

The Flow

July 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- **Aug 3:** Clean Water Rally **March against Lake O discharges** at 10am in Stuart
- **Aug 6:** **CRCA board of directors meeting** at 6:30 pm in Ft. Myers
- **Aug 8:** **Caloosahatchee community forum** at 1pm in Ft. Myers
- **Aug 23-Sep 1:** **Gatorama Hatching Festival 2014** in Palmdale

Editorial Disclaimer
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Riverwatch intern and others attended the Sea Level Rise Symposium.

East Coast Clean Water Rally



Join thousands for the 2nd Annual Clean Water Rally on August 3. Unite against the discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Stand shoulder to shoulder with us and demand that Lake Okeechobee water must move south. We need your voice so come to Phipps Park Campground 2175 SW Locks Rd, Stuart, Florida. [\[Flier\]](#) [\[Details\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

CRCA Letter to EPA



CRCA calls upon EPA & the Corps of Engineers to take non-point sources of pollution into account in the permitting process. Exclusion of non-point sources has been treated as if they were insignificant. This willful tolerance of major pollution should not continue. [\[Riverwatch Letter\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Community Forum



Join the SFWMD for the latest "first" in a series of planned Caloosahatchee Community Forums on Friday, Aug 8, 2014 at 1pm at the Riverside Community Center, 3061 E Riverside Dr, Ft. Myers. We've done it before, but need to do it again...until it actually works! [\[Agenda\]](#) [\[Projects\]](#) [\[Criteria\]](#) [\[Flier\]](#) [\[Rules of Engagement\]](#) [\[Web\]](#)

CRCA Meets at Nature Center



On Wednesday, Aug 6, at 6:30pm the Riverwatch Board of Directors meets in the Iona House of the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. All members are welcome to attend this business meeting. [\[Map\]](#) [\[Nature Center Web Site\]](#)

Red Tide Bloom



As reported July 31, the largest red tide bloom recorded in Florida waters since 2006 is lingering in the Gulf of Mexico and could move south in the early days of August. This comes on the heels of a June algal bloom. Red tide, caused by *Karenia brevis*, is fatal for fish and harmful to humans. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[ABC-7\]](#)

20/20 Helps Cope with Growth



SW Florida's population continues to grow, putting pressure on basic public services and the natural resources of Lee County, particularly water and habitat. Programs like Conservation 20/20 are essential in coping with growth and should be restored. [\[John Cassani Editorial\]](#) [\[Growth Cartoon\]](#)

Harborside Takes Shape



The Harborside Event Center will be expanded and connected to a planned Sheraton hotel. The project still needs Fort Myers City Council approval to advance. Lee County has been asked to contribute \$4 million to the renovation effort. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Harborside Events\]](#) [\[Downtown Activities\]](#)

Community Water Concern



Residents of Charleston Park, one of the five designated "blighted" communities in Lee County, are concerned about the look, taste and color of Charleston Park's drinking water. Now the government has stepped in. [\[WGPU\]](#) [\[Location Map\]](#)

Hunting Trek to King Ranch



David Guest of Earth Justice questions how Gov. Scott selects appointees to SFWMD. But Mitch Hutchcraft's selection was endorsed by environmentalists like Audubon's Eric Draper who wrote a letter backing Hutchcraft as a good choice for the WMD seat. [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#) [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

Good News...for a Change!



Out of a list of hundreds of popular beaches nationwide, NRDC's 2014 report, dubbed 35 beaches as Superstars! Bowman's Beach is one of three in Florida to achieve "superstar" status — these are beaches that didn't exceed the EPA's bacteria standard. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Superstar Beaches\]](#) [\[Testing the Waters 2014\]](#)

Lake Okechobee Releases



With the rainy season in full swing, the debate resumes on Lake O discharges. The Army Corps of Engineers has increased flows from Lake O to the Caloosahatchee estuary. The Corps say this measure is needed to slow the water level rise in Lake O. Opinions differ on the degree of risk this represents. [\[Fox 4\]](#)

Caloosahatchee (July 19-28)



Flow into the Caloosahatchee at Franklin Lock (S-79) was below the 2400 limit, averaging 1900 cfs from July 19-28. With the start of the wet season, SCCF's report switches to low salinity, oyster & sea grass graphic. [\[SCCF Caloosahatchee Condition Report\]](#) [\[Graphic\]](#) [\[SCCF Web Site\]](#)

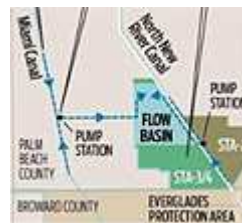
Sea Level Rise Symposium



The Riverwatch summer intern and all the other Intelligentsia students attended the 2nd Annual Sea Level Rise Symposium held in West Palm Beach on July 25. It focused on how east coast cities must adapt to rising tides. In a telling change, little discussion focused on prevention. [\[w/CRCA dir. Nargis\]](#)

[\[w/CRCA dir. John\]](#) [\[Program\]](#) [\[CRCA Intern, Amanda\]](#)

Reservoir to Prevent Pollution



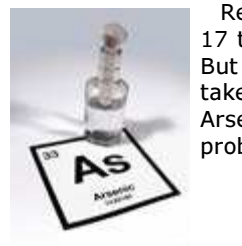
The largest above-ground reservoir in FL (24 sq miles) is rising above sugar cane fields in SW Palm Beach County to help cleanse polluted water before it rushes into the Everglades. It may help alleviate some high flows to the Caloosahatchee by allowing more clean water to flow to the Everglades. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Another NASA View Downward



Two teams of scientists say the long-feared collapse of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet has begun, kicking off what they say will be a centuries-long, "unstoppable" process that could contribute 15 feet to sea level rise on top of other sources. [\[NBC News\]](#) [\[Web site\]](#)

Barriers to New Arsenic Standards



Recent studies have revealed that Arsenic is 17 times more toxic than previously believed. But EPA has not yet enacted new rules that take this into account. The reason is that Arsenic is so prevalent that addressing the problem will be expensive. [\[O89.3KPC\]](#)

Unfunded Mandate?



SW FL water bodies were far cleaner back in 1972 when the Clean Water Act was adopted and told states not to trash their waters. After ignoring guidelines for more than 40 years, communities are now acting surprised that their ignorance has costs. [\[News-Press\]](#)

Accept the Responsibility!



Ray Judah lays out a set of steps that SW FL can take to engage the challenge of cleaning up its waterways. He advocates restoring Conservation 20/20 land purchases as one component of the effort. Only by aggressively tackling the problems can Lee County preserve its tourism and real estate economy. [\[News-Press\]](#)

See CRCA web page for more details on each of the newsletter articles <http://crca.caloosahatchee.org/>

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