

The Flow

March 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

● Apr 2: **Riverwatch BOD Meeting** at 6:30 pm at Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium.

● Apr 5-27: **Film Festival & Lecture Series**, by CNCP & Sierra Club

● Apr 8-9: **Public Workshop Our Creative Economy**, Lee Co. 4pm, Hendry Co. 10am.

● Apr 19: **Earth Day & Sheriff's Fun Day** for kids in LaBelle

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Riverwatch participated in the Tallahassee clean water rally.

Canoe Contest Winner!



Murray "Mo" Clark of LaBelle is the lucky winner of the 2014 CRCA Canoe Contest. He moved here recently to have easy access to the River so he can embark on his Caribbean voyages. Congrats Mo! And thank you to all who participated in the contest. **[Canoe Arrives Home] [Canoe Contest Winner] [Proud Canoe Owner] [Riverwatch Delivers Canoe]**

Thanks to Members & Sponsors



CRCA thanks its members that hosted Riverwatch's exhibit at the Swamp Cabbage Festival. Also, special thanks to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. & Joe Frank, Estero River Outfitters and Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium for providing prizes for the canoe contest. **[Photo 1] [Photo 2] [Photo 3] [Photo 4]**

New CRCA Directors for 2014-15



The 2014-15 Riverwatch board of directors was selected on March 22. They are: David Bogert, John Capece, John Paul, Linda Mattos, Margaret England, Mel Karau, Ron Zimmerly, Mary Rawl, Pete Quasius, Mary Ruth Prouty, and Ross Wherry. Officers will be elected at the April 2 board meeting in Ft Myers.

Victory in Court!



In a huge turnout, a New York federal judge on Mar 28 threw out an EPA rule that allows agencies to transfer polluted water between different water bodies, such as from Lake O to the Caloosahatchee. This could address core water quality problems. **[Reuters] [Earthjustice]**

Daltry Editorial on Corps



On the heels of a News Press interview, Riverwatch President Wayne Daltry wrote an editorial titled "Who's the Bad Partner?" addressing Sen. Joe Negron's proposal that SFWMD take over Corps of Engineers management of Lake O. Eye on Miami & Marco News published the opinion. Daltry says keep the Corp. **[Eye On Miami] [Marco News] [News Press]**

Negron Press Release



State Senator Joe Negron called on Congress to adopt legislation to remove Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction over Lake O water releases & to include authorization of the C-43 Reservoir project in the federal WRDA. He's wrong about the Corps, but we'll take the reservoir. **[Article] [Senate Negron Letter to CODEL]**

Earth Month at Nature Center



The Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium hosts the Earth Month Film Festival and Lecture Series from April 5-27. On April 19 is "City Dark" light pollution film. On April 6 is "Gasland II" about fracking. [\[Film Festival\]](#) [\[Gasland II\]](#) [\[City Dark\]](#)

Clean Water Rally in Tally



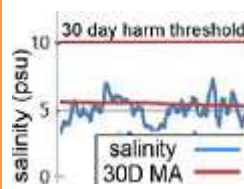
Water activists from Naples, Fort Myers & other cities across the state delivered a strong message to Tallahassee lawmakers: They want clean water. Nargiza Abduvohidova and others made the long bus trip to make sure Riverwatch was represented at the event. [\[NBC-2\]](#) [\[CRCA & group\]](#) [\[Sierra Club Cris Costello\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#) [\[Waiting for Bus\]](#)

Making Problems Worse



Bill Bucolo says that Joe Negron attempts to convince us that the solution to FL's current water problems is to get rid of the Corps, but the truth is the exact opposite. The Corps has worked to introduce some balance into water management decisions. [\[The Gainesville Sun\]](#) [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Condition Report



Mar 18-24 average flow at S-79 was 1000cfs. Estuary salinity was between 3.2 & 7.3 psu, pleasantly low for this time of year. Concerns over high color, turbidity & nutrient loading impacting tape grass in the upper estuary and estuary recovery, caused SCCF to ask that flow not exceed 1000cfs.

[\[Condition Report\]](#) [\[Full Graph\]](#) [\[Past Reports\]](#)

Fracking Hearing Gets Loud



A hearing was organized in response to a proposed oil well near the rural Golden Gate. Hundreds of oil opponents sounded off about drilling in SW FL. Environmental groups say the well is detrimental to aquifers and sensitive preserve land. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Riverwatch at Harns Marsh



East County Water Control District hosted its 3rd annual Wings Over Water Festival Feb 28 & Mar 1. Riverwatch President Wayne Daltry and board director Margaret England were both at the event talking to people at a Riverwatch booth. [\[Wayne Daltry\]](#)

Not a Political Game



Lake O's Mary Ann Martin is calling upon Gov Scott to get serious about fixing Lake O but not flooding it to the brim and drowning its shoreline habitat once the dike repairs are completed by the Corps. Those repairs will take even longer given a \$33 million budget cuts to future dike work. [\[NBC2 News\]](#) [\[Practical Solutions\]](#)

Setting a Precedent



Congress found a reasonable compromise on the flood insurance rate hike issue by limiting annual premium increases to 18%. Thus, rates can go up 10 fold in 14 years, giving coastal economies time to adjust to climate change & sea level rise impacts. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Avoiding Coastal Costs\]](#)

Is Plan 6 Dead?



Nat Reed writes about the chances for achieving a southern flow way, "The possibility or probability of a flow-way designed to be constructed bisecting the finest muck land left in the EAA adjacent to one of the most powerful, politically able and financially able families is nonexistent!" [\[Nat Reed message\]](#) [\[Plan 6 Flowway\]](#) [\[An Estuary Story\]](#) [\[Restoration Newsletter\]](#) [\[Plan 6\]](#)

A Flow Way Would Work



Larry Fink lays out the technical basis for how a flow way would work to meet the water quality requirement for waters entering Everglades. Research on P settling yields a model helpful in predicting nutrient reduction during flow transit south. [\[Technical Basis\]](#) [\[Modified Flow Way\]](#) [\[Alternative\]](#) [\[Implementation\]](#) [\[Water Quality Model\]](#)

Activists Demand Action



Water quality activists want water issues fixed before rainy season runoff sends heavy volumes of fresh water releases from Lake O to pollute the Caloosahatchee Estuary. They voiced their frustration to DEP officials at a March 6 meeting in Ft. Myers. [\[ABC- 7\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#)

Cassani Letter



EPA has "overreached" in its role toward improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay says Florida Attorney General Bondi, citing states' rights. The right to pollute in pursuit of profit is really what Bondi is attempting to defend. [\[Bondi Editorial\]](#) [\[Cassani Response\]](#) [\[Daltry response\]](#)