

The Flow

June 2016 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- July 6: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- July 6-8: [EvCo Law Workshop](#) in Naples
- July 14: [Aquatic WILD training](#) at Trout Lake Nature Center
- July 18-20: [Snorkeling Adventure](#) in Placida
- July 11-29: [Fossil Camp 2016](#) at LaBelle Heritage Museum

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Algae bloom in Caloosahatchee at Old Ft Denaud in a restored oxbow.

Gibsons Attend Waterkeeper Conf



Gene and Nan Gibson represented Caloosahatchee Riverwatch at the annual conference of Waterkeeper Alliance held June 1-6 in Wilmington, NC. They described the event as informative and inspirational. Keynote speaker at the opening session was Waterkeeper President Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Agenda\]](#) [\[Video Around the World\]](#)

Some May Never Swim Again



Martin County held an emergency meeting before July 4 weekend to discuss the incredible algae blooms on St. Lucie River and beaches. People are advised to avoid contact with the water. But like after a Jaws movie, it may be hard to get some to ever swim again once they see the horrible algae video. [\[VIDEO\]](#) [\[Jaws of Algae\]](#) [\[WPTV\]](#) [\[Video WPTV\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[TCPalm\]](#)

Emergency Seen Coming Mile Away



Gov. Scott declared an emergency after severe algae blooms on the St Lucie River & its beaches. Lee County wants a similar declaration for the Caloosahatchee side of Lake O. For years the Gov & Legislature have dismantled water quality regulations and agencies, so this "emergency" was predictable. [\[Sunshine News\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Wash. Post\]](#) [\[Vid1\]](#) [\[Vid2\]](#) [\[Vid3\]](#)

Florida Going Downhill



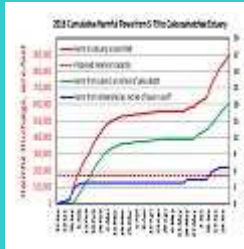
For Philip Schwartz, a member of CRCA Board of Directors, anyone with any education or sense of social justice can see the Florida we once knew slipping away faster and faster. The voters are ignorant of what is really going. We, as a state, are going downhill faster than he ever thought possible. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Response\]](#) [\[Earth Day\]](#)

Algae Interview - Fox4



Everybody saw the pictures of sprawling algae bloom creeping down the Caloosahatchee. Local scientists, like John Cassani (an aquatic ecologist & Riverwatch director), called out the DEP for not finding any significant traces of it. DEP then quickly responded with an algae discovery press release. [\[Fox 4\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Photo John Cassani\]](#) [\[Photo Algae\]](#) [\[DEP Response\]](#)

Half A Disastrous Year



In the first half of 2016 (the dry half) harmful flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary (above 2800 cfs) will have totaled 900,000 acre-feet. 73% has come from Lake Okechobee (18 inches of lake depth) and 27% from the river's watershed east of Franklin Lock (7 inches of watershed runoff). [\[Harmful Flow Graphic\]](#)

2006 vs 2016 SFWMD



Anyone who attended the SFWMD Board meeting in Ft Myers on Jun 9 to comment on the poor condition of the river and who also watched the video of the same meeting in 2006 can plainly see that nothing has really changed in 10 years. High flows, algae blooms, lost tourism, and inaction. [\[SFWMD Meeting Agenda \(Public Comment: Item 34\)\]](#) [\[SFWMD Ft. Myers 2006\]](#)

[\[Senator Nelson 2005\]](#) [\[Email Riverwatch\]](#)

Commentary - Ray Judah



For Ray Judah, the driving factor to use the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie as the relief valves in response to rising lake water was to prevent flooding in the Everglades Agricultural Area south of the lake to ensure optimum growing conditions for sugar cane to the detriment of coastal estuaries. [\[Pine Island Eagle\]](#) [\[Photo Ray Judah\]](#) [\[Editorial Tom Rooney\]](#) [\[Photo Tom Rooney\]](#) [\[US Sugar Counterpoint\]](#)

[\[US Sugar Counterpoint\]](#)

