

The Flow

February 2015 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 27-28: [Wings Over Water Festival](#) in Lehigh
- Feb 27-Mar 1: [BBQ and Blues Festival](#) in Jensen Beach
- Mar 4: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Mar 21: [Annual CRCA Members Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Mar 31: [Watershed Visioning Workshop](#) in LaBelle

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crca.caloosahatchee.org
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SFWMD meeting attendees support a southern flow way from Lake O.

Annual CRCA Members Meeting



Riverwatch will hold its annual members meeting & picnic on Saturday, March 21 starting at 10am in the Rock Lake Resort on Billy's Creek in Ft. Myers. Bring a covered dish & CRCA will provide the meat, kayaks & canoes. [\[Location \(2937 Palm Bch Blvd\)\]](#)

In The Weeds



Officials are claiming that details of a southern flow way would cause it to not work and using these as justification for not buying the remaining U.S. Sugar land. This purchase was the real purpose of Amendment 1 that passed with 75% approval. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[In The Weeds\]](#) [\[Rep. Edwards Opinion\]](#) [\[SFWM Discussion\]](#)

Water Policy in Florida House



Despite a rally by voters advocating the FL Legislature use Amendment 1 funds as voters intended (for land purchases), a bill sponsored by Matt Caldwell of Lehigh Acres might siphon away much of the money to ag BMP cost sharing - a good program, but not a higher priority than EAA land acquisition. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Water Bill\]](#)

Buy The Land, Send It South!



Riverwatch director John Scott delivered a forceful, intelligent appeal on behalf of the Caloosahatchee River at the Feb 18 rally in Tallahassee. He stated the logic for the "Buy the Land, Send It South" solution to regional water quality problems. [\[John Scott speech at rally\]](#) [\[All Rally Speakers\]](#) [\[TV Campaign\]](#)

Sign the Solar Petition



Part of CRCA's Swamp Cabbage Festival exhibit space was used to gather petition signatures for the Solar Choice constitutional amendment, which would nullify the FL law preventing companies from financing the installation of solar panels on homes. [\[Sign the Petition\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

Florida Treading Water



The feature story in the February issue of National Geographic says Florida's bill is coming due. By 2100 it will cost Cape Coral alone \$4.2 billion, affecting 10,000 homes or roughly \$420,000 per home. The costs of climate change are climbing for cities around the globe. [\[Feature\]](#) [\[Costs to Cities\]](#) [\[2100 Florida\]](#) [\[National Geographic\]](#)

Water Reform Troubles



Despite the promises of the Amendment 1 and its 75% approval, politicians don't seem to identify the roots of the Florida water issues. Instead, expansive projects are created, more to preserve special interests than to restore degraded waters. **[Tallahassee Democrat Guest Opinion]**

Caloosahatchee Basin Visioning



UF/IFAS invites interested stakeholders to participate in a 3-hour Caloosahatchee Basin Visioning workshop on Mar 31 at the UF/IFAS Hendry County Extension Office, 1085 Pratt Boulevard, LaBelle from 1-4pm. RSVP requested. **[Details] [Flier]**

Glaring Omission in DEP Report



John Cassani wrote to DEP asking why critical information was omitted from the BMAP Progress Report, despite a prior request for its inclusion. DEP appears to be trying to paint a deceptive picture of progress on water quality in the Caloosahatchee. **[Details] [Graph]**

The Cost of Growth



Deeply concerned about the future of Lee Co. where the population is approaching 700,000, Roger Williams questions the County Commissioners. As the population grows so will the needs for good roads, parks, schools & EMTs. Who & how will pay for that? **[Roger William Opinion] [About Roger (2007)] [Florida Weekly]**

Riverwatch Thanks Seminole Tribe



Joe Frank and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. once again donated a new canoe to Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association for the annual Swamp Cabbage Festival Canoe Contest. Riverwatch thanks Joe and the Tribe for their annual, generous support. **[John thanks Joe] [Thanks to Calusa Nature Center] [Thanks to Estero River Outfitters]**

Thanks To Our Rally Sponsors!



We would like to extend a special thanks to a group of members who each stepped forward to donate \$50 each to sponsor student participation in the Floridian's for Clean Water & Amendment 1 Rally in Tallahassee on Feb 18. **[List of Donors]**

SCCF River Restoration Project



SCCF has received a \$500,000 grant to replace and restore damaged habitats to a pre-2013 level. SCCF will provide substrate to promote healthy oyster reef development and will also grow and replant submerged aquatic vegetation.

[DEP News] [Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation]

And the Winner Is....



Hannah Mary Perry is the winner of the 2015 Riverwatch Canoe Contest held at Swamp Cabbage Festival. It came as a complete surprise when Margaret called with the news. Hannah's husband, Jeff, bought the tickets under her name without telling Hannah. Now that's true love! **[Hannah with Margaret] [Hannah & Jeff Perry] [2nd Place] [3rd Place]**

Student Poster Contest Winners



This year's SWFL Water Resources Conference was, for the first time, AWRA's statewide student research poster contest. Cash prizes were offered for the best research posters, with 1, 2, & 3-place awards to graduate and undergraduate students. **[Winners!] [Amy & Poster] [Conference Web Site]**

Caloosahatchee & Lake O Status



Lake O level was 14.68ft on Feb 23. Flows to the estuary at S79 averaged 1,828 cfs over the past week. An aerial survey to count manatees at power plants on Feb 15 revealed highest number at the FPL plant with 523 individuals. **[SCCF Caloosahatchee Condition Report] [Salinity Graphic] [Lake O Water Level] [SCCF Web Site]**

The Everglades Case



The Everglades are a major part of our ecosystem and Amendment 1 can make a huge difference in its restoration, but only if our politicians handle the money properly. This short Univ of Miami animation summarizes perfectly the situation. **[Animation]**

March For Ocean Justice



The Obama administration has made available the Atlantic territory to petroleum companies for sonic mapping. This is a first step towards offshore drilling in Florida. On Mar 7, join Environmental Youth Council for a rally to reversal this decision. **[Announcement] [Obama Cartoon 2] [Obama Cartoon 3] [Article] [Facebook Event] [Flyer]**

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

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