## The Flow

January 2015 Newsletter John Capece, Editor

# Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 4: <u>Riverwatch</u> <u>BOD Meeting</u> in LaBelle
- Feb 4: <u>Springs Eternal</u> <u>Presentations</u> in Ft. Myers
- Feb 6: <u>Water</u> <u>Resources Conference</u> in Ft. Myers
- Feb 18: <u>Clean Water</u> <u>Rally</u> in Tally
- Feb 21-22: Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle

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Jennifer Hecker spoke at the Feb 2014 clean water rally in Tallahassee.

#### Road Trip!!!



Riverwatch will join in a Feb 18 bus trip to Tallahassee sponsored by Sierra Club to lobby for clean water. The focus of this trip is to derail the hijacking of Amendment 1 funds that lobbyist and legislators want to divert to development support. Last year's trip was an exhilarating experience.

[One Reason for the Trip] [Alert]

[Details] [2014 Rally Photos]

#### **New Canoe at Swamp Cabbage**



The Win-A-Canoe Contest is back again this year thanks to the ongoing generous support of 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 21-22 in LaBelle.

[Old Town 14.5-Ft Canoe] [Prizes]
[Tickets by Email] [Tickets Online] [Canoe Description]

#### **Runoff Rundown Conference**



Riverwatch is co-hosting the 24th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference on Friday, Feb 6 at FGCU (Cohen Center). This year's conference theme is Runoff Rundown and will focus on stormwater management technologies and projects in our region. [Details] [Web Site]

#### **SWFRPC Adopts Water Resolution**



SW FL Regional Planning Council adopted a water plan with many good provisions. It also calls for the option to manage Lake O at a slightly (6") higher level than the 15.5 ft advocated by SW stakeholders. This provides operational flexibility during wet conditions to limit high flows to the estuary. [SWFRPC

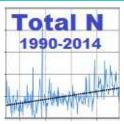
Resolution ]

#### 20/20 Dissection



For those who want to believe that Conservation 20/20 has achieved its goal, today Lee County lags far behind its neighboring counties and state averages in both acres and percentage of county land that are preserved & protected, says Bruce Bunch. [News-Press Editorial]

#### State Blind to Pollution Problem



Before a BMAP meeting in which DEP spun the Caloosahatchee Basin water quality situation to the positive, John Cassani provided a reality check by documenting how total nitrogen concentration trend data show worsening conditions from 1990 to 2014. [News-Press] [CWN Report] [Nitrogen Trending Upward]

#### TMDLs and BMAPs



FL Clean Water Network warns that working within DEP's system is a waste of time. We need to expose it for what it is and find other ways to deal with pollution. Working with your local governments is the best way. Lee and abetted by our government.

[Florida Clean Water Network]

#### County is a good example of citizens and local governments working together to overcome pollution that is being aided



Urge the Florida legislature to purchase land in the EAA for a reservoir before the option expires this year. Purchase of the land for a reservoir will create the opportunity to flow water south out of Lake Okeechobee and relieve our estuary of devastating releases. Funding must be secured by April. [SCCF Call for Action]

#### Last Pinfish in Estero Bay



The News Press' Kevin Lollar documents the trials and tribulations of FGCU's Bob Wasno as he attempts to net the Pinfish bait species in Estero Bay for a captive spawning program. An entire day netted only two of the elusive and dwindling fish. Using aquaculture to satisfy bait demands is new. [News Press] [Great Video!]

#### Save the Tarpon...Tournament

Land Buy Action Alert!



A lawyer working for Professional Tarpon Tournament Series is once again threatening to haul Save The Tarpon into court – this time in an apparent effort to cripple the group's legal defense fundraising efforts to protect tarpon habitat. [Save The Tarpon] [Cartoon] [Web Site]

#### Caloosahatchee & Lake O Status



Lake O level was 14.68ft on Jan 31. Flows to the estuary at S79 averaged 1,465 cfs over the past week. The salinity at Iona (16 psu) this past week was in the optimal range for oysters. Caloosahatchee Condition **ISCCF** Report] [Graphic] [Lake O Water Level] [SCCF Web Site]

#### **Corps Starting to Listen**



SCCF's Rae Ann Wessel points to the Corps of Engineers' having taken a conservative approach to managing lake discharges to the Caloosahatchee estuary working with scientist and stakeholder concerns shared on the weekly science calls and in the weekly Conditions Report. [Caloosahatchee Conditions]

#### \$1.6B, Down From \$3.2 & \$2.9



In his 2015-16 budget, Gov Scott recommends \$1.6 billion for Florida's natural and water resources. In its 2013-14 analysis, Florida Tax Watch shows \$2.9 billion in funding for environmental purposes and \$3.2 in

2014-15. Riverwatch has asked Tax Watch to compare the \$1.6B to past budgets. [Scott Press Release] [Tax Watch 2013-14] [Tax Watch 2014-15] [Keep Florida Working]

#### 10-yr, \$750M Clean-up of Lake O



DEP adopted a 10-year, \$750M plan to clean up Lake O. It includes work to restore the Kissimmee River, dispersed water storage and stormwater treatment areas. But as the state works to fill the pollution hole dug over decades, it must also require other actors to stop digging. [News-Press]

### Florida Makes Top 10



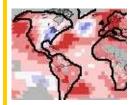
Florida ranks in the top 10 of state corruption according to a survey of iournalists by Harvard researchers. The survey looked at legal and illegal corruption in the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Arizona was most corrupt and Massachusetts least. Seminar] [Research [Harvard gal corruption Center for Ethics] [News-Press]

#### Pumping into Nicodemus Slough



Storing water in places like Nicodemus Slough is one way SFWMD is attempting limit excess flows to to the Caloosahatchee during this abnormally "wet" dry season for Lake O. Additional storage in the watershed can help the Lake stay at a safe water level while not directing as much water down C-43. [WPTV, Jan 30] [WPTV, Jan 14]

#### 650 million to 1



NOAA and NASA say 2014 was the hottest ever recorded (135 years of data). The odds are 650 million to 1 it's just a fluke that earth's 10 hottest years have all happened since 2000. [News Press] [Scientific American] [UN Confirmation (w/many comments)] [Earth Temps]

#### **Bacteria Clears at Franklin Lock**



The Corps of Engineers has reopened the swimming beach at W.P. Franklin South Recreation Area on the Caloosahatchee River in Alva. The beach was closed temporarily due to elevated levels of enterococcus bacteria. The bacteria has cleared now. [Southwest Online] [Swimming Florida Advisory]

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