

# The Flow

March 2008 Newsletter  
Marti Daltry, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- Mar 25 - Watershed Summit
- Mar 26 - Lake O Committee Meeting
- Apr 5 - Riverwatch Annual Meeting & Potluck
- Apr 9 - CRCA vs The Vue Hearing
- Apr 19 - Spring Native Plant Sale

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [cra.caloosahatchee.org](http://cra.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online



*CRCA sponsored two river cruises for both policy talks and recreation.*

### Nikki Yeager Wins



Nikki Yeager, current President of the LaBelle Kiwanis Club, bought a Riverwatch chance ticket on a new 14-ft canoe donated by the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida, Inc. at the Swamp Cabbage Festival and she won! Thank you to all who took a chance and thank you to the 20 new members who signed up at the Festival.

### Riverwatch Annual Meeting

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER  
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION/  
RIVERWATCH  
ANNUAL MEETING &  
POTLUCK  
On  
SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm**

You are invited to the CRCA-Riverwatch Annual Meeting and Potluck to be held on Saturday, April 5 from 11 am to 5 pm at the Caloosa Lodge Screened Pavilion at Caloosahatchee Regional Park State Road 78 west of Alva. [\[Invitation\]](#) [\[Lodge\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

### All in the Same Boat



Congressman Tim Mahoney, Hendry Co. Commissioner Janet Taylor & others heard from farmers, environmentalists & scientists about the need for and programs to create green jobs in rural counties. Co-sponsors were Duda, Tetra Tech, Watershed Council, SCCF, PURRE, Conservancy, Audubon, WilsonMiller & Sierra Club.

[\[Article 1\]](#) [\[Article 2\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#)

### Earth Day 2008



Join us for the Earth Day 2008 event to be held on Saturday, April 26 from 10am to 2pm at the LaBelle Nature Park, (Hardee St. and Fraser St.) LaBelle, Florida. For more information contact Lois James at (863)675-3940. CRCA is also exhibiting at the April 19 Earth Day event at Koreshan State Park in Estero from 10am to 3pm. [\[Flyer\]](#)

### The Vue Hearing Delayed



Riverwatch & others won a court challenge to halt The Vue, a 27-story tower partly on illegally transferred Centennial Park. The City of Ft. Myers appealed the decision & a hearing was scheduled for Apr 9 in Tampa, but a delay has been announced. CRCA is represented by attorney Andrew W.J. Dickman. [\[Notice\]](#)

### Special Thanks to STOF, Inc.



Riverwatch extends special thanks to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Board of Directors for their canoe contest sponsorship. We are grateful for your generosity and your commitment to a shared mission. CRCA Directors Joe Frank and Rhonda Roff organized the festival contest. [\[STOF, Inc. Web Site\]](#)

## Fertilizer Ordinance Update



A revised draft of the proposed Lee County ordinance on Use of Fertilizers was released on March 15 for discussion purposes only. The Sierra Club has made new recommendations to make this a stronger, better fertilizer ordinance. CRCA supports these recommendations. [\[Draft\]](#)

[\[Recommendations\]](#) [\[Letter\]](#)

## Coming Detractions



DEP plans to dismantle the spreader canal system that protects the Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve and the rest of our estuary from polluted waters of Cape Coral. They did the same in Port Charlotte at Manchester Waterway, removing structures of the spreader canal system but never repairing its water quality treatment function. [\[Article\]](#)

## Early Algae Bloom Hits River



The river's early-season algae bloom contains four potentially toxic blue-green algae: anatoxin-a, cylindrospermopsin, microcystin and saxitoxin. Only one, microcystin, a liver toxin, tested above the safe level of 1 microgram per liter. Lee County Utility's testing found 1.1 ug/L. [\[News Press\]](#)

[\[Bloom Photos\]](#)

## Water Untested for Drugs



Representatives from Southwest Florida utility companies said that their agencies do not test for pharmaceuticals in drinking water and are not required to by the Florida DEP. No one knows what levels of pharmaceuticals are in the water. [\[NaplesNews\]](#)

## Become a Riverwatch Director



Keith Kibbey is one of the longest-serving directors of CRCA. Each year he organizes the River Ride. If you'd like to become a CRCA director then let us know. We will help you learn the ropes. Riverwatch will elect up to 20 directors at its April 5 annual meeting. [\[Director Requirements\]](#) [\[I am Interested\]](#)

## Fertilizer Task Force Report



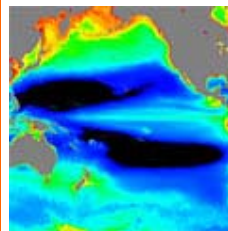
The Fertilizer Task Force report to the Florida Senate Agriculture Committee did not preempt local rules. Audubon is working with other groups to support the recommendations and oppose preemption of local rules. [\[Report 5MB\]](#)

## Council Officers for 2008



At the February meeting of the Southwest Florida Watershed Council the Board selected officers for 2008. They are: Treasurer, Sharon Arnold; Secretary, Tamara Pigott; Vice Chair, Greg Rawl and Chair, John Cassani. [\[Officers List\]](#)

## Sea Deserts Grow



The regions of the oceans known as "the desert of the sea" have expanded dramatically over the past decade. Scientists have found that vast areas that were once green with plankton have been turning blue, as marine life becomes scarcer. [\[NPR.org\]](#)

## Muck Buried Near Lake O



Contaminated muck, scraped from Lake Okeechobee's drought-exposed lake bed, did not go very far after last year's \$11 million cleanup by SFWMD. The muck could end up in landfills at great expense to taxpayers. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[Graph\]](#) [\[Lake O Levels\]](#)

## An Example for Florida?



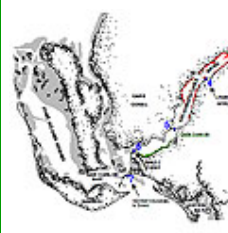
Dishwasher detergent may make your stemware sparkle, but the phosphates they contain are among the most damaging pollutants in the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is poised to ban phosphates from all home dishwasher detergents. [\[Washington Post\]](#)

## Guided Paddling Trips



Lee County Parks & Recreation invites you to join in the guided paddling trips for groups on the Orange River, Great Calusa Blueway, Hickey's Creek and the Caloosahatchee River. So plan to get wet, bring drink, snack and sunscreen on all trips! [\[Details\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

## 450cfs Needed at Franklin



The upper estuary needs about 450cfs of fresh water for fresh water grasses to recover & remain healthy. A good target number for salinity east of Ft. Myers is 10ppt. The C-43 reservoir project (Berry) is designed to help meet that need [\[Graph\]](#)