

The Flow

June 2009 Newsletter
Annette Snapp, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Jun 29 - Southwest Florida Watershed Council Public Meeting
- Jun 30 - Fun Filled Summer days at Lakes Park
- Jul 4 – CRCA Independence Day Picnic!

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



Riverwatch members & friends help remove air potato from park

Watershed Council Discussion



On June 29, SFWMD Governing Board Members & senior staff members, including Deputy Exec. Director Ken Ammon, will be discussing LOSA Water Availability, Rule/Consumptive Use Permit Renewals, Caloosahatchee Basin, Reservation Rule Status, and more. [\[Details\]](#)

No Change in Ecological Tone



If confirmed, Sonia Sotomayor would replace Justice Souter on the US Supreme Court. Souter joined Ginsburg and Breyer in supporting a ruling by Sotomayor in the 2007 Riverkeeper v. EPA case. Six justices voted to overturn the ruling. [\[About.com\]](#) [\[Entergy Corp. v. Riverkeeper Full Opinion\]](#)

Good River News



Salinity levels are dropping in the upstream portions the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Heavy rains are helping beneficial freshwater species, such as tape grass, to increase in numbers and temporarily reduce the potential for oxygen depletion.

[\[News-Press\]](#)

Have Your Eco-Voice Heard!



The Environmental Voice of Southwest Florida has launched www.Eco-Voice.org. It is a great tool to stay informed on local, regional, and national environmental issues and events. The site complements the successful email list.

[\[New Eco-Voice Web Site\]](#) [\[Link to EVSWF List\]](#)

Hail to the New Chief



Dr. Annette Snapp, FGCU Professor & Colloquium Coordinator, was elected as the new CRCA President at the June 3 board meeting in North Fort Myers. Congrats to Annette and a sincere thank you to our past-presidents, Marti Daltry & Mary Ruth Prouty. [\[New Board\]](#)

CRCA 4th of July Picnic!



Join CRCA-Riverwatch this 4th of July to celebrate Independence Day and our beautiful rivers! Picnic is at Fisheating Creek (7555 US Highway 27 North, FL 33944) at 11:00am for all CRCA members & their guests. [\[More Info\]](#) [\[Fisheating Creek Resort\]](#)

Lee Wastewater Discharges



Lee County Commissioners are contemplating connecting Waterway Estates to the N Ft Myers Utilities or Cape Coral system to stop wastewater discharges into the Caloosahatchee River. The solution won't be cheap. [\[News-Press\]](#)

Restoration of Willow Lake



The SFWMD, Army Corps of Engineers, and representatives of the landowner agreed on the restoration of the lake and swamp. A total of 19.08 acres will be placed in a permanent conservation easement and made available for passive recreational use. [\[Eagle Quest Opinion\]](#)

Opposition to New Project



Lee County developers are planning on a new 79-acre housing Estate project on the Caloosahatchee. 58 houses would be built, with well and septic systems, and even a new bridge and roads off of River Road 78 for private access. [\[Letter from Deb Arnason\]](#)

New Corps Colonel in Jax



On July 24, Colonel Alfred A. Pantano, Jr. will assume command of the Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His prior service includes Executive Officer of the 1st Armored Engineer Brigade in Baghdad. [\[Pantano Bio\]](#)

Study for Control of Algae



Divers have been collecting algae 14.8 miles southwest of Redfish Pass as part of a study to answer questions about massive algal blooms that pile up on the beaches of Lee County. The study is also looking at sea urchins in the control of algae. [\[News-Press\]](#)

No Conservation Taxes



Even though the most expensive land conservation plan of Florida's history will be taking place during 2010 fiscal year (1.4 billion budget), SFWMD expects property prices not to drop more than 12%, therefore it won't need to raise its taxes. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Important Water Issue Update



Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation sent a letter to Governor Crist urging the veto of SB 2080. If you would like to contact the Governor, his e-mail is Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com; tel: 850-488-7146; fax: 850-487-0801. [\[SCCF letter\]](#)

Earthjustice Case Overruled



The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals overruled a 2006 Miami District Court decision requiring SFWMD to get special NPDES permits before backpumping farmland polluted waters into Lake Okeechobee. [\[Miami Herald\]](#) [\[WTPV\]](#) [\[The Ledger\]](#)

Manatee Grass on Beaches



Higher than normal amounts of white manatee grass has been accumulating in the shores of Sanibel and Captiva beaches. Although the grass itself might not represent any serious problem to the water, some people wonder about the cause. [\[NaplesNews\]](#) [\[SCCF\]](#) [\[Manatee Grass Info\]](#)

Crist Record Found Lacking



Despite a pledge to toughen anti-pollution enforcement, the DEP under Governor Crist has not properly enforced regulations or collected fines, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). [\[PEER Press Release\]](#)

The Bottom Line



John Folks of the Florida Office of Ag. Water Policy describes the constraints faced by farmers in meeting environmental regulations. He outlines criteria that must be met for a solution to be viable for farmers. [\[Lessons Learned Paper\]](#)

Only Water Will Limit Growth



Road traffic and water supply were the two primary hurdles developers faced in proposing new subdivisions. With Crist removing the road criteria only water supply can limit unchecked sprawl. [\[Palm Beach Editorial\]](#)