

The Flow

February 2011 Newsletter
Dr. Annette Snapp, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Mar 3: [SWFRPC Public Workshop](#), LaBelle Civic Center at 6pm
- Mar 19: [Annual Riverwatch Meeting](#), Matlacha Community Park
- Mar 24: [Land Stewardship Plan Public Meeting](#), Caloosahatchee Regional Park at 6pm

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



Riverwatch volunteers host exhibit at LaBelle's Swamp Cabbage Festival

Water Boxing: Rooney v EPA



Florida Congressman Tom Rooney's amendment to prevent EPA from enforcing federal law in Florida has elevated a local debate onto the national stage with the New York Times publishing an article on the Florida issues and why national lobby groups are getting involved. [\[New York Times\]](#)

Annual Riverwatch Meeting



The annual Riverwatch members meeting is Sat, Mar 19 in Matlacha Community Park. The meeting (and canoe trip) is open to members and guests. Please call Marti 239-997-0673 or John 239-245-9954 to let us know if you plan to attend. Membership is \$20. [\[Details\]](#)

Estero River Outfitters Helps CRCA



Each year, the good folks at Estero River Outfitters provide the second prize for the Riverwatch Swamp Cabbage Festival canoe contest - a guided tour for 4 on Estero River. So, whenever you are looking for a fun day paddling SW FL, remember Estero. [\[Estero River Outfitters\]](#)

Corps Cannot Deliver Sufficient Flow



Despite its best efforts at modest periodic water releases from Lake O, the Corps of Engineers has been unable to achieve the 450 cfs dry season flows required by the MFL rule (Minimum Flows & Levels), thus leaving the Caloosahatchee gasping for fresh water. [\[Graph\]](#) [\[Spreadsheet\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Scott Appointment Illegal?



Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and the Florida Clean Water Network (FCWN) say Gov. Scott, in appointing Hershel Vinyard as DEP chief, violated the Federal Clean Water Act which ban employees of recent permit applicants from sitting on permit review boards. [\[Remove Vinyard Petition\]](#)

Seminole Tribe Sponsors Contest



Winners of the Swamp Cabbage Festival CRCA contest are Mona Osceola (14 foot canoe), Dennis Lackey (guided Estero River canoe trip for 4), and Blanch Krajnak (\$50 Gift Certificate). CRCA thanks the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and Joe Frank for their annual donation of a Mad River 14-ft canoe to the contest.

Edison Sponsors Riverwatch



Dr. Robert Jones, Dean of the Hendry-Glades campus of Edison State College was among the sponsors for the Riverwatch exhibit at the 2011 Swamp Cabbage Festival. The expanded Edison campus is working to bring a variety of educational programs to the Caloosahatchee region.

East & West Coast Coalition



The Rivers Coalition representing St. Lucie concerned citizens on the east coast passed a resolution supporting Caloosahatchee issues on the west coast. This shows the potential benefits of the ROGER coalition (River of Grass Estuary Restoration). [\[Resolution\]](#) [\[CRCA Appreciation\]](#)

Audubon Supports Riverwatch



Audubon of SW Florida and Collier County Audubon Society, represented by Pete Quasius, are consistent supporters and sponsors of Riverwatch programs. The groups helped sponsor CRCA exhibit and activities at the Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle.

Phosphorus Art



Fertilizer is rarely an inspiration for an art show, but Arizona State University (ASU) hosted a conference that included a fertilizer impacts art exhibit. Sustainability, fertilizer and phosphorus scarcity provided the fuel for creative vision of artists in partnership with scientists. [\[Painting\]](#) [\[NSF at ASU\]](#) [\[NSF Article\]](#)

Thank You, Gulf Citrus



Gulf Citrus Growers Association again helped sponsor Riverwatch's participation in the Swamp Cabbage Festival. Gulf Citrus and its executive director, Ron Hamel, have co-sponsored CRCA and other regional water education events since 1995.

Trudi Earns An F



Professor Roy Lewis gives State Representative Trudi Williams an "F" for her recent Florida newspaper commentary that asserts "Crafting Florida water policy is a job for Florida, not the federal government." Lewis says this is just plain false. [\[Naples News\]](#) [\[Tampa Bay\]](#) [\[About Roy Lewis\]](#)

Cleaning up Florida Waters



Gwen Keyes Fleming of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says to ensure the future health of Florida's residents and economy, EPA is setting clear, measurable standards to reduce pollution in Florida's treasured water bodies. [\[South Florida Times\]](#)

Tetra Tech & Danny Nelson



The Ft. Myers office of Tetra Tech and its civil engineering manager, Danny Nelson, has been a major sponsor of the Riverwatch exhibits and events at the Swamp Cabbage Festivals of the past four years. Thank you, Danny!

SWFRPC Public Workshop



On Thursday, Mar 03, the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will hold a public workshop to evaluate the goals, strategies and actions contained in Southwest Florida's SRPP. The workshop will take place at the LaBelle Civic Center at 6pm. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Strategic Regional Policy Plan\]](#)

Algae Follows From Rain



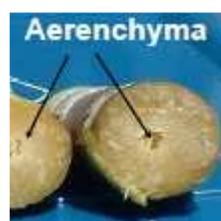
Photos by Charles Walther, Lee County Heath Dept. taken in the oxbow at Franklin Lock (S-79) on Feb 2, 2011 shows an algae bloom in the Caloosahatchee on the heels of watershed runoff resulting from rains the previous week. Similar algae blooms have been reported throughout February. [\[Picture1\]](#) [\[Picture2\]](#)

Water Quality Decline



According to the Conservancy of SW Florida's Estuaries Report Card, released Feb 3, water quality has declined in seven of 10 area estuaries. Most of SW Florida's estuaries were in bad shape in 2005; a new report card shows they are getting worse. [\[News-Press\]](#)

ROGER Discusses Ag Topics



The St. Lucie-Caloosahatchee estuaries coalition met on Aug 31 at the UF research station in Belle Glade to discuss agricultural issues and solutions to address the need for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) to support ecosystem restoration. [\[Sugarcane Presentation\]](#) [\[Sugarcane Poster\]](#) [\[Ecological Model\]](#) [\[Water Quality\]](#)