht Club. [\[Details\]](#) [\[RSVP\]](#) [\[Register\]](#) [\[Payment\]](#)

Water Supply Augmentation (WSA)



SFWMD Governing Member Dan DeLisi spoke to a crowd of over 40 people at the Aug 1 CRCA meeting in LaBelle. He explained that WSA (backpumping) would consistently deliver more dry season water to the estuary. DeLisi said that this was a real estuary benefit that he could deliver during his term. [\[WMD Info\]](#) [\[CRCA Audio\]](#) [\[WMD Web Site\]](#)

Voters Snooze on Environment



Less than 30% of Lee Co Democrats voted in the primary on Aug 14. On the Republican side, long-time river advocate Ray Judah lost his primary race for re-election to the Lee County Commission. His leadership on eco-issues will be missed! [\[Letter to Editor\]](#)

The Everglades Winner



Andy Powell, Vice President of Wright Construction Group won a 30x40 giclee print of "The Everglades" by Caroline Krieger Comings. Caroline provided "The Everglades" as a fundraising donation to CRCA. Many thanks Caroline and congratulations Andy! [\[Krieger Artwork\]](#) [\[Wright Construction Group\]](#)

Backpumping (WSA) - SCCF Opinion



Rae Ann Wessel of SCCF said backpumping is not an option we can afford. Transferring the obligation for clean up from the polluter to the public increases the cost of cleanup and transfers the financial obligation and expense to the public taxpayer. [\[Opinion\]](#) [\[SCCF comments\]](#)

CRCA Newsletter Resumes



Riverwatch newsletter "The Flow" returns after 4 missed months following 57 consecutive monthly editions. It returns thanks to a generous donor...details next month. CRCA invites others to donate in support of river publications & events.

Caloosahatchee River Lawsuit



On July 23, 2012 Earthjustice filed a federal lawsuit against the US Army Corps of Engineers (who control the locks & water flow) because the agency, acting on the advice of SFWMD, is repeatedly violating water protection laws for the Caloosahatchee. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Lawsuit\]](#)

Drought Sends Cows to FL



Florida normally ships calves to the corn. But the drought has the Midwest and West sending cows to FL for food and water. Is this the first stage of a long-term trend as climate change induces economic and ecological adjustments? [\[2012 Spring\]](#) [\[Cattle Shift 2011\]](#) [\[Past Price Hikes\]](#)

How Did We Get Here?



John Cassani assembled a chronology of events since 1970s as part of an effort to answer the question, "How in the heck is it that the Caloosahatchee Estuary has suffered 6 consecutive years of MFL violations?" These are years where there is insufficient dry season flow & excessive estuary salinity. [\[Chronology\]](#)

Cape Coral Gag Order



Cape Coral Councilman John Carioscia said that by passing a resolution to no longer discuss Ceitus and not giving the Lee BOCC the full 180 days agreed to, the council would "go against its word." The 6-1 vote adopting the gag order shows that opponents to water quality measures are not just inland. [\[Daily Breeze\]](#) [\[Resolution\]](#)

Caloosahatchee BMAPs



The Caloosahatchee Estuary Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) policy briefing is on Aug 30 from 9:30AM-12:00PM at Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council in Ft. Myers. The primary topic of discussion will be the ongoing process of BMAP development. [\[Details\]](#)

A Dry Wet Season So Far



Much of the SFWMD's 16-county region experienced below-average rainfall in July. Lake Okeechobee is 1.87 feet below average and has risen only half a foot since the wet season began in early May. Sep-Oct rains are needed in the Kissimmee Basin. [\[News Release\]](#) [\[Jul 2012 Rainfall\]](#) [\[Aug 17 Briefing\]](#) [\[Article\]](#)

Ceitus Boat Lift Overview



Phil Buchanan gave a presentation about the Ceitus (Cape Coral Spreader Canal) issue to a crowd of more than 50 attending the Watershed Council event on Aug 16. Attendees included Lee Co Commission candidates Larry Kiker & Cecil Pendergrass. [\[Phil Buchanan\]](#)

Unconvincing Propaganda



John Cassani of Alva commented on the recent Guest Opinion by Drew Bartlett of DEP explaining what a priority it is for DEP to get "Florida's water right". Cassani says if that was true Florida's waters wouldn't be in the condition they are now. [\[Cassani Opinion\]](#) [\[Bartlett Editorial\]](#)

Smoking Gun!



Increased ocean acidification is leading to larval oyster failure in hatcheries. As atmospheric CO2 levels continue to rise, this may be the proverbial canary in the coal mine (pardon the irony) for other ocean acidification impacts on shellfish. [\[NSF\]](#) [\[Images\]](#)

Ways to Save Everglades



Riverwatch President Pete Quasius participated in a So FL Ecosystem Restoration Working Group meeting on June 26 in Jensen Beach to discuss ways to save Everglades. There were about 40 people from government agencies and conservation. [\[TCPalm\]](#)

LaBelle Nature Park Cleanup



On July 7 FGCU students joined Intelligentsia International college student interns for a trails clearing project sponsored by Rotary & CRCA. Thank you Margaret England for hosting the luncheon at her home near the Park. A new addition to the clean-up team was Shellie Johnson, LaBelle City Planner. [\[Article\]](#)