

The Flow

January 2012 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Jan 31: [Blue Revolution-Conservation Forum](#) in Sanibel
- Feb 1: [CRCA BOD Meeting](#) in LaBelle
- Feb 9: [Feathers & Friends Gala 2012](#) in Naples
- Mar 4: ["Ding" Lecture - Panther Photos](#) in Sanibel

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



CRCA President speaks in opposition to fertilizer ordinance preemption.

A Message from Bob Graham



Bob Graham said in a statewide op-ed that in 2011 the Governor & Legislature placed our state's natural heritage in jeopardy. The Florida Conservation Coalition can (with your help) stop & reverse this ill-conceived, reckless trend. [\[Graham Message\]](#)

Thanks to Donors!



Riverwatch thanks those who responded to the annual appeal with donations of \$250 (Ruy Sampaio of FVS Investments and Michael Dove of Alva). Many others sent in donations of \$100. These individuals will be recognized in future newsletters. THANKS!

Carl Hiaasen Trashes Tallahassee



In his comic speech to the Everglades Coalition, Carl Hiaasen said had the annual conference's "special guest" been a character concocted for one of his books, editors would have categorically rejected it as too outrageous, even for a Hiaasen book. [\[Conference Speeches Audio\]](#)

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. [\[Email for tickets\]](#)

Ceitus Barrier



After nearly 3 years, we are still battling for essential gamefish habitat in Matlacha. SF Advisory Council Member, Aaron Adams told DEP the Ceitus barrier must be reconstructed to prevent the continued degradation of Matlacha Pass and nearby waters. [\[Snook Foundation\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#)

Candidates on Sugar & Ecology



In the Tampa debate, both Romney and Gingrich spoke in favor of free markets for sugar (against price support program). Romney said he would work to get rid of subsidies. Gingrich said he did try but failed when in Congress. Ron Paul said he would not try to eliminate Florida ecosystem restoration. [\[Huffington Post\]](#)

PURRE Advocacy Concludes



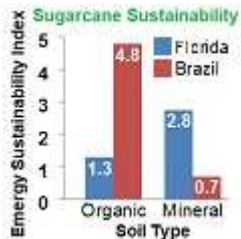
An important water advocate of the past 7 years, The PURRE Water Coalition Foundation Inc (People United to Restore Our Rivers & Estuaries), ceased operations effective Dec 31, Chairman Michael J. Valiquette announced after a board meeting Dec 16. [\[Valiquette Letter\]](#)

Choking Birds



Birds love fish and giving the scrapes to them seems like an act of kindness. But don't do that because fish scrapes may kill the birds. That's why the Florida legislature made tossing fish scrapes to the birds illegal. [\[Details\]](#)

SW Florida Sustainability



Researchers are exploring non-traditional ecological accounting methods to evaluate sustainability options for southwest Florida economic development and environmental restoration. The soil, water, nutrient, and GHG effects of sugarcane farming in the EAA and other areas is being tested. [\[Sugarcane\]](#)

Submerged Lands Under Threat



Urge the House Ag & Natural Resources Subcommittee to OPPOSE HB1103 by Rep Tom Goodson, Titusville. This is the sovereign submerged lands bill that will take away our public lands and waters, land & waters, such as the Caloosahatchee Oxbows. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Web site\]](#)

Headwaters Refuge



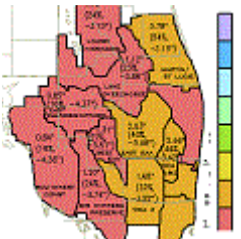
An Everglades refuge and conservation area was officially established on January 18 when Interior Secretary Ken Salazar accepted the first donation of land for the project in south-central Florida. [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#)

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



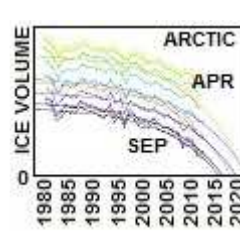
Once again the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has made a generous donation to Riverwatch covering costs to buy a Mad River Adventure 14 Canoe from Estero River Outfitters. Special thanks to Tribe member Joe Frank for arranging the donation.

Drought Returns to So FL



South Florida lives one water-year at a time - paycheck to paycheck - because it consumes every drop each year. Having a dry month or more here is normal weather - abnormal is the lack of conserving water. Drought's return to So FL may be imminent. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[Rain Map\]](#)

Shrinking To Oblivion



Even in the dead of winter, the arctic ice cap continues to set new record lows relative to total ice volume. Extrapolating the current trend suggests that the ice cap would shrink to oblivion by the year 2020. [\[Forbes\]](#) [\[Status\]](#) [\[Why So Fast?\]](#)

Old Oxbows Report



A 1978 report by James F. Milleson of SFWMD has served as the basis for Riverwatch research and restoration efforts undertaken since 1996 on the 35+ Caloosahatchee River oxbows. USF grad student Chloe Delhomme is leading the latest effort. [\[Milleson Report\]](#)

Septic Tank Inspection Bill



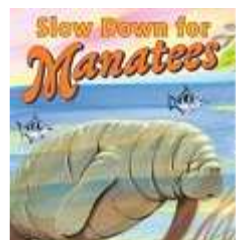
A Senate compromise bill that would repeal a statewide septic tank inspection requirement passed its first committee stop on Jan 10 despite concerns among environmentalists. The septic tank requirement was adopted by the Legislature in 2010. [\[The Florida Current\]](#)

Riverwatch Meeting Invitation



The next CRCA-Riverwatch Board of Directors meeting will be held Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Beef 'O' Brady's, 197 East Hickpochee Avenue in LaBelle. Members and guests are invited to join us and participate. [\[Map\]](#)

Manatee Death at Ceitus



A manatee died in Lee County waters Sunday morning, Jan 1, near the old Ceitus boat lift after an apparent boating accident. Neighbors want law enforcement to step up patrols to keep boaters from hitting any more of the endangered animals. [\[NBC-2\]](#)