

The Flow

March 2009 Newsletter
Mary Ruth Prouty, President

Special Events & Meetings

- April 2 - SFWMD Magic Bus Tour
- April 3-5 - Big O Birding Festival
- April 13-14 - CHNEP Reservoirs Workshop
- April 25 - Earth Day
- May 2 - CRCA Annual Membership Meeting

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



Ron Zimmerly speaks to Riverwatch Swamp Cabbage Festival Cruise

Caloosahatchee TMDLs



DEP has proposed 9 million pounds per year as the Caloosahatchee pollution limit for total nitrogen, a 23% reduction below the current TN pollution loads. Other estimates say the limit should be 7 million pounds TN per year. [\[CHNEP\]](#) [\[Doering\]](#) [\[DEP TMDL\]](#)

Florida Senator Dave Aronberg



State Senator Dave Aronberg addressed the Riverwatch Swamp Cabbage cruise group on Sat, Feb 21. The Senator still wants to endorse the U.S. Sugar lands purchase but he has some concerns about protecting the workeres and economy of the region. [\[Photo Gallery\]](#)

First Ambassador Award



CRCA Vice President Margaret England received the first Ambassador's Award of the SFWMD. It was presented at a SFWMD board meeting Clewiston on Mar 12 in recognition for her Audubon birding tours to STA-5. Congratulations and thanks for her contributions to the region! [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

No Shared Adversity



In a letter to the SFWMD, the Watershed Council cites a failure to implement Phase 3 water restrictions at a time when flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary have been halted by SFWMD and the Corps, violating the MFL & the principle of shared adversity. [\[Watershed Council\]](#) [\[PEER\]](#)

End of The Vue Case?



The Supreme Court of Florida has declined to take up CRCA appeal, ruling that Riverwatch lacked "standing." This may end The Vue case, a 27-story residential tower planned to be built on Centennial Park land, illegally transferred to the developer. The standing ruling has wide implications. [\[Supreme Court\]](#)

Fewer Acres From The EAA?



SFWMD Executive Director Carol Wehle told the Riverwatch leadership cruise that SFWMD may have to seek a deal for less U.S. Sugar land than the currently discussed 181,000 acres. Governing member Charles Dauray also explained his position on programs designed to help the Caloosahatchee.

Healthy Beaches



City of Sanibel has presented draft legislation called Healthy Beaches. If adopted, the State Department of Environmental Protection would have to identify the source of contamination in case of a closed Florida beach by a local health department. [\[Draft Legislation\]](#)

No Net Loss Is A Failure



A recent release by Pittman and Matthew Waite called Paving Paradise, is an expose of state and national wetland protection laws. Chapter 9 explains how no net loss works and its failure, or how to protect the nation's wetlands by illusions. [\[Florida Trend\]](#)

Celebrating Earth Day!



On Sat, Apr 18 at 9am, volunteers are invited to go out in kayaks, canoes, and small boats to remove debris from the mangrove roots and shoreline of Billy's Creek. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Supplies and refreshments provided. [\[Announcement\]](#)

World Water Forum Riots



The 5th World Water Forum opened dramatically Mar 16 in Istanbul with protests by several NGO engaged in the struggle against water privatization. They oppose privatization (ownership) of water resources and want water to be treated as a national asset, not a commodity. [\[NDTV\]](#) [\[Share The Water\]](#)

Thanks Team!



The Riverwatch exhibit at the Swamp Cabbage Festival would not have been possible without the help of members: Margaret England, Lois James, Joe Frank, Caroline Krieger-Comings, Marti Daltry, Vicki Barnhorst, John Capece, Diane Fromme, and Nargis Abduvohidova. [\[Pic1\]](#) [\[Pic2\]](#) [\[Pic3\]](#)

Florida a Developing Nation?



Like a third world nation that over-exploits its landscapes, wildlife, & mineral resources, Florida is beginning to demonstrate how a weakening economy often leads to weaker environmental and growth management standards in a scramble for cash flow. Rep. Trudi Williams is sponsoring a bill allowing development in wetlands without permits from the state & Corps. [\[News Press\]](#)

Destroy The Evil DCA



Howard Troxler of the St. Pete Times makes the humorous case as to why the Dept. of Community Affairs and Florida's growth management laws are the root of all evil and the clear cause of the current economic crisis. [\[Tampa Bay\]](#) [\[Orlando Sentinel\]](#)

The Real Florida



"This is what I like to call the real Florida," said Ron Zimmerly, executive director of the tourist development council of Hendry County to the New York Times about Lake Okeechobee. Demonstrating the draw to outdoorsmen, home prices in Pine Creek Sporting Club start at \$800,000. That's ecotourism! [\[New York Times\]](#)

Water Restrictions Delayed



SFWMMD has once again delayed a decision on whether to impose year-round watering restrictions. They have been called to back off plans to make twice-a-week watering limits but the waste of water in South Florida cannot continue. [\[South Florida Sun Sentinel\]](#)

And The Winners Are...



The Riverwatch Canoe Contest winner at the 2009 Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle was Jean-Batiste Thibaut, a visitor from Rouen, France. Rick Powalski was the 2nd place winner of an Estero Bay kayak tour. Bravo to both! We will see if Jean can really get his canoe back to France as excess baggage. [\[Photo\]](#)

Everglades Restoration



The Obama administration has named Terrence "Rock" Salt as its interim assistant secretary of the Army Corps of Engineer for civil works projects. Rock Salt has experience overseeing federal Everglades restoration efforts. [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

Chesapeake Bay Failed



Before the Everglades restoration program there was the Chesapeake Bay restoration program. It has failed after 25 years of voluntary compliance efforts. Experts now call for mandatory pollution reductions. It will probably take as many years for Florida regulators to wise up to reality. [\[WTOP\]](#) [\[The Washington Post\]](#)