

The Flow

February 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 20: [Watershed Council Presentation](#) at FGCU Cohen Center
- Feb 22-23: [Swamp Cabbage Festival](#) in LaBelle with CRCA exhibit & canoe contest
- Mar 15 & Apr 19: [Nature Park Clean Up](#) in LaBelle
- Mar 22: [Riverwatch Annual Meeting](#) at Hendry House in LaBelle

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Henry Mox & 2009 Earth Day celebrants plant tree at a riverside park.

Caloosahatchee Reservoir



The South Florida Water Management District governing board voted unanimously to set aside all waters pumped into the reservoir as well as rain that falls on the compound for the Caloosahatchee and its estuary, but a another hearing must take place. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Storage Reservoir\]](#)

2014 CRCA Annual Meeting



The annual membership meeting and BBQ will be held on March 22 at 2pm. We will elect next year's board of directors. Come earlier to enjoy a BBQ, the LaBelle Nature Park, and the historic Captain Hendry House located at 512 Fraser St in LaBelle. [\[512 Fraser Street, LaBelle\]](#) [\[Hendry House\]](#)

Riverwatch at Tally Rally



One CRCA chairperson and four Riverwatch volunteers boarded the bus to the Clean Water Rally in Tallahassee. NBC-2 had a crew on the bus with the rally attendees. Two of our group also attended meetings with some of the legislators in the Capitol. [\[Banner\]](#) [\[With Legislator\]](#) [\[Student Volunteers\]](#) [\[Capitol\]](#) [\[NBC-2\]](#)

DEP Presentation to CRCA



Jennifer Carpenter, Program Administrator, & Dr. Ahmadi, Water Facilities Administrator for the South District of FDEP talked about the challenges Caloosahatchee is facing, & gave an update of the progress regarding wastewater & nutrients. [\[Presentation\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

Record-breaking Donor



Although he lives in Michigan on his boat these days (an icebreaker maybe?), Henry Mox remembers spending time with other Riverwatch members & exchange students in LaBelle 4 years ago. Henry sent in a check more than double the previous highest personal donation. WOW! [\[Henry at Fisheating Creek\]](#) [\[Canoe Launch\]](#) [\[Earth Day 2009\]](#)

Canoe at Swamp Cabbage



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 Outfitters, from CRCA directors, or at the Swamp Cabbage Festival's Riverwatch exhibit, Feb 22-23 in LaBelle. [\[Tickets by Email\]](#) [\[Tickets Online\]](#) [\[Contest Poster\]](#)

Oyster Beds Hopeless for Now



Lawmakers state that attempting to improve oyster beds & sea grass is hopeless until muck is removed from waterways & steps to clean runoff from agricultural land are completed. The oysters & sea grasses won't survive unless they get cleaner water. [\[News Journal\]](#)

Focus & Siphon 20/20 Funds



Lee County is creating new policies that would refocus Conservation 20/20 land buys on properties in priority watershed areas. 20/20 funds also may be diverted to pay for some of the \$60 million in water cleanup costs separate from land purchases. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Siphoning Cartoon\]](#)

SAV in Estuary 1984



Manatees didn't have to go far upstream to graze in 1984 when Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) were abundant in the Caloosahatchee estuary. This remained true through 1994 and even into 1999, after which SAVs gradually died off. [\[1984_Pic1\]](#) [\[1984_Pic2\]](#) [\[1984_Pic3\]](#)

Where Manatees Go to Die



Despite a recent decrease in manatee mortality from boat collisions, manatee deaths are at record high levels. This is an indicator that their habitat, including water quality, has been greatly diminished. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Mortality Graph\]](#) [\[Mortality Map\]](#)

Watershed Council Meeting



The next meeting of the SW FL Watershed Council will be February 20 in the FGCU Cohen Center. The meeting will feature Mr. Reese an environmental attorney from St. Petersburg & Mr. Sean McCabe, an attorney with the SW FL Regional Planning Council. [\[More Information\]](#) [\[Campus Map\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

Land Purchase Amendment



A group seeking to pass a constitutional amendment that would set aside funding for land conservation has surpassed the number of valid petition signatures needed to get on the November ballot. [\[News Journalonline\]](#) [\[More Information\]](#)

Algae Blooms Return



A combination of natural and man-made events has brought piles of macroalgae back to Lee County beaches. Macroalgae are a natural part of the marine environment, but excess nutrients in the system can cause massive algal blooms. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Comments\]](#)

Pine Island Shrimp Farms



CRCA Director Phil Buchanan says we need assurances that shrimp farms will be run in an environmental responsible manner. One shrimp farm can produce as much wastewater as a town and Florida law does little to create safeguards against many risks. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Industrialized Production\]](#)

Growing Ceitus Insistence



CRCA has filed legal action against DEP & Cape Coral for their failure to replace the Ceitus Boat Lift. The two conspired to appear to meet their legal requirements while never intending to approve any permit or build any replacement structure. [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Lehigh Citizen\]](#) [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#)

Water Pollution Limits



A federal judge is signing off on Florida's water pollution rules, but environmentalists are blasting the decision. U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle approved turning over responsibility for implementing water pollution rules to the State of Florida. [\[Tallahassee.com\]](#)

Billys Creek Clean-Up



Barraco and Associates, Inc., The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Organization (CRCA) and The Friends of Billy's Creek thanks everybody who attended the very productive trash and large debris removal at Billy's Creek on Saturday January 25th. [\[Photo\]](#)

Humpty Dumpty Creek



In the Fisheating Creek case a judge found that Fish & Wildlife Commission action resulted in illegal dredging and serious damage to the creek and that the FWC/DEP plan to fix the problem is flawed. The action to open the creek that resulted in dredging was advocated by Save Our Creeks. [\[Court Ruling\]](#)

See CRCA web page for more details on each of the newsletter articles <http://crca.caloosahatchee.org/>

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