

The Flow

February 2013 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 23-24: [Swamp Cabbage Festival](#)
- Feb 25: [Women Who Make SW FL](#), Ft. Myers
- Mar 6: [CRCA meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Mar 12-16: [Big "O" Birding Festival](#)
- Mar 27: [Fisheating Creek meeting](#) in Moore Haven

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



Caloosahatchee & Okeechobee region attracts birders for Big O Festival.

Swamp Cabbage & Canoe Contest



The Win-A-Canoe Contest is back again this year, thanks to The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. You can buy tickets online, at Estero River Outfitters, from CRCA directors, or at the Riverwatch exhibit during the Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle, Feb 23-24. Winner drawn on Sunday, Feb 24 in LaBelle. [\[Canoe Contest Tickets Online\]](#) [\[Canoe Picture\]](#)

RiverWatch Presentation



The next Riverwatch meeting will feature a presentation by Joy Hazell of Florida Sea Grant on the health of the Caloosahatchee River and estuary. It will be 7-8pm on March 6 at Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium in Ft. Myers. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Climate Rally Follows Obama



While 40,000 climate change activists rallied in DC, Obama left on his 747 for a round of golf in Florida. But Riverwatch members Joe Frank & Rhonda Roff (along with their children) tracked him down and single-handedly brought the climate rally to the President. [\[TCPALM\]](#) [\[Climate Message\]](#) [\[Signs for Obama\]](#) [\[DC Gathering\]](#) [\[Climate Rally\]](#) [\[Family Rally\]](#)

No More Ray of Hope



The loss of Ray Judah and his Lee County Commission leadership has changed the BOCC. It was previously a dependable protector of the environment with consistent 5-0 votes on Ceitus. Now that Judah is gone, Larry Kiker appears to have allied with Tammy Hall to abandon Ceitus advocacy. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Fishing Family Testimony\]](#) [\[News-Press\]](#)

CRCA Officers on Fox



Riverwatch VP Margaret England and Treasurer Ron Zimmerly were featured on Fox 4 Morning Blend telling the viewing public about the upcoming Big O Birding Festival in Hendry & Glades Counties from March 12-16. They highlighted how the festival provides birders with unique access to private

lands. [\[Link to Fox 4 Morning Blend Big O\]](#)

Big Year at Big O



Greg Miller, focus of the book and movie "The Big Year" about his birding adventure and record setting year is the featured speaker at this year's Big O Birding Festival. The festival too will set records this year with its many activities. [\[Event Details\]](#) [\[Greg Miller Birding\]](#) [\[YouTube Video\]](#)

Riverwatch Supporters



Riverwatch thanks Gus & Anita Mastracci of The Villages and Bonita Beach for their generous contribution to Riverwatch, helping make possible the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference co-sponsored by CRCA, Watershed Council, Audubon, & others. [\[Water Resources Conference\]](#)

North Spreader System Update



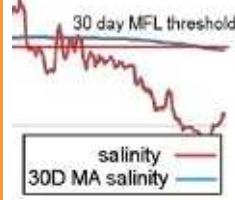
"The corrupt & illegal agreement by DEP & Cape Coral Government to dismantle the North Spreader system was based on political thoughts, not ecological science or FL law. Some newspapers are spreading wrong message underestimating its capacity." [\[Details\]](#) [\[Recent Salinity Reading\]](#) [\[Ecosystem Management Agreement\]](#) [\[Final Amendment Order\]](#) [\[Original Consent Order\]](#)

Still Getting Worse, After 30 Years



According to Audubon, large amounts of phosphorus are still streaming into the big lake and, because of that, its condition is actually declining while it is supposed to be improving. The state has been working to improve Lake O since the 1980's. [\[Florida Newszap\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Condition



The Feb 16 cold front dropped 2-3 inches of rain. This runoff combined with a 10-day pulse release from Lake O to reduce salinities at Fort Myers. The 30-day moving average dropped below 10 psu to put it back into MFL compliance. But 2013 is still the 6th consecutive year of MFL violations. [\[SCCF Caloosahatchee Report\]](#)

Not Even EPA Protection Levels



Florida DEP proposes to regulate carcinogenic chemicals at a MUCH less protective level than the EPA recommends. For all but four carcinogens are proposed to be regulated 3-5 times that required even in Alabama. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Carcinogens in Water\]](#)

Both Sides of Their Mouth



SFWMMD is applying for RESTORE funds (from BP oil spill fine) for Caloosahatchee Estuary projects citing needs based on the settings that result from the lack of the Ceitus Boat Lift. Still, DEP rejects to require Cape Coral to replace the structure. [\[Project Proposal\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Cruises



SCCF is offering 2.5-hour Caloosahatchee River cruises on Sundays (March 10, April 21 and Mothers Day, May 12). Reservations required. \$40 per person. Space is limited. For reservations, call 472-2329. Rae Ann Wessel of Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation leads the tours. [\[Details\]](#)

Legal Challenge for Farming



Earthjustice filed a legal challenge on behalf of the FL Wildlife Federation to block Gov. Rick Scott & FL cabinet from allowing corporate sugar & vegetable plantations to continue farming state-owned land in the Everglades for extra 30 years. These lands were purchased for restoration projects. [\[Earthjustice\]](#) [\[Final Petition\]](#)

Seminole Tribe Sponsors Contest



CRCA thanks the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. & Joe Frank for their annual donation of a Mad River 14-ft canoe for the Riverwatch contest at Swamp Cabbage Festival. This is the 6th year the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has sponsored the contest.

Big O Birding Festival Map



The Big O Birding Festival will bring visitors to over a dozen birding locations in Hendry and Glades Counties, including Big Cypress Reservation. Click on the Map link to see locations and get driving directions to each site. [\[Birding KMZ File\]](#) [\[Big O Birding Locations Map\]](#)

FL DEP is Protecting Polluters



The Florida Clean Water Network says that DEP came up with a very difficult statistical method that no one can understand & can be easily manipulated to achieve whatever the politically powerful polluters want. [\[Triennial Meeting Update\]](#) [\[Previous Meeting Details\]](#)

Salt Marshes in Danger



Since 1945, 50% of salt marshes were lost due to physical infrastructures development. Now they are threatened by sea level rise. Jim Beever of SWFRPC offers 10 solutions to help prevent salt marsh losses as sea level rise. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)