

# The Flow

March 2010 Newsletter  
Dr. Annette Snapp, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- April 7 - CRCA Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 pm in the Bridge Street Coffee Shop in LaBelle
- April 13 - EPA Public Meeting at Harborside Event Center at noon and at 6:00 pm
- April 16 - Watershed Council Meeting, 2:00 pm at FGCU, Student Union Room 214

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



*Riverwatch members gathered at LaBelle's Swamp Cabbage Festival*

## CRCA Favors NEB Projects



Reversing two prior board decisions, Riverwatch directors voted on Mar 3 to empower Rae Ann Wessel to vote in favor of the NEB projects plan, if assurances of implementation are provided at the March 5 EMA meeting. [Mar 2020 - YES (conditional)] [Jan 2010 - NO] [Oct 2009 - NO]

## More EPA Public Meetings



EPA is holding 3 additional public hearings to receive more input from Floridians on the agency's proposed water quality standards. One of the new meetings will be held in Ft. Myers on April 13 at Harborside Event Center at noon and at 6pm. [Details]

## Fertilizer Bill Alert



Representative Bryan Nelson's omnibus bill has a section on fertilizer that is designed to make it close to impossible for localities to adopt ordinances to protect water quality from nutrient pollution. [News Alert] [CS/HB 1445]

## Two Sticking Points



Dr. Phil Buchanan lists two remaining primary concerns with the alternative projects package in the Ceitus Boat Lift replacement debate for Cape Coral North Spreader Canal. These are the septic-sewer issue & the mangroves (living shorelines) issue. [Position Statement]

## Close But No Cigar



At the Mar 5 EMA meeting, Riverwatch voted against the NEB projects alternative to replacement of the Ceitus Boat Lift structure. Other stakeholders were also unable to support the EMA package in its current state. More meetings are planned.

## Gulf Citrus Growers Association



As it has every year, Gulf Citrus Growers Association co-sponsored CRCA's 2010 Swamp Cabbage Festival activities. CRCA thanks GCGA Executive Director Ron Hamel. Gulf Citrus has been a consistent sponsor of and participant in Riverwatch activities since CRCA started in 1995. [Website]

## Collier County Audubon Society



CRCA would like to thank Alan Keller of Collier County Audubon Society for the co-sponsorship of the 2010 Riverwatch Swamp Cabbage Cruise. The association is dedicated to the protection of birds and their environment. Attending the event on behalf of Audubon was Maria Quasius. [\[Website\]](#)

## Charlotte Harbor NEP



The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary helped Riverwatch organize the 2010 cruise event. Their Program is a partnership that protects the estuaries from Venice to Estero Bay. Special thanks to Maran Brainard Hilgendorf of CHNEP for this sponsorship. [\[Details\]](#)

## SFWM Questions EPA



At the Riverwatch cruise gathering, SFWM representatives said EPA has not gotten it right in their proposed numerical nutrient limits, particularly the 0.04 mg/L total phosphorus limit for canals. Reacting to the negative pressure, EPA recently announced its intention to rethink their proposal. [\[Website\]](#)

## Happelahatchee Center



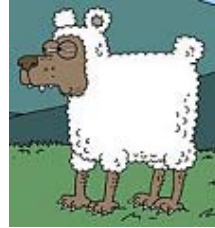
Despite the cruise being rained out, CRCA held its Swamp Cabbage educational event in the Firehouse Theater. Happelahatchee Center and Ellen Peterson co-sponsored the event. Happelahatchee hosts activities that provide didactic and experiential opportunities to discover the "old" Florida landscape. [\[Website\]](#)

## Canoe Contest Winners



Canoe (\$800 value): Gino Kennedy. Estero River Kayak Trip (\$140 Value): Ron and Vivian Barrett. Bass Pro \$50 Gift Card: Linda McVey. Congratulations to Gino, Ron, Vivian and Linda. And a sincere thank-you to everyone who participated in the contest. We hope to see everyone again next year.

## You Get What You Vote For



Members of the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature are taking every opportunity to gut Florida growth management and environmental protections. SB1752 by Sen. Mike Bennett & Sen. Don Gaetz is a wolf in sheep's clothing. [\[Audubon\]](#)

## Sanibel-Captiva Conserv. Found.



The mission of SCCF is to preserve wildlife and habitats around Sanibel. SCCF has once again helped Riverwatch organize the 2010 cruise event. Special thanks to Rae Ann Wessel, expert interpretive guide on the educational cruise. [\[Website\]](#)

## Now, All We Need is the Money!



Direct from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The Chief's Report for the Caloosahatchee(C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir has just been signed. This makes the reservoir project eligible for funding if included in the next WRDA bill from Congress. [\[Report\]](#)

## RMA GeoLogic Consultants, Inc.



RMA GeoLogic Consultants, led by Dan Aquaviva was a co-sponsor of the 2010 Swamp Cabbage Festival CRCA events. RMA specializes in geological studies and services. Dan Aquaviva is a consistent supporter of water education, serving as an organizer of the annual SW Florida Water Resources Conference. [\[Company Profile\]](#)

## Fort Meyers Princess



Fort Myers Princess, a 75th tour boat will be relocating their operation from Downtown Fort Myers to docks at Marina Village adjacent to Snug Harbor Restaurant located at 645 Old San Carlos Blvd in the heart of Fort Myers Beach. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Website\]](#)

## Debate at EPA Meeting



Drew Martin, of the Sierra Club, called for the EPA to stick with the new pollution limits, prompted by a legal challenge from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups. Despite the best efforts of Sierra, EPA recently announced that it is slowing its numerical limits rule process. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#)

## Audubon Society of SW FL



Audubon Society of Southwest Florida co-sponsored the 2010 Swamp Cabbage Cruise. The association is a regional leader in the conservation of the rural lands and habitat. Attending this year to represent Audubon was Pete Quasius. Also, thanks to Pete for our newsletter banner photo. [\[Website\]](#)

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