Reynolds Comments on Mann



Paul Reynolds comments that Commissioner Mann is right about the first hundred years, but he is wrong about the last 25. Effort is NOT being made to reverse course but rather to maintain the agriculture status quo and, at least, give the appearance of helping rivers, estuaries, gulf, and ocean. [\[Frank Mann Editorial\]](#) [\[Photo Frank Mann\]](#) [\[Biography\]](#)

15-20 Feet of Shoreline Lost



Colin was a mild tropical storm, but parts of coastal Charlotte County still lost 15 to 20 feet of their shoreline, putting homes and condo buildings at risk of falling into the Gulf. As sea level continues to rise in coming decades, such gradual losses will be a recurring story throughout Florida. [\[NBC2\]](#) [\[CBC News\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Video 1\]](#) [\[Video 2\]](#)

[\[NBC2\]](#) [\[CBC News\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Video 1\]](#) [\[Video 2\]](#)

Dangerous Levels of Algae Toxins



Lake O researcher Paul Gray sent a message to DEP asking for stepped-up monitoring of algae blooms. DEP sampling on June 14-15 revealed algae toxin concentration more than 30 times the EPA safe level for contact with the water (10 ug/L) and 200 times the safe drinking water level (1.6 ug/L). [\[Message Paul Gray\]](#) [\[DEP Algae Report\]](#) [\[EPA Mycrosystin Report\]](#)

[\[Photo Paul Gray\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Water Half Alive Not Half Dead



In their algae monitoring web page, Florida DEP chooses words to low-ball algae toxicity. DEP states that WHO considers a concentration of 10 ug/L to be safe, rather than stating that concentrations above 10 are a safety issue. This approach reflects DEP attempt to downplay environmental concerns. [\[DEP Web Page Image\]](#) [\[DEP Page \(Jun 23\)\]](#) [\[Current DEP Site\]](#)

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Yes On Conservation 20-20



Yes On Conservation 20-20 is a coalition of local citizens and organizations working to support the passage of the Lee County Conservation 20-20 referendum on Nov 8, 2016. Conservation 20-20 is Lee County's willing-seller conservation lands acquisition and management program. [\[Flyer\]](#) [\[Brochure\]](#) [\[20-20 Info\]](#)

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Coral Crash Has Begun



Chris Langdon, a University of Miami marine biologist, didn't think this would happen for another 50 or 60 years. Langdon and his team discovered that as ocean water becomes more acidic, due to carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, Florida's coral reefs are disintegrating and dying off. [\[CNN\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Chris Langdon\]](#) [\[Coral Bleaching\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

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Problem Not Fixed in 21 Years



Upon its creation in 1995, one of Riverwatch's first actions was to draw attention to the dumping of treated wastewater into the Caloosahatchee by the City of Ft Myers. 21 years later DEP is allowing this pollution to continue despite renewed complaints from Riverwatch and the City of Cape Coral. [\[Intent to Issue 1\]](#) [\[Intent to Issue 2\]](#)

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Runoff Darkens Beach Waters



Sanibel Director of Natural Resources, James Evans urged the Corps to reduce Lake Okeechobee flows to the Caloosahatchee. Photos compare water color effects from Lake O discharges on June 2 (3750 cfs) and June 26 (4150 cfs) plus watershed runoff rates of 750 cfs and 2850 cfs on the same dates. [\[WPTV\]](#) [\[Comparison Photos\]](#)

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Waterkeeper Interview RFK Jr



Rains wash 80% of phosphorus fertilizers into streams creating algae that destroy the ecosystem. But farm & wastewater P can be transformed into a particular fertilizer that only dissolves when the plant roots release certain acids at times they need to take up the nutrient. The P never washes off. [\[Interview\]](#) [\[Photo RFK Jr\]](#) [\[Gibsons at Conference\]](#)

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River Kidz



River Kidz is a non-profit organization that will cover the entire Caloosahatchee River Basin. The objective of River Kidz is to educate kids from ages 5-15 on environmental issues regarding our lakes, river basin, estuaries, tributaries and Gulf of Mexico. [\[Info\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[River Kidz Workbook\]](#) [\[River Kidz Song\]](#)

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