

The Flow

January 2013 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 1: [World Wetlands Day](#) in Naples
- Feb 6: [CRCA meeting & presentation by Phil Flood](#) in LaBelle
- Feb 8: [Astronomy Programs](#) in Alva
- Feb 23-24: [Swamp Cabbage Festival](#) in LaBelle
- Mar 6: [CRCA meeting & presentation by Joy Hazell](#) in Ft. Myers

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



Water-energy experts speak at the CRCA co-hosted annual conference.

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. [\[Canoe Contest Tickets Online\]](#) [\[Canoe Picture\]](#)

CRCA Meeting in February



CRCA will meet on February 6 at Beef O'Brady's in LaBelle at 6:30pm. Phil Flood from the SFWMD Ft. Myers office will give short update on Caloosahatchee projects, such as the C-43 reservoir. Members, guests and the general public are invited. [\[Map\]](#)

Rae Ann Wessel Honored



Rae Ann Wessel, former Riverwatch president, will be honored on Feb 25 for her environmental achievements in the awards ceremony for Women Who Make Southwest Florida. 21 women from various fields will get awards. RSVP by Feb 15 due to limited seating. [\[Details\]](#)

Water Mentorship



Riverwatch & Watershed Council members discussed water issues with students at the 22nd Annual Southwest FL Water Resources Conference on Jan 25. Joining 70 professionals were 80 students from 6 FL campuses at the gathering co-hosted by CRCA. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Hanlon & Polgar\]](#) [\[Hanlon & Ouellette\]](#)

End of Mediation



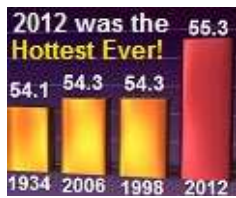
Cape Coral City Council appointed Mayor Sullivan as a representative of the Ceitus mediation proceeding. He said the mediation with Lee County is over & it's on to the legal proceedings. Riverwatch was party to the original legal action against Cape Coral, seeking to replace Ceitus Boat Lift. [\[Details\]](#)

CRCA VP Gets Kabler Award



Margaret England, leader within Riverwatch, Audubon and several other organizations, received this year's Kabler Award from the Everglades Coalition in recognition of her volunteer and public education work for Everglades's restoration. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[About Margaret\]](#)

Hottest By A Wide Margin



2012 had an average temperature of 55.3°F for the contiguous US states, which eclipsed 1998, the previous record holder, by a full 1°F. Many more temperature records fell in 2012. If anyone still doubts climate change, this should end their denial. [\[Skeptical Science\]](#) [\[National Geographic News\]](#) [\[YubaNet\]](#) [\[Thinkprogress\]](#)

[\[Linear Graph\]](#) [\[Stacks Up Graph\]](#)

Climate Change Speech



"We will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children & future generations. Some may still deny the overwhelming judgment of science, but none can avoid the devastating impact of raging fires." [\[Speech\]](#) [\[Thinkprogress\]](#) [\[Speech Video\]](#)

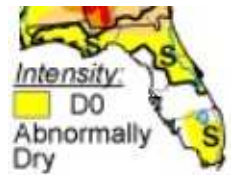
Land Purchase Concerns Many



Glades County commissioners asked SFWMD to delay their now-approved purchase of 638 acres of Duda sugarcane fields in Glades County. The land is intended to expand the Lake Hicpochee water storage project needed to relieve the Caloosahatchee Estuary. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Glades Letter to SFWMD\]](#) [\[2008 Detailed Plan\]](#) [\[Storage Project\]](#) [\[2005 Reservoir Options\]](#)

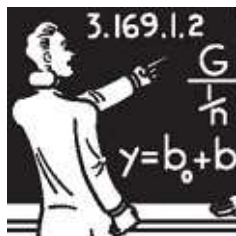
[\[Options\]](#)

Dry Weather Risk



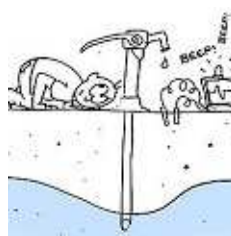
Several states are experiencing greater drought conditions compared to past years. Parts of Southwest FL over to Miami are rated as being abnormally dry, which is very suitable condition for fire. Wildfire officials hope for more cold fronts & rain. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[US Drought Map\]](#)

G for Gravity or Greed?



FL water pumping permits are based on faulty science, leading to pollution. State officials made decision based on computer models that use a false assumption. The models assume that the aquifer flows at a steady rate through layers of sand & gravel. [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#) [\[Modeling Cartoon\]](#)

New Rules for Water Use



The new rules for Consumptive Use Permitting allow withdrawing surface & ground water for reasonable & beneficial uses. The DEP conducted a series of public workshops to understand the interests of concerned stakeholders including environmentalists. [\[New Rules\]](#) [\[Proposed Changes\]](#) [\[Draft Rules\]](#) [\[Declaration\]](#)

Riverwatch Hosts Fracking Experts



Presentations by experts from Florida and Pennsylvania on Jan 25 described hydraulic fracturing as it applies to both oil & gas wells and Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) in Florida. They say the biggest problem is the dirty water that comes back up a fracked well. [\[Christopher Brown\]](#) [\[David Yoxtheimer\]](#) [\[Radisav Vidic\]](#) [\[Presentations\]](#) [\[Profiles\]](#)

Possibility of Fracking in FL



Oil companies, especially Penn Virginia Oil & Gas, have plans to take land in lease for exploring & developing oil fields. One focus area for fracking in Florida is on the lower, unexplored part of the Sunniland Trend, at depths reaching 17,000 feet. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Fracking Cartoon by Snowden & Cochrane\]](#) [\[DoInMyToons.com\]](#)

Presentation by Dr. Gray



Dr. Paul Gray presented at the January 2 CRCA meeting. He talked about connectivity between regional, national & international stakeholders following from bird migration. He also discussed Lake O and Fisheating Creek issues as well as nutrient pollution in the Caloosahatchee River. [\[Presentation\]](#)

Supporting Florida Water Students



Winning the student poster contest at the SW FL Water Resources Conference on Jan 25 were 1st - Veronica Aponte (USF), 2nd - David Spelman (FGCU) & 3rd - Katie Indarawis (UF). Gustavo Toledo & Jane Anstey (FSU) won the two \$500 scholarships. [\[Poster Viewing\]](#) [\[Poster Discussion\]](#) [\[Katie Indarawis\]](#) [\[Conference Web Site\]](#) [\[Veronica Aponte\]](#) [\[Poster Contest Sponsor\]](#)

A Call To Arms Against DEP!



Activists held a rally in Tampa on Jan 17 at an EPA hearing on water quality regulations for Florida. They demanded that EPA strength its oversight in Florida, and not let DEP pretend to protect waterways. They displayed photos of FL degraded waters. [\[Flyers\]](#) [\[Tampa Tribune\]](#) [\[Sign\]](#) [\[EPA Details\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Clean Water Network Update



The CWN update explains how DEP has refused to set criteria for some toxics such as mercury. DEP uses an overweight, white male who doesn't eat much fish as their target for the greatest protection, not reflecting minority fish consumption rates. [\[Flyers\]](#) [\[Hg in Fish Cartoon\]](#)