

# The Flow

May 2008 Newsletter  
Mary Ruth Prouty, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- May 27 - LWCFAS Model Peer Review
- May 28 - SFWMD Lake O Committee Meeting
- May 30 - River Sunset Cruises
- Jun 5 - Florida DEP Kickoff Meeting
- Jul 28 - GEER 2008

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



*Ceitus Boat Lift in Cape Coral to be removed subject to legal settlement.*

## Fertilizer Ordinance Passes!



Com. Bob Janes

After a long year of citizen efforts, the Lee County Commission adopted a strong fertilizer ordinance to address local water quality issues. CRCA thanks Commissioner Bob Janes and others for the historic accomplishment. The achievement was made possible by a determined coalition of organizations and individuals. [\[News Press\]](#)

## New Regional Email List



Riverwatch members are invited join the new regional email list called EVSWF. The list is open to all those interested in environmental issues of SW FL and is moderated by Paul Holmes of Peace River Audubon.

[\[Link to List\]](#) [\[Moderator\]](#)

## Ceitus Boat Lift Removal



Information about the Ceitus boat lift removal has been posted for public access. The documents include consent orders and amendments, water quality studies, reports and surveys. Cape Coral & DEP approved the Second Amended Consent Order and are now completing an Escrow Agreement, clearing the way for settlement.

[\[Draft Settlement\]](#) [\[Web page\]](#)

## Congressional Visit to Hendry



On May 28 Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) hosts Congressman James Oberstar (chair of the committee controlling WRDA and Corps of Engineers projects) for a tour highlighting the Caloosahatchee River and other important water issues in an effort to marshal federal support for regional infrastructure projects.

## New Directors and Officers



Riverwatch has selected the 2008-2009 board members and officers. First time directors include Joanna McKasy and Leo Mayne. Joining Marti Daltry of N. Ft. Myers (right) in a new co-presidency arrangement is Mary Ruth Prouty of LaBelle (left). Members are welcome to volunteer to serve as additional directors and committee chairs. [\[New Team\]](#)

## Restoring Habitat



The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) launched an experimental Tape Grass Seeding Project to help restore and enhance aquatic habitat in the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. The new plants will be less vulnerable to changes in salinity levels and so provide seed stock to downstream areas. [\[Details\]](#)

## Runoff Reduction Method



Pam Rowe & Tom Schueler of the Center for Watershed Protection presented the Smart Watershed Benchmarking Tool, a self assessment tool to help local communities meet their water resource goals. [\[Details\]](#) [\[User Manual\]](#)

## Thanks Doc!



Dr. John Geake and Ellen Hawk Geake have renewed their Riverwatch membership at the Corporate (\$250) level under the name Riverside Glades Medical Center. Riverside is the only medical office in Glades County. [\[Riverside\]](#)

## Riverwatch Canoe Trips



Riverwatch officers and members paddled Fisheating Creek with the CRCA canoes and other kayaks. Other trips and BBQ outings will be planned in coming months. Watch the newsletter for announcements. [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Fisheating Creek\]](#) [\[Concession\]](#)

## Stormwater Treatment Rule



The Florida DEP is in the process of making changes to the Florida statewide stormwater treatment rule, an effort that is long over-due. EPA has written a comment letter to DEP in which they outline a number of concerns. [\[Details\]](#) [\[EPA Comments\]](#)

## Earth Week in the Park



Special thanks to Courtney Moberly, Phil Pelletier, Mayor Paul Pulletti, Margaret England and many others for organizing the first ever Earth Week in LaBelle. Over 800 students participated in educational activities Apr 22-25 at Hendry House. [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Album\]](#)

## Fouled Florida Waters



The Florida Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida sent a letter to the EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson notifying the EPA of their intent to sue the agency in 60 days for failing to uphold the Clean Water Act. [\[Naples News\]](#)

## 5 Feet by 2100 ?????



On the heels of a wake up call given by Dr. Wanless at the January conference of the Everglades Coalition, SFWMD has begun to look at sea level rise implications for South Florida. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[Wanless\]](#)

## CWA Public Meeting



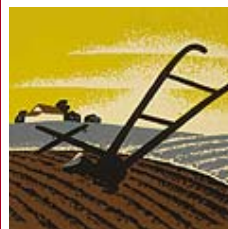
Thirty residents of Cape Coral, including Lee Commissioner Bob Janes attended the meeting of Cape Water Action. Bill Hammond delivered featured presentation at this gathering funded by a grant from Charlotte Harbor NEP. [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Letter\]](#)

## Time for Permanent Change



Floridians have demonstrated their willingness to reduce water use during times of adversity. But should it all go down the drain when the water shortage is over? Hardly. It is time to adopt permanent changes in water use habits. [\[PalmBeachPost.com\]](#)

## Farm Bill Helps Water Projects



Rep. Tim Mahoney voted to pass the Farm Bill while Rep. Connie Mack did not vote. One provision creates a new Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) addressing water quality and quantity. [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[TC Palm\]](#) [\[Florida Impacts\]](#) [\[House Vote\]](#)

## Wastewater Files to Go Online



Most Floridians are blind to the pollution happening next door. That is changing as the DEP begins a project to transfer its files online for public access. Environmentalists say that accessible records will improve the watchdog role of the public. [\[News-Press\]](#)

## Meet the Creek



Friends of Billy's Creek, a 501(c)3 organization is pleased to invite you to a fun Eco-event Meet the Creek on June 7th, 2008 from 11am to 2pm at Rock Lake Motel 2937 Palm Beach Blvd. Bring the whole family! [\[Flyer\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)