

The Flow

May 2009 Newsletter
Mary Ruth Prouty, President

Special Events & Meetings

- May 15-Jul 15 - Audubon Magazine Photo Contest
- May 26 - Paving Paradise Lecture at FGCU
- Jun 3 - CRCA Board of Directors Meeting
- Jun 9-Jun 18 - 2009 Summer Ecotour
- Jun-Jul - Florida Master Naturalist Class

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



Cracker cowboy poet Hank Mattson entertains CRCA Annual Meeting.

Water Ranching



Agencies and farmers are beginning to experiment with water ranching. But they also need to include, long-term storage contracts, conservation easements, & market valuation of water so many can participate.

[\[Article Highlands Today\]](#)

Clean Water Act



Senators Nelson and Martinez have not yet signed on as co-sponsors to the Clean Water Restoration Act. We need their support on this very important federal legislation that affects Florida. The Riverwatch board has officially endorsed the CWRA. [\[Mail Clean Water Act\]](#)

Nutrients Sabotage Restoration



The Rivers Coalition (St. Lucie River) sent a presentation by Dr. Paul Gray to Governor Crist. The presentation highlights the challenge of reducing nutrients flowing into Lake Okeechobee and other state waters.

[\[Rivers_Coalition_Presentation\]](#)

New HAB Legislation



New Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) legislation introduced in the US Senate last week by Sen. Nelson & others would support HABs research, forecasting and monitoring. It will also help people detect, control and mitigate coastal HABs and hypoxia events.

[\[Mail_Purre_090506\]](#)

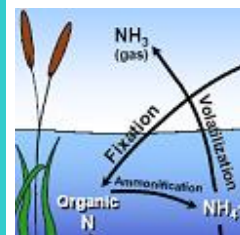
Boat & Drainage Canal Opened



After a tree-planting project to mitigate the water quality impacts, DEP allowed Ortona residents to remove a weir holding back stormwater runoff and blocking their boat access to the river.

[\[Caloosa Belle\]](#)

Nitrogen Removal Study



CH2MHill completed a study of nitrogen removal methods for the Ortona Boma Grove to treat Caloosahatchee waters. They recommend a diversified set of wetland & agricultural treatment systems.

[\[CH2MHill Report\]](#) [\[Agricultural System\]](#)

Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid



Governor Crist needs to veto a bill passed by the Florida Legislature that would put the power to approve wetlands destruction in the hands of WMD executive directors. JD Alexander added the amendment to create this authority.

[St. Pete Times]

Harns Marsh Groundbreaking



On Jun 10 the East County Water Control District holds its groundbreaking ceremony for the Harns Marsh retention & treatment facility. This marsh is the headwaters of the Orange River, contributing 50–70% of the flow from Lehigh Acres. [Announcement]

Lehigh Water & Sewer Issues



Switching Lehigh Acres residents from septic tanks to central sewers may be good for water quality in the Caloosahatchee watershed, but it's hard on the wallets of Lehigh residents. [News Press]

June Board Meeting



The CRCA Board meets Jun 3 at 6:30 pm in the North Ft. Myers Perkins Restaurant at 13620 N Cleveland Av. Directors will elect Riverwatch officers for the next year. This will be Marti Daltry's last meeting as president after 2 years service. [Map]

Rainy Season Starts Early



Recent rainfall suggests that South Florida's rainy season has started earlier than normal (May 11 vs May 20). It remains to be seen if the early start will help overcome the current moisture deficit. [SW FL Online]

CRCA Award for Joe Frank



Member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Joe Frank, received a recognition award from Riverwatch at the CRCA annual meeting in appreciation of his service to the organization. CRCA thanks Joe & the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. [Award] [Photo Gallery]

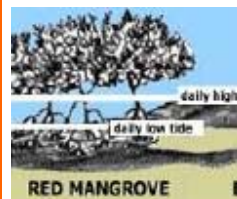
Pulse Flows Persist in Drought



Despite the drought now broken, Corps of Engineers and SFWMD managers continued the Lake Okeechobee water flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary. In past years the estuary was denied these essential salinity-balancing waters. The new policy is welcome.

[Flow Calculations] [Graph]

Spreader Canal Draft Report



A first draft of the report has been released on the removal of the Ceitus Boat Lift on the Cape Coral Spreader Canal system. Janicki Environmental produced the study. The report will be discussed at the next NSEMA Stakeholders meeting. [Draft Report]

New Candidates for SFWMD



The SFWMD board seat made vacant by the resignation of Bubba Wade has new nominees, including Lee County Smart Growth Director Wayne Daltry. Other new names are Roger Hatton, Bruce Hendry, Joanne Semmer, Greg Stuart, & Robert Wilson. [List]

Algae Bloom Season



With the onset of this year's rainy season observers watch to see if we will revisit what is becoming another annual tradition - algae bloom season. Algae thrive when the weather warms & rains wash nutrients into the river.

[Photo 1] [Photo 2]

Lee Environmental Ed Gone



Rick Tulley & Cindy Bear have announced that the Lee County K-12 Environmental Ed program has lost its funding. The program is well known for accomplishments such as the Monday Group, its classroom programs, & field trips.

[Tulley & Bear] [History] [News Press]

Cowboy Poet Hank Mattson



After the conclusion of business and food at the annual meeting of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, Cowboy Poet Hank Mattson entertained the group with his stories and artifacts of Florida history. [Photo Gallery]