

The Flow

February 2012 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 25-26: [Festival](#) & Canoe Contest, LaBelle
- Feb 27 & 29: C-43 [Workshop](#) 10am in FM
- Mar 7: River History & [Dinner](#) 6pm RPYC
- Mar 9-10: Harns Marsh [Festival](#) 9am Lehigh
- Mar 13: Ceitus Boat Lift [Hearing](#) 1:30pm Cape Coral City Council

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



Snowbird Lenny Heisz helps Anthony & Chloe with oxbow research.

Dinner and a Show



On Wed, Mar 7, Riverwatch hosts a presentation on history of the Caloosahatchee River by Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Dir. of Operations. Join Riverwatch for the gourmet buffet dinner at 6pm (\$25) and the presentation at 7pm (free) at Royal Palm Yacht Club. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Strowd\]](#) [\[RSVP\]](#) [\[Payment\]](#) [\[Share\]](#)

Win a Canoe!



Want to win a canoe? Come to the Riverwatch exhibit at the Swamp Cabbage Festival on Saturday or Sunday (Feb 25-26) and sign up to win a Mad River Adventure 14 Canoe. \$2 for one chance ticket. 3 for \$5. The festival is LaBelle's largest annual event...and lots of fun! [\[Email for tickets\]](#) [\[Festival Web Site\]](#)

Estero River Outfitters



Second place in the canoe contest is a guided kayak tour for 4 people on Estero Bay valued at \$140, courtesy of Estero River Outfitters. The Outfitters also discounted the price by CRCA for the first prize canoe by \$230. Thanks EB Outfitters! [\[Web site\]](#)

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



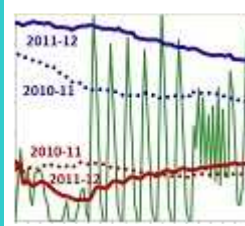
Once again the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has made a generous donation to Riverwatch covering costs to buy a Mad River Adventure 14 Canoe from Estero River Outfitters. Special thanks to Tribe member Joe Frank for arranging the donation. [\[Web Site\]](#)

Win The Everglades



Win a 30x40 giclee print of "The Everglades" by Caroline Krieger Comings. \$5 suggested donation (5 for \$20). Drawing for the winners will take place at RPYC following the Riverwatch presentation program at 8pm on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. [\[Email for tickets\]](#) [\[Krieger Art\]](#)

Army Surges Above 400cfs



The US Army Corps of Engineers has made serious efforts to increase flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The average wet season flow is now 407cfs. This has stabilized salinity but not pushed it below the legal MFL goals for ecosystem health. [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#) [\[Dry Season Flow Record\]](#)

Transformations in Mangroves



A USGS research report shows that elemental mercury (derived largely from coal power plants scattered throughout the world) is transformed to harmful methyl mercury in the coastal mangrove forests. This means controlling mercury sources is critical. [\[Methyl Mercury\]](#) [\[Hg Buildup\]](#) [\[Chiefs Report\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Donor Appreciation!



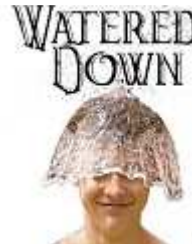
Riverwatch thanks \$100 donors: Keith Benbenisty, Jari & Marja Vainio, Oscar Langford, Tom Harrington, Kurt Gearing, Allison Farnum & Andy Crossen, Joyce Schaffer, Peter & Connie Burkert, Cindy & Steve Novak, Margaret Allen, Skipper Miller, & Terry Nelson. Your donation of \$100 or \$250 is essential.

Wrapping Up Thesis



Thanks to the help of USDA NRCS surveyor, Anthony Hernandez, the thesis research on the old river oxbows by Chloe Delhomme is wrapping up. Lenny Heisz, a snowbird from Wisconsin, provided the transportation and learned about the river's history. [\[Anthony Hernandez\]](#) [\[Lenny Heisz\]](#) [\[Chloe Delhomme\]](#) [\[LaBelle Oxbow\]](#) [\[John Capece Dunk Dripping\]](#)

Florida Nutrient Rules



HB7051 that enacts a pair of state water pollution rules supported by business, agriculture & utility interests won approval from the Florida Legislature & was signed by Gov Scott. Environmentalists say the rules are too weak. Ag Commissioner Adam Putnam praised the act in Clewiston on Feb 17. [\[Naples News\]](#) [\[Putnam in Clewiston\]](#) [\[CWN\]](#) [\[Current\]](#) [\[Scott\]](#) [\[DEP\]](#)

AEI Not Sweet on Sugar



American Enterprise Institute says government should end its sugar support program. But replacing sugar with other crops won't solve ecological issues. It requires restructure of incentive systems towards sustainable farming since growing population & food demand will increase farm acres globally. [\[In These Times\]](#) [\[AEI\]](#)

March 6 Is Deadline



In a case brought by EarthJustice, Federal Judge Robert Hinkle ruled that pollution limits must take effect March 6. But these will have limited effect in south Florida. EPA called for the cleanup standards 14 years ago, but the state has dragged its feet, with no end in sight. [\[Florida Sportsman\]](#) [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#)

Not Enough Water to Drink



On Jan 31, Cynthia Barnett spoke to a room packed with over 200 people on the importance of developing a 'water ethic' that will help Floridians embrace a new way of thinking so that enough freshwater remains for future generations. [\[Islands and Paper\]](#)

RECOVER



RECOVER (REStoration COOrdination & VERification) provides support to CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan). It's the latest "reorganize and rename" effort to achieve the ever elusive (or is it illusive) goals for ecosystem improvement. [\[RECOVER Fact Sheet\]](#) [\[Web site\]](#)

Microplastic Food Chain



Microscopic plastic debris from washing clothes is accumulating in the marine environment and could be entering the food chain, a study has warned. Experts simply don't know the effects of nanoparticles on the human body. [\[BBC News\]](#)

Sirenia Park Development



Nancy Hindenach of Interdepartmental Biological Sciences wrote a recommendation to Lee County VCB requesting not to fund Sirenia Park Development until the Barrier is replaced at the south end of the Cape Coral North Spreader Stormwaterway Canal. [\[Letter\]](#)

Show Up & Be Counted



Please be part of a strong show of support by attending the Ceitus meeting on Mar 13 in Cape Coral. The County Commissioners unanimously voted to replace the Barrier to protect the estuaries of Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve but City of Cape Coral needs convincing. [\[Details\]](#)

County Shows Resolve



In a meeting necessary to clear a path towards legal action against Cape Coral over the Ceitus Boat Lift issue, Chief Assistant County Attorney John Turner did an excellent job of asserting the Lee County & CRCA position, according to community leader Phil Buchanan. [\[Details\]](#) [\[NBC-2\]](#)