

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 21 - SWFWC Meeting
- Feb 23 - Calusa Heritage Day
- Feb 25 - Babcock Ranch Meeting
- Feb 26 - Lee County BOCC Meeting
- Feb 27 - Hendry County Public Information Meeting

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

SWAMP CABBAGE FESTIVAL

LABELLE, SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23-24

RIVER CRUISE

JOIN US FOR A GUIDED CRUISE ON THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER TO DISCOVER ITS HISTORY, OXBOWS, PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.

S E E Y O U T H E R E ! ! !

WIN A CANOE!

COME TO THE RIVERWATCH EXHIBIT AND SIGN UP TO WIN A 14 FT CANOE, DONATED BY THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC.




SPONSORS: ● SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC ● A. DUDA & SONS ● TETRA TECH
● PURRE ● SIERRA CLUB ● AUDUBON ● WATERSHED COUNCIL ● WILSON MILLER ● SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION FOUND

Swamp Cabbage Festival River Cruise and Canoe Contest

UF President Under Scrutiny



UF President Bernard Machen has denied saying that he no longer supports the agriculture industry and will not ask for legislative funding for IFAS. Farm & Ranch asserts the accuracy of its article.

[\[Farm & Ranch Article\]](#) [\[Retraction Demand\]](#) [\[Farm & Ranch Refusal\]](#)

Public Information Meeting



Hendry County Board of County Commissioners will hold a Public Involvement Meeting & Informational Open House for Hendry County's study on the Long Term Planning of Rural and Agricultural Lands on Wednesday, Feb 27 at LaBelle High School Auditorium.

[\[Details\]](#)

State Fertilizer Rule Protest



"The Committee recommends to WRAC that the Statewide Fertilizer Rule is on the right track" reads the Lake O Committee Report. However, some denounce the statewide rule saying it does little or nothing to reduce P or N.

[\[Opposition Statement\]](#)

No Enforcement, No Funds



The federal government says that it will live up to its end of the bargain to fund half of the Everglades restoration only after the State of Florida lives up to its responsibilities to enforce state water quality standards.

[\[Sun Herald\]](#) [\[Letter\]](#)

Win a Canoe !



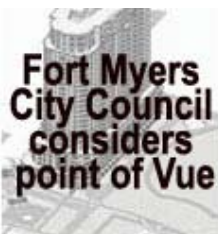
Sign up to get your chance to win a Mad River Adventurer 14 canoe, donated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. at Big Cypress. Suggested chance donations is \$5. Contact a CRCA member for tickets. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Adventurer 14\]](#) [\[Specs\]](#)

Swamp Cabbage Cruise



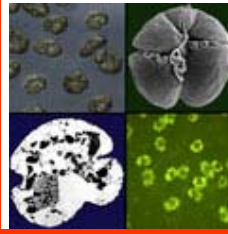
Get your tickets early for a guided Caloosahatchee cruise at the Swamp Cabbage Festival at 2:30pm on Sat, Feb 23 at Barron Park in LaBelle. Tickets are \$20. Learn about the river's history, flora & fauna. Rae Ann Wessel will be your guide. [\[Location Map\]](#) [\[Buy Tickets\]](#) [\[Color Poster\]](#) [\[B/W Poster\]](#)

The Vue Acquisition



Ft. Myers Council met on Jan 28 to discuss buying 2 acres next to Centennial Park for \$16.5 million, land that the City improperly sold to a developer for \$4 million for a court-blocked tower project, The Vue. [\[NewsPress\]](#) [\[CRCA\]](#) [\[The Cost\]](#)

Red Tides Feast



Pollution is making algae blooms more abundant in coastal waters from Naples to Tampa. Red tide algae will increasingly cause trouble as people continue to load the oceans with sewage, fertilizers, livestock waste and other human-based pollutants. [\[Herald Tribune\]](#)

Banners to Battle Pollution



Rose Young and Ricki Howie two art teachers have created banners taking on water issues in Southwest Florida. The banners will be displayed throughout the city, county and state offices. [\[NewsPress\]](#)

SFWMDC Draws the Line



Citing limited water supply that must be preserved for urban infill development, SFWMDC recommended that DCA reject proposals for new housing areas outside Miami's Urban Development Boundary (UDB). This policy could be applied district wide. [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

SWFWC Meeting



Southwest Florida Watershed Council will meet on Feb 21 at 2pm at the Visitor and Convention Bureau in Ft. Myers, 12800 University Drive. Water Wisdom Presentation will be presented by Mike Pope and Mayer Berg. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Under A Microscope



People have long understood how land-based nutrient runoff damages the Caloosahatchee River & estuary. A team from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth has calculated another source of nutrients called 'benthic flux'. [\[NewsPress\]](#)

Vision Needed on River



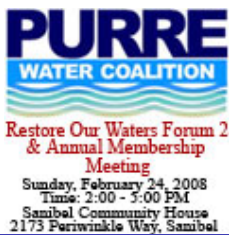
There's an opening at the Fort Myers Redevelopment Agency after redevelopment manager Tony Allen was fired last week. Before considering candidates, the agency should probably consider a recommitment to its motto-New Direction, New Energy, New Life. [\[NewsPress\]](#)

Solving Water Woes



Southwest Florida Watershed Council chairman John Cassani voices his opinion on Lee County's proposed fertilizer ordinance, pointing out that at the rate our waterways are declining, our solution options are limited. [\[NewsPress\]](#)

2nd PURRE Forum



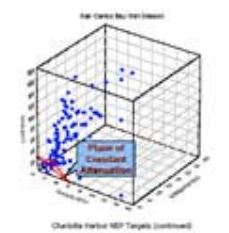
PURRE's 2nd Restore Our Waters Forum is Feb 24 from 2-5pm at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Speakers include Michael Valiquette, Mayor Mick Denham, Ray Judah and others. The forum is open to public. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Canal Clean-up



As part of the Keep America Beautiful Great American Clean-up event, the City of Cape Coral is partnering with Keep Lee County Beautiful to host a Canal Clean-up day. The clean-up begins on Mar 30 from 8am - noon at the Cape Coral Yacht Club. [\[Details\]](#)

SWFF Study Targets



Catherine Corbett of Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program presented water quality targets for the Southwest Florida feasibility study, using seagrass light requirements as a resource-based approach. [\[Details\]](#)

Untouched and Untaxed



Another big property tax break is headed to Florida voters, but this one would benefit only owners of vast swaths of vacant land. The proposal says: Keep your land green forever, and you'll never pay property taxes on it again. [\[St.Petersburg Times\]](#)

B.Yoblonski - St. Joe Co