

The Flow

March 2013 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Apr 3: [CRCA Officers Election](#) in LaBelle at 6:30 pm
- Apr 5-6: [CREW Wildflower Festival](#)
- Apr 12: [Water Conservation Expo](#) in West Palm
- Apr 20: [Florida Native Plant Sale](#) in Cape Coral
- Apr 27: [Earth Day in LaBelle](#)

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CRCA VP Margaret England hosts the Swamp Cabbage Festival exhibit.

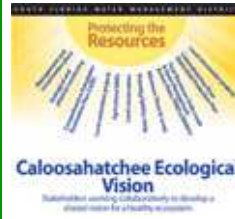
Officers Election Meeting



The Wednesday, April 3 meeting of Riverwatch will be held at Bridge Street Coffee Shop at 23 Ft. Thompson Ave (west of Bridge St) in LaBelle at 6:30pm. At this meeting the new board of directors will elect officers for its 2013-2014 year.

[\[2013-2014 CRCA Board Members\]](#)
[\[Photo\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Visioning Begins



On Mar 19 Patrick Field & Bennett Brooks of Consensus Building Institute in Cambridge MA began interviewing Riverwatch officers & many others to initiate the Caloosahatchee Ecological Vision Process. Field & Brooks have experience with South Florida environmental issues.

[\[Poster\]](#)
[\[Patrick Field\]](#) [\[Bennett Brooks\]](#)
[\[Web site\]](#) [\[Q&A\]](#) [\[CBI\]](#)

Spring Break Red Tide...Gone!



Just in time for Spring Break vacationers, Dept of Health reminded people to use caution when in waters with red tide. Adverse health effects can be prevented by staying away from affected areas (the beach). The warning was recently lifted with Red Tide gone for the first time in 6 months.

[\[Press Release\]](#) [\[Warnings Lifted\]](#)

Yet Another Potential Disaster



The Conservancy of SW FL & the Center of Biological Diversity plan to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over its intent to turn over enforcement of endangered species protection to the State of Florida. Letting the fox guard the henhouse is wrong.

[\[CBD Press Release\]](#) [\[Sierra Club Press Release\]](#)

2013 Manatee Death Rate Alarming



The deaths of dozens of manatees & hundreds of pelicans may be an indication that ailing FLa waters are headed for one of the more epic collapses of the Florida ecosystem in years. SW Florida leads this alarming manatee death toll with Indian River suffering too. Red Tide is believed the

cause. [\[Article1\]](#) [\[Article2\]](#) [\[NewsPress\]](#) [\[East\]](#) [\[West\]](#)

Saving Cowbone Marsh



Photos in a report by Riverwatch director David Bogert show that Cowbone Marsh was dredged through solid peat soil, not floating tussock vegetation. Cutting into soil was not an authorized action. The resulting damage to the Marsh and Fisheating Creek was serious and needs to be repaired.

[\[David Bogert Report\]](#)
[\[USACE Article\]](#)

RESTORE Act Funding



DEP has created an online project submittal form for the public to suggest potential projects for the state to consider submitting for RESTORE Act Funding. Project submittals will be evaluated carefully by DEP in consultation with FL FWC Commission.

[\[Details\]](#) [\[Potential Projects\]](#)

[\[Submit a Project\]](#) [\[Website\]](#) [\[New York Times on Settlement\]](#)

Earth Day in LaBelle & Ft. Myers



Earth Day activities in LaBelle will be on April 27 at Barron Park (where 29 crosses the river). In Ft. Myers, Earth Day will be at Koreshan State Historic Site, April 20, 10am-4pm. Riverwatch members will be there to help share the message. [\[Koreshan Details\]](#)

Ceitus Saga Drags On and On



On Mar 26 Lee BOCC agreed to a Ceitus Mediation Agreement with Cape Coral. The agreement basically halts the 5-year effort to restore the structure & its function. Commissioners did add a "tolling provision" which suspends the statute of limitations clock should Lee decide to "go legal" again later.

