

The Flow

July 2016 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Aug 3: [Riverwatch Committee Meetings](#) in LaBelle
- Aug 20: [Big Sugar Summit](#) in West Palm
- Aug 30: [Vote YES for Solar](#)
- Sep 21: [Natural Areas & Aquatic Management Seminar](#) in North Ft. Myers
- Sep 21-22: [Florida Aquifer Conference](#) in Orlando

Editorial Disclaimer
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crca.caloosahatchee.org
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In 2016 the FL Legislature and DEP took a series of bad water actions.

Glades Lives Matter



A meeting in Clewiston demanded that inland residents be protected in any plans to solve water problems. CRCA has always asserted that working-class people's jobs must be considered. But when evolving an economy (coastal or inland) corporate interests are not always the same as people's interests. **[No Scapegoat] [Mutual Inaccuracies] [Sweet Life]**

[Hastings]

DEP Allows More Toxins in Water



John Moran, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Stanford University, staged a protest at the meeting where DEP recommended adoption of higher levels of toxic substances in water supplies. Waterkeepers, Clean Water Network, and others also attended the meeting to oppose the weakened regulations. **[Moran OpEd] [News] [DEP ERC OpEd] [Waterkeepers]**

We Will Feel The Burn



Ft Myers is #2 on the list of US cities expected to see the greatest increase in number of days with a heat index of 105F or higher by 2050 due to climate change. Punta Gorda is #1. The top 13 cities are all in Florida. Ft Myers had 26 such days in 2000. In 14 years from now it will be 135 days. **[Ft Myers Heat Index] [Climate Central] [City Calculator] [Florida Heat] [States At**

Risk]

Nutrients + Warmer Water = Algae



Dangerous blue-green algae blooms are going to be more prevalent as the climate warms, says Rob Moore, senior policy analyst for NRDC. It is yet another reason why the U.S. and governments around the world must take rapid action to decrease emissions that are causing climate change. **[Article from The Daily Beast] [Photo Algae Bloom] [Comic Strip]**

[Cartoon]

You & You, We All Have a Problem



In speaking in Ft Myers on issues of the Caloosahatchee with community mayors and environmental representatives, Senator Bill Nelson decried finger pointing emphasizing that all communities and governments will have to do their part to solve regional water problems. **[Rae Ann & Sen Nelson] [News Press with Video]**

Wanted: Waterkeeper & Exec Director



Riverwatch announces its search for two employees - a Waterkeeper & an Executive Director. The Waterkeeper is the CRCA face to the media and presence on our waterways. The Waterkeeper will be our local Aquaman (or woman) - a water superhero. The Executive Director will fuel the program. **[Position Descriptions]**

Water Becomes Election Theme



Every local election develops 1 or 2 key themes but rarely does a single issue take on the kind of visceral role that water (specifically water from Lake O released down the Caloosahatchee) plays in 2016. Almost every challenger in the Aug 30 primary cites water as the major, if not only, issue. [\[News Press\]](#)

Vote YES for Solar on Aug 30



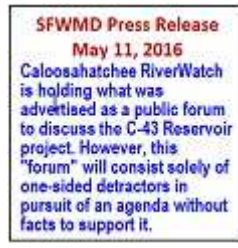
Solar energy supporters encourage you to say YES to Amendment 4 on the Aug 30 ballot. Climate change is the ultimate factor on whether we can save South Florida waters. If you care about water, you should support this amendment. It removes burdensome tangible and real estate property taxes on solar. [\[VOTE BY MAIL\]](#) [\[Tell Friends\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Not That Much Algae



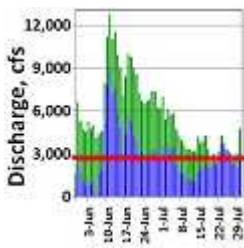
Lee County tourism promoters have adopted a new marketing slogan - Our algae bloom is not as bad as Martin County's. Seems they have to resort to claiming that our water is simply brown and doesn't have the guacamole-green froth of east coast water. Tourists respond to pollution by not returning. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

SFWMD Derided Algae Warnings



On May 11, before this year's horrible algae blooms, Riverwatch held a public forum to discuss the risk of algae blooms in the proposed C-43 West Reservoir that will cost \$650 Million. SFWMD reacted by calling the citizens "one-sided detractors in pursuit of an agenda without facts to support it." [\[SFWMD Press Release\]](#) [\[Public Forum\]](#) [\[Forum Presentations\]](#)

July Flow to Estuary Still Harmful



Flow to the Caloosahatchee Estuary during July remained at or above harm levels. In 2016 the days of harmful flow have numbered 156 (74% of the year). Of the 2016 total harmful flow, 75% has been from Lake O and 25% from the Caloosahatchee watershed. [\[Lake O Stage History\]](#) [\[Lake & Watershed Flow Graph\]](#)

Sawfish Resurgence



It took less than 100 years for man to wipe sawfish from existence in North America. But thanks to conservation efforts, the critically endangered species has started to rebound, and Southwest Florida has been the epicenter of that resurgence. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Sawfish in Naples Pier\]](#)

Coastal Angler Magazine



Thank you to Nadeen Welch for attending the CRCA Board meeting on July 6, and sharing copies of the article she published in the July's Fort Myers edition of the Coastal Angler Magazine. CRCA looks forward to working with her to produce monthly contributions to her publication. [\[Thank you email\]](#) [\[CRCA Magazine Page\]](#)

Lake Erie & Lake Okeechobee



Tom Hayden of the Toledo Blade describes parallels between the putrid algae that has sickened South Florida and the green goop that has appeared in western Lake Erie nearly every summer since 1995. Lake Okeechobee & Lake Erie are both prone to algal growth because of heavy agricultural runoff. [\[The Toledo Blade\]](#) [\[Lake Erie Algae\]](#)

Suggest a Speaker



Riverwatch is a co-host of the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference to be held Jan 13 at FGCU. The topic for the 26th year of the conference is "Resiliency: Reducing Impacts and Bouncing Back." We invite you to view the Call for Presenters and suggest speakers for the conference. [\[SFWRC Call for Presenters\]](#) [\[Suggest an Presenter or Panelist\]](#)

Paul Reynolds Editorial



Riverwatch Member Paul Reynolds writes about the shortcomings of the C-43 West Reservoir Project saying: Who, in the governing infrastructure, speaks for our rivers, estuaries, and coasts? Frankly, the job is open, and without far more spirited community involvement, our water woes will never end. [\[Editorial\]](#) [\[Photo Paul Reynolds\]](#) [\[Comments\]](#)

Septic Systems - River Pollution



Septic systems are a primary source of St. Lucie River pollution, according to a study commissioned from the FAU HBOI. The finding refutes an opinion popular with some local officials and environmentalists that Lake O discharges and fertilizer in agricultural runoff are the primary sources. [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[Photo Reef\]](#) [\[St Lucie Estuary Inflows\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Septic Systems - Minor Source



Larry Fink and others question Brian Lapointe's assertion that septic tanks are the major cause of the east coast algal bloom. Indeed, septic tank seepage makes only a minor contribution to the limiting nutrient load to Lake O, the St. Lucie River Canal and the Indian River Lagoon. [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[Opinion Larry Fink\]](#) [\[Details\]](#)