

The Flow

December 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Jan 7: [CRCA BOD Meeting](#) at 6:30pm in Ft. Myers
- Jan 8-10: [EvCo Conference](#) in Key Largo
- Jan 25: [Oxbow and Riverlore Cruise](#) from 1pm to 3:30pm
- Feb 6: [24th Annual Water Resources Conference](#) in Ft. Myers
- Feb 18: [Clean Water Rally](#) in Tallahassee

Editorial Disclaimer
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crca.caloosahatchee.org
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The CRCA holiday party was held at LaBelle's beautiful Hendry House.

Lt Gen Bostick Signs CEPP Report



The long awaited approval of the Corps of Engineers "Chief's Report" on the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) has happened. Final approval of this 8000-page document clears the way for the next step - federal funding. CEPP helps the Caloosahatchee by sending more water south from Lake O.

[[Palm Beach Post](#)] [[Corps Press Release](#)] [[TC Palm](#)] [[LTG Bostick](#)]

[[What is CEPP?](#)]

Water Storage Costs Audit



A SFWMD audit found paying ranches to absorb flood waters costs \$100/acre-ft compared to \$8 on public land, whereas centralized deep reservoirs cost \$167. CRCA requested such an accounting be done many years ago. Audit results help make the case for both private land storage & public land purchases.

[[Palm Beach Post](#)] [[SFWMD Audit](#)]

Donate & Support 20 Years



2015 is here & it's time to renew your membership & donate to Riverwatch. Members should have received a donation envelope by mail. This is our 20th Anniversary. You can help revitalize the organization as it restructures for its ongoing mission. We need your help to make SW FL a better place. [[Pay Dues & Donate Online](#)]

Pope on Destruction of Creation



In March Pope Francis will issue a 50+ page edict officially urging Catholics to push for action on climate change. He has previously stated "Climate change, the loss of biodiversity and deforestation are already showing their devastating effects in the great cataclysms we witness." [[Ars Technica](#)] [[The Atlantic](#)] [[The New Republic](#)] [[Opponents Quickly React](#)]

Denying Motion to Dismiss



A milestone was reached on the long road to holding Cape Coral (and DEP) accountable for their misdeeds in removing the Ceitus Boat Lift 6 years ago. A judge ruled to deny the Cape's motion to dismiss the case brought against them by CRCA & others. This ruling tells the defendant they are at risk.

[[Court Ruling](#)] [[Cartoon](#)] [[2008 & 2009 Background](#)]

[[Documents of DEP, 2007-2011](#)]

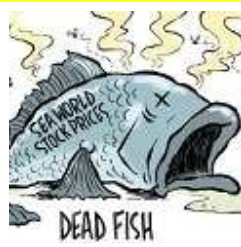
SWFL Water Quality Projects



The South Florida Water Management District and dozens of water quality scientists, elected officials and environmental groups met to discuss options at a Caloosahatchee River forum on Dec 2, 2014. SFWMD responded to Riverwatch input by adding seagrass and oxbow restoration projects to the list.

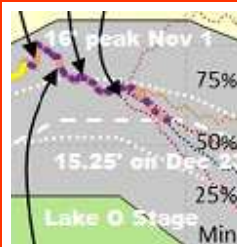
[[News Press](#)] [[Photo 1](#)] [[Photo 2](#)] [[Photo 3](#)] [[Photo 4](#)] [[Photo 5](#)]

Blackfish & Competition Affect SeaWorld



SeaWorld CEO resigns after a 40% drop in stock prices. The Blackfish documentary criticizing Orca treatment in the park is part of the cause, but declining attendance is also due to increased competition from parks like Universal Studios. [\[Stockholders Class Action\]](#) [\[SeaWorld Press Release\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Video Report\]](#)

Caloosahatchee & Lake O Status



Lake O level was 15.25 ft on Dec 23. Flows to the estuary at S79 averaged 1,483 cfs over the past week with 53% of flow originating from the watershed. The salinity at Iona (14 psu) this week was in the optimal range for oysters. [\[SCCF Caloosahatchee Condition Report\]](#) [\[Graphic\]](#) [\[Lake O Stage & Forecasts\]](#) [\[SCCF Web Site\]](#)

Windfall Water Storage Revenue



SFWMMD approved water storage agreements with various land owners including \$136 million to ALICO in Hendry Co. ALICO will store 100,000 acre-ft of runoff at a cost of \$120 per acre-ft per year for 11 years. Such contracts raise the question of how much water these projects actually store and when. [\[Sunday News\]](#) [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Big O Birding Festival 2015



The 14th Annual Big "O" Birding Festival 2015 registration is open! The festival is a Hendry County event organized to showcase the migratory and resident birds located in South Central Florida near the Southwest shores of Lake Okeechobee. [\[Registration Info\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Environmental Top 10



Bruce Ritchie of SaintPetersBlog has assembled his list of Florida's top 10 environmental stories of 2014. Whether candidates or elected officials want to acknowledge it is true, the environment always is important in Florida. [\[SaintPetersBlog\]](#)

Jon Steverson New DEP Head



On Dec 11 Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Jonathan P. Steverson as Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, effective Dec 29. The appointment met with mixed reviews from environmentalists. [\[Details\]](#) [\[WFSU\]](#)

Cruising the River with NOAA



Riverwatch often gets requests asking where to find nautical charts for the Caloosahatchee. NOAA offers charts of the entire US coastline, including the Caloosahatchee Estuary and the Okeechobee Waterway from the Gulf to the Atlantic. [\[Caloosahatchee Estuary Chart\]](#) [\[Caloosahatchee - Okeechobee Waterway Chart\]](#)

[\[Online Charts\]](#)

Moonlight on the Marsh Lectures



Some of the world's most distinguished experts on coastal landscape ecology, hydrology and ecological engineering will share their knowledge during The Bernard and Susan Master "Moonlight on the Marsh" 2015 lecture series presented by FGCU.

[\[Flier\]](#) [\[Details\]](#)

Officials Seek to Gut 20/20



Lee County Commissioners Brian Hamman and Larry Kiker continue to seek to undermine voter desires by gutting the Conservation 20/20 program. While attempting to maintain the appearance of support, their strategy is to eliminate the bulk of the funds. [\[Hamman Defunding\]](#) [\[Kiker Defunding\]](#)

Floridians for Clean Water Rally



Put Feb 18 on your calendar & start making plans to travel to Tallahassee for the clean water and Amendment 1 rally to make sure legislators properly implement the voters' constitutional amendment. "Talk water" with your own legislator. [\[Invitation\]](#) [\[FCWD Campaign\]](#) [\[Graphic\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

[\[Facebook\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#)

Holiday Party at Hendry House



It was a beautiful December evening at the Captain Hendry House in LaBelle for the CRCA annual holiday party. More than 30 members, family and friends gathered for good food and fellowship. Thanks to all the great cooks who brought their specialties. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Photo 4\]](#) [\[Photo 5\]](#) [\[Photo 7\]](#)

Pendergrass Double-talk



Lee Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass responded to a News-Press commentary by Com. Mann regarding changing rural land designations. Pendergrass tells residents that they are nowhere near becoming a replica of Miami. What he doesn't say is that his support for land use changes moves Lee County nearer. [\[Pendergrass\]](#) [\[Mann\]](#) [\[News Press Opinion\]](#)

See CRCA web page for more details on each of the newsletter articles <http://crca.caloosahatchee.org/>

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