

The Flow

June 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

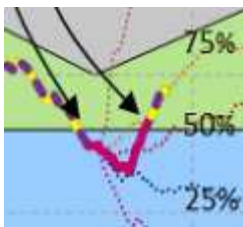
- Jun 2-Aug 18: [Sea Monsters Exhibit](#) 9am to 4pm in Sanibel Island.
- Jul 2: [CRCA Board Meeting at 6:30pm & Program at 7pm](#) in LaBelle.
- Jul 17: [AWRA Annual Meeting](#) 10am to 6pm in Key Largo.
- Jul 25: [Sea Level Rise Symposium](#) 9am in West Palm.

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cra.caloosahatchee.org
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CRCA members & guests pictured at the June 4th meeting at CNC.

Lake Rising Again



Very near to its average turning point date, Lake Okeechobee began its wet season water level rise around June 10. As of June 29 it is at 13ft, 1ft lower than last year but 2ft more than 2 years ago. [\[Lake O Stage Graph \(6/24\)\]](#) [\[Current SFWMD Graph\]](#) [\[Current Corps Stage\]](#)

Kiker on C43 Reservoir



Larry Kiker writes, "Until the reservoir project is complete and other projects come online, we still must rely on Lake Okeechobee for needed freshwater releases." His statement reflects the severe limits of the reservoir to solve our water problems. Delivering freshwater during winter is expensive. [\[Kiker on C43 Reservoir\]](#)

No-show Rubio Shows Up



U.S Senator Marco Rubio was in Stuart on June 20 to discuss the St. Lucie River. After taking some verbal abuse for not coming sooner, Rubio said he supports diverting the lake water south rather than dumping it into local waterways. Seems that all now say they want to become part of a solution. [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[WPTV\]](#)

Has Hell Frozen Over?



Some thought it would never happen, but dirt will start to turn on initial phases of the C-43 West Reservoir. The project is intended to partially relieve dry season salinity problems in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The challenge will be to fully fund the project now that it is in motion. [\[Fort Myers Beach Talk\]](#)

CRCA Meeting & Program



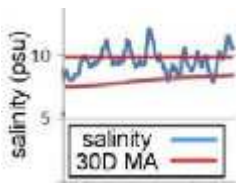
Join us at a monthly meeting of CRCA on July 2 at Charlie's Bridge Street Café (23 Fort Thompson Ave, LaBelle) at 6:30pm for the business meeting with the program at 7pm with Ray Judah on "The Challenges & Solutions to Manage the Lake O Watershed." [\[Ray Judah Bio\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Matt Caldwell at CRCA



State Representative Matt Caldwell spoke at the June Riverwatch meeting. He summarized the past legislative season in Tallahassee. He believes SW FL should not depend on others to solve its water problems but should strive to implement local projects. [\[Mary Rawl & Matt Caldwell\]](#) [\[Photo gallery\]](#)

Caloosahatchee June 17-23



Salinity has remained within the acceptable range this dry season. With Lake O starting to rise and our daily thunderstorms starting to generate local runoff, the average salinity should start trending downward. Now the question is will the estuary become too fresh this rainy season? [\[June Condition Report\]](#)

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Ray Judah on Board



Joining the Riverwatch board of directors for the first time is Ray Judah, former Lee County Commissioner. Ray is currently working as coordinator of the Florida Coastal and Oceans Coalition. Ray was the most forceful river advocate in government. [\[Ray Judah Bio\]](#) [\[Florida Coastal & Ocean Coalition\]](#)

Few Wet Turkeys or Pork



Gov. Scott vetoed none of the \$88.5 million in local water projects in the 2014-15 state budget. He vetoed more than \$50 million in water projects during his previous 3 budgets. Only a very few water-related projects made the Taxwatch turkey list. [\[Water Projects Finances\]](#) [\[Taxwatch Turkeys Report\]](#)

Everglades Projects



Progress on Florida water bodies was achieved when impasses on two Everglades restoration projects were solved in June. These projects seek to achieve better flow patterns and improve water quality. [\[Everglades Projects Advance\]](#) [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

Environmental Assessment

Fisheating Creek WRP
26,255 ACRES
5 Easements
4 Landowners

The assessment report for Fisheating Creek Wetlands Reserve Program describes the case and process for conservation easements within this highly sensitive and ecologically valuable watershed north of the Caloosahatchee Basin. [\[Environmental Assessment\]](#)

Squeaky Wheel



On June 18 the Army Corps of Engineers decided to partially open the St. Lucie structure on Lake Okeechobee, backflowing water into Lake O. At the same time the Corps released water from Lake O to flow down the Caloosahatchee. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Kids Outside



While it's common sense to the older generation, today's parents need help appreciating the value of outdoors recreation opportunities for their kids. Beyond keeping kids away from various social problems, it's an amazing experience for both the parents & children. [\[OutdoorHub\]](#)

Nargiza Abduvohidova



Added to the Riverwatch board of directors is Nargiza Abduvohidova. Nargiza serves as CRCA Membership Chair. She has a Master's Degree in Elementary Ed & is office manager of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the national honor society of graduate students. Since 2005 she has produced CRCA artwork & web sites.

OK for Water Reuse



Dogs lead way in water reuse

Oklahoma is generally known for its Congressmen and Senators who deny and ignore environmental problems. But water supply problems are causing them to begin pursuing water reuse as a way of addressing their shortages. [\[Water Reuse Bill\]](#)

Support Limits on Carbon



EPA has established a new standard for carbon emissions from power plants in the U.S. The Climate Reality Project encourages you to let the EPA know your opinion on their efforts to slow climate change. [\[The Climate Reality Project\]](#)

New Director: Ruth Scott



Ruth Scott is a new Riverwatch Director. Strongly concerned with environmental issues, she is always reporting on environmental topics, working with groups like Florida Clean Water Initiative and reducing her own impact on the environment. [\[RiverWatch Director Ruth Scott\]](#)

Bill for Toxic Algae Problems



U.S. Senator Bill Nelson authored legislation to provide \$82 million to help with the algae environmental problems in the Caloosahatchee River. The expectation is that the President Obama sign the bill into a law. [\[ABC-7\]](#) [\[S-1254\]](#) [\[GovTrack.us\]](#)

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

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