

The Flow

July 2011 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- **Aug 1:** Reservations open for Gatorama's [2011 Hatching Festival](#) which starts Aug 20
- **Aug 3:** CRCA interns present oxbows research at [CRCA Board Meeting](#) 6:30pm at Bridge St Coffee House in LaBelle
- **Aug 13:** Pine Island Sound [Scallop Search](#) 9am Pineland Marina

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



John Cassani documented the 2011 algae bloom with dramatic photos.

We Can Pollute; You Cannot Sue



In a classic case of Catch-22, a federal court has ruled that if you wait to sue the government until after evidence of pollution is apparent then you lose for waiting too long. If you sue early you still lose for lack of evidence of actual harm. [\[TCPalm\]](#)

John Mica Guts Clean Water



Representative John Mica of Florida was the primary sponsor of HR2018 that passed the House and amends the Clean Water Act to eliminate Federal authority over water quality. If the bill passes the Senate, President Obama says he will veto. [\[St. Petersburg Times\]](#) [\[Summary\]](#)

Algae Bloom Effects



The Everglades Foundation explains the algae blooms in the Caloosahatchee. It is important to know the varying types of algae as well as the types of toxins present in algae. These toxins impact wildlife AND human health. Plus its just plain icky. [\[Everglades Foundation\]](#)

[\[Mark Renz Algae\]](#) [\[Renz Photos\]](#)

Alva Up in Arms



Alva residents are making a statement: We need to take control of the algae blooms. Despite the blooms having washed to sea, Alva is still concerned. The small town compares the algae bloom to the BP oil spill, traceable to corporate indifference. [\[Florida Independent\]](#)

Cartoon Justice from DEP



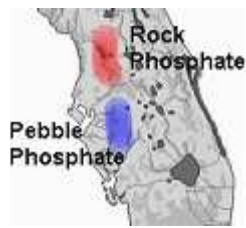
When FDEP denied the appeal of their Ceitus decision, they made a sham of the justice system. CRCA concluded more than two years ago that it would end this way. The utility of the futile effort was in proving that the DEP EMA process is a complete fraud and no other citizens should pursue it. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Comments\]](#)

Back Ten Feet



Sue Scott, one of the original FYN instructors, started a video series on YouTube. "Back Ten Feet" teaches homeowners how to transform their yards into attractive, water & wildlife friendly habitat using native plants and good stewardship practices. [\[Episode 1\]](#)

Mine It From Our River



Phosphate mined in the USA comes from Florida, which has 10% of the known world reserves. Most Florida P has already been mined and the world will probably reach "Peak P" in 2030. Thus, wasting it in ways that contaminate our waters is very foolish. [\[Yale Environment 360\]](#)

Whistling in the Dark?



Palm Beach Post says although Melissa Meeker has inherited a lot of problems, she has the ability to "steer the ship" in the right direction for generations to come. Even with a small budget, Meeker must stay the course and get SFWMD to work well. [\[TCPalm\]](#)

Water Supply Districts



In a letter to the Water Management Districts, Gov Scott effectively redefines the mission of all 6 organizations; transforming them into water supply districts and permitting rubber stamp offices, drastically short of meeting our water challenges. [\[Letter to FWMDs\]](#)

Like It Never Happened



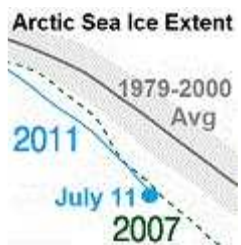
Carcasses of dead fish have just finished rotting on Florida's beaches due to the BP oil spill, but the Florida Legislature and Gov. Scott are reviving a request to open the Florida coastline to oil drilling. They intend to drill, no matter what. [\[Miami Herald\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Not Smarter Than a 7th Grader?



Even a climate change denier can't deny the harmful effects of algae blooms. US Senator Jim Inhofe swam in water his young granddaughter called "that green stuff" and refused to enter. Now Inhofe says the algae made him severely ill. How telling! Maybe we'd be better off with a 7th grader in Senate. [\[Tulsa World\]](#)

Setting New Lows



Average ice extent fell below that of June 2007, the previous record low year. The Arctic ice has entered a critical period; the next few weeks' weather will determine if the Arctic sea ice cover will set new record lows for the entire year. [\[Graph\]](#) [\[National Snow & Ice Center\]](#)

Dry Season Ends June 23



Rains began on June 17. The Corps had to start releasing water from S-79 (Franklin Lock) to the estuary 5 days later. We can thus declare an end to the 2010-2011 dry season on June 22. The final dry season flow was 220 cfs, 33% of minimum need. [\[Data\]](#) [\[Final Dry Season Cartoon\]](#)

Beta Testing For Water Atlas



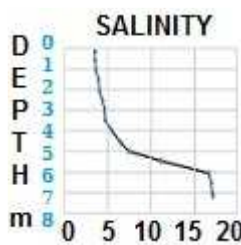
CHNEP has released the "Beta" version for its Water Atlas. This atlas has a large online database with water information available to the public. Check out the page and leave a review on the test version! [\[Beta Water Atlas\]](#)

Water Class Warfare?



The major water users in Palm Beach have neighbors angry and are receiving warnings and citations from code enforcers. It is incredible how much water they used in Palm Beach, even during the most extreme dry season on record. [\[Wall Street Journal\]](#)

River Hypoxia and Salinity



Dissolved oxygen and salinity data were recently released for three locations in the river. DO levels are relatively low overall, and salinity levels are highly stratified. The runoff water is purging the shallower water of salt but not deeper water. [\[Hypoxia Data\]](#)

Manning, Mann, & Hall



Three Lee County Commissioners voted to approve a permit allowing Cape Coral to continue discharging stormwater to Matlacha Pass through the spreader canal without replacement of the Ceitus Boat Lift. Judah and Bigelow opposed the action, but lost. [\[Buchanan Email\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Details\]](#)

Defining New Panther Range



Glades Commissioner Russell Echols says that the panther population has grown so much they may not need Glades County land. The perspective is not surprising for a rural county facing economic hardship and bearing the cost of panther protection. [\[Hendry Glades Sunday News\]](#)