

The Flow

March 2012 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Mar 24: [CRCA Annual Meeting & Fun Day](#) at Franklin Locks South on the Caloosahatchee in Alva
- Mar 27-31: [Big O Birding Festival](#)
- Mar 28: [NE Interagency Team Meeting](#)
- May 2: [CRCA Dinner & Presentation](#) at Royal Palm Yacht Club

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



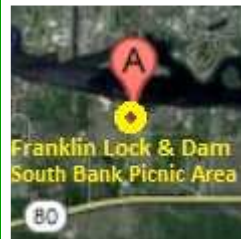
Krista Cochran sold painting chance tickets at Swamp Cabbage Festival.

Dinner & Presentation



On Wed, May 2, Riverwatch hosts a presentation on the impact of sea level rise on the Caloosahatchee River by CHNEP Director Lisa Beever. Join CRCA for the gourmet buffet dinner at 6pm (\$25) & the presentation at 7pm (free) at Royal Palm Yacht Club. [\[Details\]](#) [\[RSVP\]](#) [\[Payment\]](#)

CRCA Annual Meeting & Fun Day



CRCA members and friends are invited to the Riverwatch annual meeting and fun day to take place at Franklin Locks South on the Caloosahatchee in Alva on March 24th from 8 am to dusk at Pavilion #1. Come early, stay late! [\[Details\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Win The Everglades



Win a 30x40 giclee print of "The Everglades" by Caroline Krieger Comings. \$5 suggested donation (5 for \$20). Drawing for the winners will take place at RPYC following the Riverwatch presentation program at 8pm on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. [\[Email for tickets\]](#) [\[Krieger Art\]](#)

A Sharing Experience



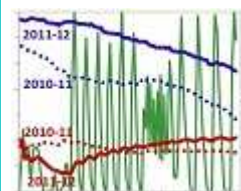
Wayne Wilkins & his wife Julie will share hours of enjoyment in their new Mad River canoe, the 1st place prize of the Riverwatch Swamp Cabbage Festival contest. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. provided the canoe as a fundraising donation to CRCA.

Welcome Back, Mary!



The CNCP has selected former Riverwatch President Mary Rawl as their new Executive Director. Mary was president during a dynamic period, when CRCA nominated the Caloosahatchee to be named among America's 10 Most Endangered Rivers. [\[Announcement\]](#)

450 Not Enough...and Soon Gone!



The Corps increased average dry season flow to 422cfs, almost reaching the MFL required 450cfs. But that did not budge estuary salinity below an ecologically intolerable 15 psu. Worse, once Lake O drops below 12.60ft SFWMD takes over & all flow ends.

[\[Flow File\]](#) [\[Conditions Report\]](#)
[\[Flow Graph\]](#) [\[Flow Data\]](#) [\[Stage Data\]](#)

Prank to Slow Progress on Ceitus



Cape Coral wants to continue blocking the replacement of the Ceitus Barrier. Their latest childish "hiding under the bed" prank was to cancel a meeting between the County and to claim that the County did not have their "science" together to show that there was a need to replace the Barrier. [\[Leo Amos comment\]](#) [\[Phil Buchanan comment\]](#)

Support to Pass WRDA in 2012



Lee County Board of County Commissioners Chairman John Manning wrote a letter to Congressman Connie Mack requesting his support to pass the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) C-43 Reservoir in 2012. [\[Letter\]](#)

Temporary Closure Postponed



The Corps of Engineers has postponed the closure date of the Moore Haven Lock after taking into consideration additional concerns expressed by local business owners. The lock will now be closed effective June 11 to install the MPS on the gates. [\[News Release\]](#) [\[Moore Haven Closure Update\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Beach



Hollywood Beach is really Caloosahatchee sand from a mine in Ortona owned by E.R. Jahna Industries Inc. Other cities and counties that have used Caloosahatchee sand include Key West, Key Biscayne, North Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County and others. [\[Sun-Sentinel\]](#) [\[Hollywood Beach\]](#)

Flow Equalization Basin



By proposing "Flow Equalization Basins" SFWMD is backing into a larger distributed storage system in the EAA. So, why not embrace this concept and develop the modified farming systems for the region. [\[Presentation\]](#)

When It Heals



Ray Nelson of LaBelle will have to wait until his arm heals so he can fully enjoy his second place prize at the Riverwatch contest held at the Swamp Cabbage Festival on Feb 25-26. He won a kayak trip for four, guided by Estero Outfitters.

Wrap-up Clean-up



In her final session as Appropriations Chair for the Florida House, Denise Grimsley introduced \$500,000 funding for a water quality project of Port LaBelle Utility System. If approved the money will repair some old sewer pipes that are leaking. [\[Highlands Today\]](#)

Water Pollution Rules Delay



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would delay the rules — bitterly opposed by farmers, industries and utilities — because of "uncertainty" surrounding alternative standards the state has been working to complete. [\[The Miami Herald\]](#) [\[Greenwire\]](#)

Whack-A-Mole Year



As has been typical of recent years in the Florida Legislature, the efforts of environmentalists have been dominated by simply stopping really bad legislation. The bill changing the definitions of high water marks to give away public lands, died. [\[Details\]](#)

FGCU Service Learning



Krista Cochran completed her FGCU Service Learning hours requirement by helping Margaret England and other Riverwatch directors talk to visitors of the CRCA booth at the 2012 Swamp Cabbage Festival. Thank you, Krista!

SFWMD vs Caloosahatchee Estuary



On Mar 15 SFWMD voted to cut off all flow to the estuary when Lake O drops to 12.6ft (soon). SCCF is mounting a campaign to call & email SFWMD and have people attend the board meeting on Apr 12 to oppose the complete cut-off of the Caloosahatchee.

Impassable



The US Supreme Court reached a decision in a case that has implications for the Clean Water Act—or doesn't, as it turns out. The case itself had really nothing to do with water quality, but instead turned on the definition of "navigable waters." [\[Storm Water\]](#)