

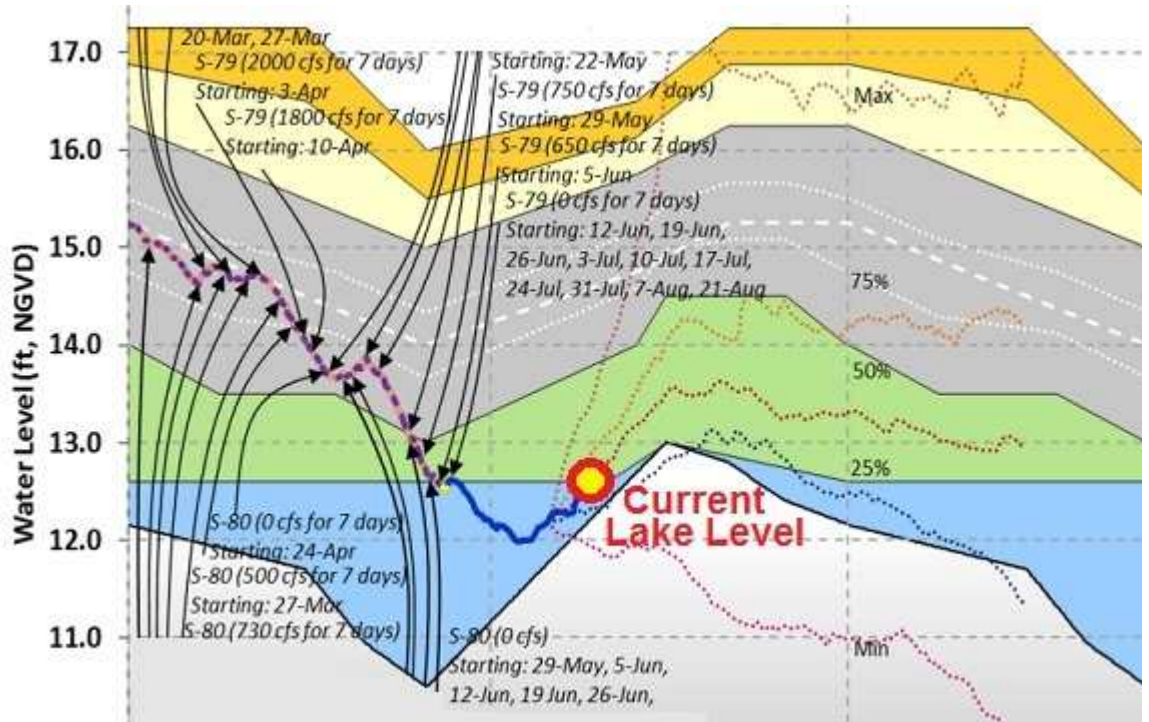
The Flow

August 2015 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Sep 2: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in LaBelle
- Sep 2: [DEP Water Restoration Work Plans Meeting](#) in Temple Terrace
- Sep 2: [Seven Islands Meeting](#) in Punta Gorda
- Sep 3: [LaBelle Heritage Museum Meeting](#) in LaBelle
- Sep 16 : [Program with Larry Allan](#) at the Calusa Nature Center in Ft. Myers

Editorial Disclaimer
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Lake O is 2 ft below midrange seasonal stage & needs tropical rains.

River Salinity (Aug 18-24)



Very high watershed runoff during the latter half of August more than doubled Caloosahatchee flow to the estuary, reaching an average of 4,022 cfs. Salinity in the lower estuary dropped to the harmful range for oysters. The majority of flow originated from the central watershed basin west of S78. [\[Conditions\]](#) [\[Graphic\]](#) [\[SCCF\]](#)

Store or Release?



Whenever a hurricane or tropical storm approaches south Florida, SFWMD and Corps of Engineers officials earn their pay. It is they who must decide whether to release water from Lake O to create room for storm runoff. If they choose wrong they could dump our dry season water supply to the Gulf.

CRCA September Meeting



The Riverwatch Board meeting is on Sep 2, 6:30 to 8:00 PM in LaBelle at Bridge Street Coffee House, 23 Fort Thompson Ave. Members are encouraged and welcome to attend. During your visit you can see the new streetscape in front of Charlie's and adjacent merchants. [\[Location Map\]](#)

C-43 Reservoir Construction Begins



On Aug 13, SFWMD approved \$10.8 million to start construction of C-43 West Basin storage reservoir. C-43 aims to hold 170,000 acre-feet of water by storing excess stormwater and regulatory releases from Lake O during the rainy season. Not all agree the project is a good investment or solution. [\[SFWMD\]](#)

