



www.caloosahatchee.org

Winter 2005

Riverwatch@Caloosahatchee.org

Visit our new and improved web-site at <http://crca.caloosahatchee.org>

Action Alert

The area's environment has suffered tremendously in recent years. Remember the winter season red tides we experienced that killed numerous manatees and huge amounts of sea life? Recall the barren feeder creeks in the upper tidal zone and the manatees swimming 15 miles up the Caloosahatchee in heavy boat traffic to the power plant to find food? Virtually all the aquatic vegetation in the Caloosahatchee upper tidal estuary has been killed in recent years. The crabs and fish have virtually disappeared. There were square miles of dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico last summer and a cloud of black water from the releases.

All these problems and environmental tragedies are related...and they will grow steadily worse unless people stand up and demand better water stewardship and growth management from our government agencies and elected officials.

The Sierra Club is holding its annual "Gulf in Distress" forum on Monday, March 14 from 8 AM to 5 PM at the Three Oaks Conference Center in Estero. See the Riverwatch web page for more information.

River Ride Success

2004 was a successful year for our annual River Ride. More than a hundred enthusiastic rider joined CRCA in riding along the Caloosahatchee shores. Through rain and wind, the brave riders enjoyed the beautiful Caloosahatchee scenery. Keith Kibbey once again led the "Riverwatch" effort to keep this tradition alive and well.

We hope that this wonderful ride will attract even more riders in November 2005. Thank you for the support!!!

Donate Now!!!

Donate to CRCA and support the Caloosahatchee River and its watershed. CRCA is a non-profit organization, so we need your support. Donate and become a member, it is tax deductible!!!

Special thanks to the **LaBelle Kiwanis Club** whose generous donation helped create the new web site.

"Riverwatch" Directors:

Scott Perry (President), Paula Bender (Treasurer), John Capece (Secretary), Keith Kibbey, Mary Rawl, Margaret England, Rae Ann Wessel, Butch Jones, Linda Mattos, Ken Hauptvogel, Nancy Hauptvogel, Oscar Langford, Robert Ford, and Paul Samerdyke.

Susan Brookman Nominated to SFWMD Governing Board

The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association ("Riverwatch") Board of Directors voted to add its support to the nomination of Susan Brookman to serve on the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Susan is a founding member of CRCA and was instrumental in the early days of CRCA. For more than a decade Susan has been active in water issues throughout southwest Florida. We believe that she will be an excellent representative from our area.

You can support Susan's nomination by writing to the Florida Governor:

The Honorable Governor of Florida
The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001
FACSIMILE: 850-487-0801
E-Mail: jeb.bush@myflorida.com

Caloosahatchee Cabbage Paddle

The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association presents The 1st Annual Cabbage Paddle as part of the Swamp Cabbage Festival in Labelle, Florida, Saturday February 26th, 2005.

Join CRCA for a paddling trip along the Caloosahatchee River. This event is design to allow participants to enjoy the river's scenic beauty and to help you exercise away all the extra calories from the great Swamp Cabbage Festival foods. Come and have fun on the River!!! For registration forms please visit our website.



Camping at Caloosahatchee Regional Park during the Cabbage Paddle....

Join our outdoor activities at Caloosahatchee Regional Park. The Campground is available to you. See the web page for maps and information on reservations.

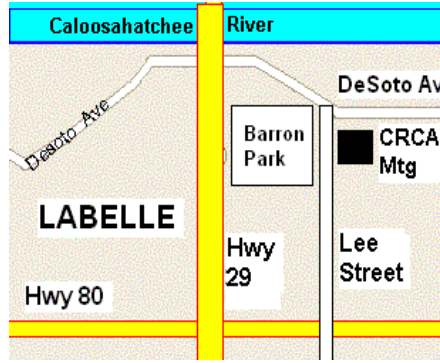
The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (CRCA-"Riverwatch") is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of the River and its watershed, through education and promotion of the responsible use and enjoyment for all people.

Board Meeting Announcement

The next CRCA Board Meeting is on Wednesday, February 16th at 6:30 PM in the Flora & Ella's Restaurant board room in LaBelle. All members are welcome to attend.

Flora & Ella's Restaurant
550 Hwy 80 West
LaBelle, FL 33935

Annual Meeting Announcement



The annual CRCA Members Meeting is Saturday, March 19th at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the LaBelle community house located on the east side of Lee Street where the road meets the south shore of the river. Free BBQ and canoes provided. Scott Perry will also take any adventurous souls on a fossil hunt in the river.



Red Dot? If yes, then it is time to renew your Membership

If you count yourself as a member of "RiverWatch" then please take a moment to fill out this form and then return it to us with your contribution. Also, pass this form on to a friend and ask them to join! As you know, the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association ("RiverWatch") needs your continued support to make sure that good things occur on our river. Note: New members receive a Riverwatch T-shirt...so mark you desired size.

You can also register on-line and pay your dues by credit card at: <http://crca.caloosahatchee.org>

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

T- Shirt size: XS S M L XL XXL

Check the boxes for the CRCA information you wish to receive and how you wish to receive each:

	Newsletter	Events Announcements	Action Alert	Meeting Notices
E-mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership Level: Student \$5 _____ Individual \$10 _____ **Family \$20 _____**

Friend \$50 _____ Guardian \$100 _____ Sponsor/Corporate \$250 _____ Protector \$500 _____ Champion \$1000 _____

Please complete this form and send it with your check to: CRCA, P. O. Box 2199, LaBelle FL, 33935.

Protect Public Access to the Downtown Riverfront !!

Unless people stand up to protect the right of public access to the downtown Ft. Myers riverfront, expect the City of Ft. Myers to give away this public asset to private development interests. As you know, walkways along the riverfront and public festivals in **Centennial Park** are among the pleasures of living in or near Ft. Myers. It is an important part of our quality of life. We must protect this public amenity for ourselves and generations to come.

Riverwatch is planning several events to express our concerns to City of Ft. Myers elected officials and voice our dissatisfaction with their current plans to give up public lands to a series of downtown high-rise developments.

Watch the Website for Membership Action Alerts !

Caloosahatchee Reservoir Meeting Announcement

The South Florida Water Management District will hold a C-43 West Storage Reservoir stakeholders' meeting for environmental and recreational groups to keep the public informed of progress and plans.

- **When:** Friday, Feb. 18
- **Time:** 3:30 p.m.
- **Where:** SFWMD
Lower West Coast Service Center, 2301 McGregor Blvd
Ft. Myers.
Tel: 239-338-2929



P.O. Box 2199, LaBelle, FL 33975

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