[\[Details\]](#) [\[Buchanan to BOCC\]](#) [\[2008](#)

[Opinion\]](#) [\[Another Opinion\]](#) [\[Ceitus Cartoon\]](#)

North Spreader Salinity Readings



The salinity readings continue to indicate that the only salt water entering the Spreader is in the dry season through the opening created by the removal of the Ceitus Barrier. With the Ceitus Barrier, the Spreader would be fresh water year-round. [\[Details\]](#)

[\[Salinity Readings\]](#) [\[Buchanan recording salinity readings\]](#)

Estimating Ecosystem Services



Dr. Richard Weisskoff in his review of James Beaver's recent report on Estimating and Forecasting Ecosystem Services, commented Beaver's report as a stunning, ambitious, and potentially highly-effective report, not available in the literature yet. [\[Weisskoff Review\]](#)

[\[Beaver Report\]](#) [\[James Beaver\]](#)

CHNEP Water Atlas Adds A Twist



CHNEP & USF have produced a water atlas with the purpose of presenting key geographic & scientific information in ways that are meaningful to people and to implement our data management strategy. Unlike a conventional atlas, this one also lets the users create maps based on water quality data sets.

[\[CHNEP Water Atlas\]](#) [\[Florida Water Atlas\]](#)

DEP Kicks Off Lake O Plan



On Feb 20, the DEP took a major step forward in drawing up a detailed restoration plan for Lake O & met with key area stakeholders. The DEP also committed \$4 million toward restoring the lake through an Istokpoga Marsh water quality advance project. [\[Details\]](#)

[\[Audubon Input\]](#) [\[BMAP map\]](#)

Canoe Contest Winners



The 2013 Canoe Contest winners are: 1st Place (MadRiver Canoe): Rhonda Roff & children, 2nd Place (Estero River Outfitters Guided Kayak Trip for 4): Diane Penn, & 3rd Place (Family Membership in Caloosa Nature Center): John Venham. Congratulations!

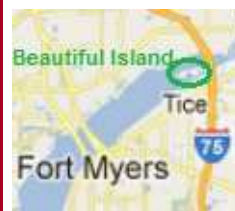
[\[Valholly Frank & Justin Roff\]](#)

DeLisi Steps Down Then Up



SW FL representative Dan DeLisi resigned the SFWMD board & accepted the District's Chief of Staff position. Dan seeks to push Caloosahatchee projects forward with the Visioning project he initiated. His replacement on the board has not yet been announced by Gov. Scott. [\[News-Press 1\]](#) [\[News-Press 2\]](#) [\[Dan DeLisi Letter of Resignation\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Beautiful Island Purchase



The draft projects recommendation list for the RESTORE program (funded by BP oil spill monies) shows CRCA as requesting \$6.5 million to purchase parts of Beautiful Island, which the property appraiser lists as taxed at \$225,000. [\[RESTORE Project List\]](#) [\[Location Map\]](#) [\[Parcel Values\]](#) [\[20/20 Map\]](#) [\[Lee Conservation](#)

[20/20 Review\]](#)

Smalltooth Sawfish



Since Oct 2012, the construction of many seawalls, docks and boatlifts has been on hold in Cape Coral because of a pending study on the smalltooth sawfish. In Jan 2013 USACE announced projects will begin flowing again, albeit with some restrictions. [\[Cape Coral\]](#) [\[SWFL Real Estate News\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Breaking Ground at Babcock



The Babcock Ranch city project is back after going dormant due to the 2005 housing crash. Ground-breaking is in 2014. Kitson sold 73,000ac of ag tracts, undevelopable wetlands, and partially developable forest & prairie to the state for \$5000/ac, leaving 19,000ac for development. [\[Article\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Plan\]](#) [\[Kitson\]](#) [\[History\]](#)

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

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