## The Flow

July 2010 Newsletter Annette Snapp, President

# Special Events & Meetings

- July 23 Purple Martins Watching Downtown Ft. Myers
- July 24 Taste of Lee
- July 28 Riverwatch Long-term Planning Board Meeting
- August 17 Deadline for Ceitus Boat Lift Vote

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



Riverwatch thanks & bids farewell to Treasurer Vicki Barnhorst.

## **Vicki Departs Riverwatch**



After years as CRCA Treasurer, Vicki Barnhorst is headed for California and departing our board. Shown in banner photo from left to right are Mary Ruth Prouty, Linda Mattos, Marti Daltry, Annette Snapp, Gloria Saigo, Ron Zimmerly, Vicki Barnhorst, Wayne Daltry, & CRCA summer intern Ashley LaVela.

## \$24 Million for Hoover Dike



The Corps awarded \$24 million to reconstruct another 3.4 miles of the Hoover Dike around Lake O. With 17 miles of the 134 total now being reconstructed at a cost of ~\$7 million per mile, it will only take 10 more years & \$1 billion to finish. [TCPalm]

#### **Tea Party Protests Restoration**



At the July 14 meeting of SFWMD, about 100 activists rallied to oppose the purchase of U.S Sugar lands in the EAA, which Gov. Charlie Crist unveiled in 2009 as part of a plan to save the Everglades & south Florida estuaries. [Palm Beach Post]

## **Dissents to Cape Coral Plan**



Three of the 19 stakeholders have already submitted their final votes on the Ceitus issue. The dissents of the GPICA and Phil Buchanan are provided below. Eleven of the 19 say they will vote against the Cape plan and

reconstruction without a lock. [E-mail] [GPICA Dissent] [Phil Buchanan Dissent]

#### More Releases from Lake O



Starting July 11, releases from Lake O averaged 1.16 billion gallons per day or 13,000 cfs for a 12-day span. The releases have damaged oyster populations and created algae. A forecast for increased precipitation prompted the Corp's decision. [TCPalm]

## U.S. Sugar Deal Only Option



The 180,000 acres south of Lake Okeechobee that U.S. Sugar is willing to sell will allow the restoration and prevention of damage to the waterways. However, some feel that the deal will consume all the money that would be used for restoration.

[Sun Sentinel] [Ray Judah Editorial]

#### **Canals: A Part of History**



Canals have a diverse history in SW Florida. They have been used by both farmers and tourists alike. Lee County has 283 square miles of inland waterways. Although the canals are old, they still need proper management. [News Press]

## Let the Cleanup Begin



Now that the BP well is finally capped, America can begin its real clean-up...of the waters, shores, and its governance. These catastrophes don't just happen...they typically have a cause rooted in failed policies, regulations, and enforcement. [CBS] [NYTimes] [Washington Post] [Cartoon]

#### Bass Plentiful in Lake O



Although conditions are not ideal for bass, they are abundant in Lake Okeechobee. Over the last ten years, the fishing in Lake Okeechobee has had its rough patches. Locals say that the lake hasn't returned to its fishing glory but is improving.

[Miami Herald]

#### **Water Quality Newspeak**



Seeming to mock its mission statement, "improve water quality through enhanced stormwater management practices" FSA helped lead the charge to redefine and degrade Florida water use classification standards to avoid the requirement to clean our waters [Florida Tribune] [Florida DEP] [Kurt Spitzer Petition]

## **Hands Across The Sand**



There were 901 events worldwide in 37 countries. 797 of these were in the USA, spanning over 537 cities. Over 1000 people participated in the SW Florida region. The pictures linked below are from the Barefoot Beach event.

[Picture] [Picture] [Picture] [Video]

## **Tea Party Forces Out Member**



After protests by Tea Party activists, SFWMD governing member and Florida House candidate Pat Rooney, Republican, has resigned from his SFWMD seat, thus avoiding a vote on the U.S. Sugar lands purchase. [Sun Sentinel] [The Deal]

#### **Thank You New Members**



Riverwatch would like to take the time to sincerely thank John and Gillian Paul who are both sponsors and members of the association with a \$450 contribution. Riverwatch greatly appreciates your support and your interest in local water issues.

## 75 Parts per Billion



Each year 500 to 600 metric tons of phosphorus enter into Lake Okeechobee. The goal is to reduce the phosphorus levels to 75 parts per billion once both phases of Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area are completed. [TCPalm]

## **Court Halts Mining**



Mosaic Fertilizer and the Army Corps of Engineers received a restraining order halting the phosphate mine permit. The plantiffs, including the Sierra Club, claim it violates the Clean Water Act and will affect the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor. [Court Order]

#### **Voice Your Concerns**



The 2011 Interior Bill may be up for discussion as early as July 21. The proposed Crenshaw Amendment would prohibit the EPA from finalizing the rule on numeric nutrient criteria in Florida. Contact your local representatives today. [Conservancy of Southwest Florida]

## **Aronberg Slams BP Influence**



Attorney General candidate Dave Aronberg is questioning the influence of BP in Florida politics and calling for a permanent ban on Florida offshore drilling. Aronberg calls on a real renewable energy policy as the solution.

[Naples News] [Aronberg Opinion]

#### **Okeechobee Live**



Lake O now has 3 webcams focusing on spillways. The cameras broadcast 24 hours per day. Two of the spillways, Moore Haven west into the Caloosahatchee and Port Mayaca east into the St. Lucie. These are two major outlets for releases. [TCPalm] [Live Webcam]