

The Flow

December 2011 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Jan 4: [Riverwatch Meeting](#) at 6:30pm Royal Palm Yacht Club
- Jan 5: [SCCF Lecture](#) at 7:30pm Sanibel Community House
- Jan 5-8: Everglades Coalition [Annual Conference](#) in Stuart
- Jan 8: River, Roots and Ruts [Trail Run](#) at Sam CRP in Alva

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



Slime billboards greet tourists returning to Florida this holiday season.

Mullet Eggs Poaching



The appearance of dead mullet floating in Cape Coral canals is evidence of illegal mullet fishermen operating in the area at night. They kill the females and throw the males back. They are after the roe (egg sacks) of red mullet, called bottarga, which sells for up to \$50 per ounce. [\[Details\]](#)

Waterfront Redevelopment



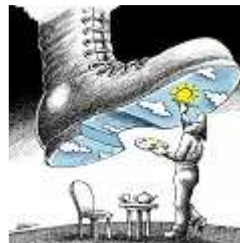
On Jan 4th at the Royal Palm Yacht Club, CRCA-Riverwatch is hosting a dinner presentation by Don Paight, Executive Director of Ft. Myers Development on plans for downtown waterfront redevelopment. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Background\]](#) [\[Invitation\]](#) [\[River District\]](#) [\[RSVP\]](#) [\[Payment\]](#)

We Told You So



Fishing in Lake O is the best it's ever been because a hurricane-damaged dike combined with drought has forced the lake levels lower to where the littoral zone is now healthy & vibrant. Lower lake levels is what environmental groups have advocated for years. [\[TCPalm\]](#) [\[Clewiston Fishing Hero\]](#)

Ceitus Mediation Formality



The long-awaited meeting between the Lee County Commissioners and the Cape Coral City Council is on March 13, 2012 in Ft. Myers. The purpose of the meeting is to satisfy Florida Chapter 164 requirements for mediation before the lawsuit goes to trial. [\[Details\]](#)

Mike Bauer to Serve on ERC



Governor Scott appointed Michael Bauer to the Environmental Regulation Commission of DEP. Bauer is a long-time SW FL environmental professional. He has direct experience and knowledge of the Caloosahatchee & CRCA from his years at SFWMD & Audubon. [\[WCTV\]](#) [\[Michael Bauer\]](#)

River, Roots & Ruts Trail Run



The 9th Annual River, Roots and Ruts Trail Run will be held at Lee County's Caloosahatchee Regional Park on Sunday, January 8, 2012. The Half Marathon and Relay 8:00 am, 5K Fun Run 8:15 am. The registration is open. Sign up today! [\[Fall Trail Mail\]](#) [\[Information\]](#) [\[Web site\]](#)

2012 SCCF Lecture Series



On Thursday, January 5th, 2012 The Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society will launch the 2012 lecture series with a presentation by world renowned crane expert & defender, Dr. George Archibald. All are welcomed to attend. A \$5.00 per person donation. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Defending Cranes\]](#)

Untrue, Twisted & Misleading



Great American Myths and Agenda]

In arguing to the ERC against a CWN amendment to surface water quality rules, DEP used "untrue, twisted & misleading" statements, says Linda Young. The amendment failed by unanimous vote of committee members, all aligning with corporate interests. [\[Notes\]](#) [\[Amendment\]](#) [\[Members\]](#)

EcoWatch by Waterkeeper



Waterkeeper Alliance recently launched Ecowatch, a website hub for all things environmental news related. You are invited to utilize the site to get your message and stories out there by submitting original content. [\[Web site\]](#)

Florida Slime Crime Tracker



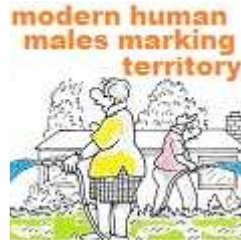
Sierra Club has created an interactive slime tour map called "Florida Slime Crime Tracker". The Google map is now up and running. Unfortunately, the Caloosahatchee was fertile ground for slime pics & provided a disproportionate number of the photos. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Profits Require Destruction



A group of 30 prominent industry groups, utilities and engineering associations signed a letter to EPA basically saying that they simply don't know how to make a profit or operate communities without destroying the environment. [\[Letter\]](#)

Here We Go Again



Despite more water in Lake O than in the past 2 years, the Caloosahatchee is getting below its minimum needs. Now, east coast people are up in arms about water going to the estuary. They want the water saved for lawn watering. The Corps released a small pulse of water to the estuary Jan 16-19. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

The Audacity!



A rider sponsored by Senators Barrasso (R-WY) and Heller (R-NV) to the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, would permanently block the Corps from protecting U.S. waters by clarifying which wetlands and streams are protected by the Clean Water Act. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Web site\]](#)

U.S. Senate Looks At Water



A Dec 8 hearing of a Senate committee on energy & natural resources discussed U.S. & global water challenges. SFWMD's Melissa Meeker testified. By helping train international interns, CRCA works to address both local & international water priorities. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Testimony\]](#) [\[CSPAN\]](#)

Denham Campaign



Sanibel City Vice Mayor Mick Denham is currently leading a campaign against what he describes as an effort to "preempt local government" and undermine water quality in SWFL. Let's support Denham in this effort to protect our precious coastal water. [\[Island Reporter\]](#)

Ranchers Paid to Store Water



Florida's top environmental officials signed contracts with eight ranchers to store water on vast swaths of soggy pastures, as part of a simple project that officials said would require no costly land purchases, construction or complex engineering. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Proper New Water Definition



The Lee County BOCC will consider a resolution that implores SFWMD to establish a water reservation for the Caloosahatchee Estuary that draws from all new water generated by SFWMD projects, not just from the still unfunded C-43 West Reservoir project. [\[Resolution\]](#) [\[Sharing Water\]](#)

No Mining Reclamation



In its latest elimination of water quality oversight, the Scott administration intends to close the DEP office overseeing phosphate mining. This action is further evidence that Scott is systematically dismantling any agency functions problematic to corporate supporters. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Tenoroc Budget\]](#) [\[Tenoroc Fish Mgmt\]](#)