Look, But Do Not Touch...Water



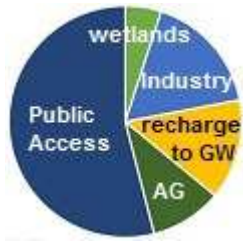
In what has become at least an annual event, the beaches at the Franklin Lock Recreation Area were closed by the Corps of Engineers after routine water test results returned with elevated levels of enterococcus bacteria. It remains open for sunbathing and recreational activities other than swimming. [\[Corps of Engineers\]](#)

Roger Clark, Cornerstone



Roger Clark's sudden passing fell heavily on the hearts of those in Riverwatch who had the privilege to know and work with him over the decades. Roger influenced the region's conservation policies as well as young minds. He was very much in love with making the environment a better place for us. [\[News Press Tribute\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

DEP Water Reuse Study



DEP conducted a comprehensive study on the expansion of the use of reclaimed water, stormwater and excess surface water in Florida. DEP reports 719 mgd being reused. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on draft report until Sep 15, 2015. [\[Draft\]](#) [\[Presentation\]](#) [\[Reuse Pie Chart\]](#) [\[Details\]](#)

IREX Fellow Assists Riverwatch



Meet Carilyn Salanio-Martin, from the Philippines. She is a 2015 Community Solutions Program Fellow of US State Dept's Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs as implemented by IREX. For the next 4 months she will be in our area helping Riverwatch and learning about US environmental issues. [\[IREX\]](#) [\[ECPC\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

Try, Try Again



DEP will hold five meetings to receive input on Water Quality Assessment determination and restoration. Workshop schedules are as follows: Aug 26 in Stuart, Florida; Aug 27 in Fort Myers; Sep 2 in Temple Terrace; Sep 3 in Daytona Beach and Sep 10 in Tallahassee. [\[Details\]](#)

Riverkeeper Catches Bad Guys!



In Georgia, American Sealcoat Manufacturing Company has been fined \$10 million for polluting the Chattahoochee River with toxic chemicals. Riverkeeper filed a lawsuit in 2014 as the company operated with no industrial stormwater permit & dumped toxic chemicals into the stream that flows to Florida. [\[WBS TV\]](#)

July Hottest Ever



July 2015 is officially the hottest month ever recorded since global record-keeping began. While land temp was slightly higher, ocean surface temperature was a full 1.35F higher than the 20th century average and the highest sea temperature ever recorded. [\[Washington Post\]](#) [\[Ice Volume Tracker\]](#) [\[Website\]](#)

Obama Water Rule Blocked



Judge Ralph Erickson on Thursday upheld the lawsuit opposing a federal waters rule. The decision is a roadblock for the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers plan to enforce the waters of the US rule, expanding federal jurisdiction over small waterways, like streams and wetlands. It will be appealed. [\[Decision\]](#) [\[Enews.com\]](#) [\[The Hill\]](#)

Together We Stand



John Cassani, Chairman of Southwest Florida Watershed Council, comments on the Lee County compliance report for its MS4 permit raising the issue of TN loading protocol and the Caloosahatchee BMAP. Also signing the letter were many groups: SFWC, ICWN, CSF, CBD, CRCA and SCCF. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[Assessment\]](#)

Fastest Ever Calving Glacier



The largest ever observed chunk of ice broke away on Aug 14 from Jakobshavn glacier on the west shores of Greenland. Estimated total area of ice lost was around 12.5 square kilometers, sufficient to cover Manhattan in nearly 1,000 feet of ice! The glacier is moving 3 times as fast as in 1990. [\[Animation\]](#) [\[The Washington Post\]](#) [\[Location Map\]](#) [\[Website\]](#)

Cape Coral Plans Development



Cape Coral is planning for development of 7 islands of the Cape Coral North Spreader Canal System. What will be proposed use and will it be compatible next to Aquatic Preserve with FIVE state and federal designations of protection? [\[Islands Map\]](#) [\[Meeting Announcement\]](#) [\[Caution Presentation\]](#)

Doubling Down on Destruction



Even while they are being sued for removing the Ceitus Boat lift in 2007, Cape Coral is today moving ahead with plans to remove the Chiquita Boat Lock that controls the southern part of the Cape Coral spreader canal system designed to protect our water quality and wildlife habitat. [\[Cape Coral Breeze\]](#) [\[System Map\]](#) [\[Roger Wood Report\]](#)

Deja VUE, All Over Again?



Who among you remembers our 2007-8 battle over "The Vue" high-rise development next to Centennial Park? Well, it's back. This time Riverwatch VP (and retired attorney), Gene Gibson, is on the case for CRCA, expressing riverfront access & park impact concerns to City officials. [\[Update\]](#) [\[May Letter By Gibson\]](#) [\[2007 Action\]](#)

Telling It Like It Is



In a speech to the Tiger Bay Club and in a guest editorial in the Pine Island Eagle, Ray Judah talks about state environmental priorities and about local green politics on the current Lee County Commission, including the BOCC abandoning the Community Sustainability Plan. [\[Tiger Bay Club\]](#) [\[Pine Island Eagle\]](#)