

# The Flow

February 2009 Newsletter  
Marti Daltry, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 28 - Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) Annual Conference
- Mar 4 - CRCA Board of Directors Meeting
- Mar 14 - FYN Intro Classes
- Mar 28 - FYN Rain Barrel Workshop
- Apr 3-4 - Big O Birding Festival

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online

**Swamp Cabbage Festival**  
LABELLE, SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEB. 21-22

**RIVER CRUISE WIN A CANOE!**

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

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

See You There!!!

*Swamp Cabbage Festival River Cruise and Canoe Contest*

## Everglades Foundation Letter



Riverwatch signed an Everglades Foundation letter to Gov. Charlie Crist calling for economic assistance to rural communities affected by the planned U.S. Sugar lands purchase. In addition to traditional projects, some new ideas include helping the rural counties benefit from carbon credits. [\[Letter\]](#)

## Water Absent From Discussion



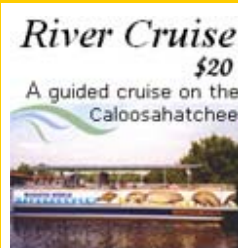
Questioners focused on transportation, schools and other traditional construction jobs in their conversation with President Obama at the Fort Myers town hall meeting on Feb 10. No questions focused on environmental projects. But the stimulus package will include water & ecological infrastructure.

## Win a Canoe!



Want to win a canoe? Come to the Riverwatch Exhibit at the Swamp Cabbage Festival on Saturday or Sunday (Feb 21-22) and sign up to win a Mad River Adventure 14 Canoe. 2\$ for one chance ticket. 3 for 5\$. [\[Canoe Poster\]](#) [\[Email for Tickets\]](#)

## Swamp Cabbage Cruise



Curious about the Caloosahatchee, its history, oxbows and wildlife? Get your tickets early & come take a ride on the Swamp Cabbage Festival guided cruise on Sat, Feb 21 at 2:30pm at the LaBelle City Dock. Tickets are 20\$. [\[Cruise Poster\]](#) [\[Email for Tickets\]](#)

## SOP for Obstruction



Standard Operating Procedure for political obstruction: (1) Set higher scientific standard (2) Defund science (3) Repeat as necessary. Did the new EPA really think that just because things changed in DC that they also changed in Tallahassee? Legislators are blocking EPA's efforts on water quality. [\[Blog\]](#)

## Thank You, Sponsors!



Groups sponsoring the Swamp Cabbage Cruise include: Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, PURRE, Glades Riverside Medical Center, WilsonMiller, TetraTech, Watershed Council, Gulf Citrus Growers, FGCU Coastal Watershed Inst., and Agnoli, Barber & Brundage, Inc.

## The Rocking Chair



Those seeking a southern flowway from Lake O to the Everglades are targeting a Rocking Chair shaped set of lands for acquisition to complete the flowway path. Agencies are now embracing the flowway concept. [\[Details\]](#)

## Conservation Forum Date



The Annual Conservation Forum at Big Arts has been rescheduled because of a candidates night for Sanibel election. The gathering will be on March 4th. SFWMD Governing Board Vice Chair will be on the panel. [\[Announcement\]](#)

## Will It Ever Happen?



Crist wants the U.S. Sugar lands purchase to happen, but the legislature is not so sure. A new proposal by State Sen. Michael Bennett and State Rep. Trudi Williams would require residents of the SFWMD to vote on paying for the purchase. [\[WPTV.com\]](#) [\[South Florida Business Journal\]](#) [\[South Florida Sun Sentinel\]](#)

## Riverbend Park Coming Soon



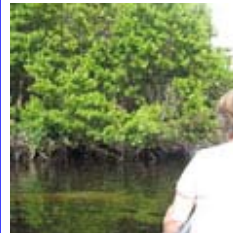
At a meeting on Jan 21 the City of LaBelle and SFWMD reached agreement and addressed many adjacent homeowner concerns regarding establishment of passive recreation Riverbend Park NE of LaBelle. [\[Riverbend Concerns\]](#) [\[Cover Letter\]](#) [\[Report\]](#)

## Caloosahatchee Water Quality



Engineering & planning continues for the 1700-acre orange grove in Glades County near Ortona that SFWMD and Lee County purchased as a potential water quality improvement project to accompany the C-43 reservoir. [\[Water quality mail\]](#) [\[map 1\]](#)

## More Than Manatees



CRCA members Leo Mane, Mary Ruth Prouty, Linda Mattos, Caroline Krieger-Comings, & Marty Daltry staffed the CRCA exhibit at the More Than Manatees event on Jan 24 in Manatee Park. The CRCA canoes were perfect for seeing up close the hundreds of manatee in the water on this perfect day. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photo Gallery\]](#)

## Covered With Algae



In an attempt to jump-start regrowth of grasses in the Caloosahatchee, researchers planted hundreds of widgeon grass (Ruppia) shoots at six sites along the river. But there is a problem - it is being covered with algae. [\[News Press\]](#)

## Draft Estuaries Report



The Corps of Engineers seeks comment on its RECOVER Monitoring & Assessment Plan (MAP). Section 3.2 focuses on oyster, fish, dolphin, and manatee monitoring protocols. It further concludes Phytoplankton monitoring is not needed. [\[Public Review\]](#)

## Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



Once again the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has made a generous donation to Riverwatch covering costs to buy a Mad River Adventure 14 Canoe from Estero River Outfitters. Special thanks to Tribe member Joe Frank for arranging the donation.

## CHNEP Mini-Grant



Riverwatch will receive a \$250 mini-grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program to help support educational programs on the Caloosahatchee River. The grant will be used for expenses, including Swamp Cabbage cruise printed materials.

## Estero River Outfitters



Second place in the canoe contest is a guided kayak tour for 4 people on Estero Bay, courtesy of Estero River Outfitters. The Outfitters also provided a \$150 discount on the price of the first place prize canoe from \$550 to \$400. [\[Web Site\]](#)

## Changing Our Water Habits



SFWMD seeks to make landscaping irrigation restrictions permanent. Changing the basic habits of Floridians will save water without the annual cries of crisis during the dry season. It makes sense. [\[Palm Bch Post 1\]](#) [\[Palm Bch Post 2\]](#)