

The Flow

June 2008 Newsletter
Marti Daltry, President

Special Events & Meetings

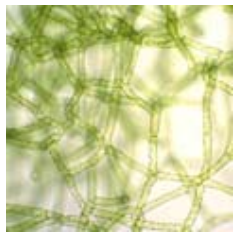
- CRCA meeting 6:30pm July 9 Bridge St Coffee House, LaBelle
- Visit the CRCA web site to submit your special recipe to the Caloosahatchee Cookbook.
- Riverwatch has a trailer and 4 canoes for special membership events.

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



Algae Bloom Upstream of Franklin Lock in Early June

Cassani on Blooms



John Cassani, a founding member of CRCA, shared his opinion on the recent News Press article on the algae blooms in the Caloosahatchee River. He points out that the problem is worse than many realize, given their limited historical perspective. People tend to adjust to degraded conditions and gradually consider them normal.

[\[Letter to Editor\]](#)

Seeking Input on Alternatives



Forest Michael of Transystems will discuss ideas for C-43 water storage at the July 9 CRCA meeting in LaBelle after presenting these concepts at a July 3 Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meeting in West Palm Beach. Transystems will also present ideas to the Hendry County Commission on July 22. [\[Input Request\]](#) [\[Riverwatch Ideas\]](#)

125 Water Summit Delegates



The Century Commission will convene a state water summit Sep 25-26 to recommend steps for a long-term water conservation, use and supply plan for environmental, agricultural & public consumption purposes. While anyone can attend, 125 delegates will be named by the steering committee to vote on the various recommendations. [\[Invitation\]](#)

[\[Steering Committee Members\]](#)

Land Swaps for Plan 6?



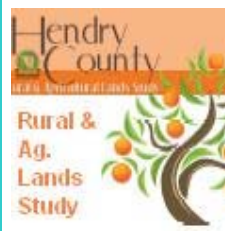
With the acquisition of all US Sugar holdings, the state will have the ability to create the land swaps needed to consolidate properties for the Plan 6 flowway system. These land swaps would preserve agricultural lands in Hendry County thus mitigating the negative economic effects of the buy-out. [\[Crist PR\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Sugar PR\]](#)

Glades Co. Emphasis on Dike



At a May 28 meeting with Chairman Oberstar of the U.S. House Infrastructure Committee, Glades County Commissioner Russell Echols and U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney emphasized the need to accelerate Corps repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake O. Current budgets would take 15 years to complete. [\[Echols Comments\]](#)

Draft Report Released



RWA completed the Hendry County land use study with an eye towards integrating agriculture, ecosystems, and development. It proposes a broad set of recommendations designed to guide planning towards balance. The report will identify areas critical to ag production as a first step towards a TDR program. [\[Report\]](#) [\[Appendix\]](#)

1600 Miles in a Canoe in 1882



In 1881-82 Kirk Monroe wrote a journal during his harrowing journey in the sailing canoe "Psyche" 1600 miles through Florida waters. Page 15 (77) starts the Caloosahatchee leg that continues to Lake O and the Kissimmee. [\[Story\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Protection Plan



Janet Starnes of SFWMD is leading the effort to develop alternatives for water quality goals in the Caloosahatchee watershed. Four alternatives will be considered with a draft plan scheduled for release in October 2008. [\[Agenda\]](#) [\[Details\]](#)

Trichodesmium Bloom



Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation along with the City have verified and are tracking a Trichodesmium erythraeum bloom in the area, Beach, Gulf and Bay. They are evaluating next steps. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Bloom Microscopic View\]](#)

CRCA-Riverwatch Cookbook



Caloosahatchee Cookbook invites you to share some of your favorite recipes, including picnic & boating favorites. Your culinary secrets will be included in the fundraising cookbook. The sooner you submit, the better your chances of being included. [\[Form\]](#)

Nelson on Energy & Water



Hosted by Gulf Citrus Growers in LaBelle on May 29, Senator Bill Nelson talked water & energy. Citizens raised the need for WRDA projects including the C-43 reservoir and Lake O dike. Nelson discussed offshore oil drilling, pointing out the primary need for alternative energy and the failure of oil companies to exploit existing leases. [\[Caloosa Belle\]](#)

Congressmen Discuss River



U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney hosted Reps. Jim Oberstar & Connie Mack for a Caloosahatchee River restoration discussion in LaBelle on Wed, May 28 talking about funding needs for the C-43 West Reservoir and then touring Lake O & the Herbert Hoover Dike enroute to discussions about the St. Lucie River. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[PalmBeachPost\]](#)

Aftermath of Lake Fires



Fires on the edges of Lake Okeechobee earlier this spring raged along the western shore. Fires release nutrients through the ash left in their wake. As summer rains commence and lake levels rise, the ash will enter the water column creating the potential to magnify algae blooms. [\[Photo\]](#) [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#)

Downward Slide



Despite the green reputation of Gov. Charlie Crist, pollution enforcement in FL continues to decline, according to an analysis of the latest state statistics released by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). [\[Details\]](#)

Creeks Dedication



Local citizens, county officials and environmental reps dedicated the Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 20. Conservation 20/20 senior supervisor Cathy Olson emphasized that this was their first project with trails, canoe launches, picnic facilities, parking and more. [\[N. Ft. Myers Neighbor\]](#)

Best Water BOCC in Florida



In 2006 Lee County requested the creation of an ordinance to reduce the excessive nutrients flowing into our rivers and the Gulf. Eventually, the strongest ordinance in FL was adopted on May 13, 2008 after key staff of the Natural Resources Dept (Roland Ottolini, Karen Bickford, and Kurt Harclerode) drafted & redrafted its provisions. [\[News-Press\]](#)

DEP Water Budget Cut



In addition to suffering dramatic budget cuts, the TMDL funds of the DEP Watershed Resources Management Division have been held back this year. All this in a time when TMDL issues are critical throughout the state. [\[DEP V1-12\]](#) [\[Budget News\]](#) [\[DEP V1-11\]](#)

Pea Soup River



The water contrast upstream and downstream of Franklin Lock is dramatic. The algae bloom is so thick that boats leave trails in the water. Flow at Townsend Canal is vigorous, which is where the bloom starts. [\[nbc-2.com\]](#) [\[Photo Gallery\]](#)