

The Flow

May 2011 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

- June 1: CRCA [Board Meeting](#) 6:30pm in LaBelle
- June 12: Come to the [CRCA Picnic](#) starting Sunday noon at Fisheating Creek
- June 21: Collins Center [Lake O Regional Initiative Meeting](#) 10am at Pahokee Marina

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



Riverwatch team teaches kids about water conservation on Earth Day.

Yeah... It Is That Bad!



Caloosahatchee fresh water flows to the estuary have crossed into the worst zone possible, less than 300 cfs average flow to the estuary during this past dry season that began Oct 1, 2010. This is about as bad as it gets for the estuary ecosystem. [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Spreadsheet\]](#) [\[DBHydro\]](#) [\[SCCF Report\]](#)

Carla Brooks Johnston



On May 7 friends of former Sanibel mayor Carla Brooks Johnston celebrated her life. Carla's strong advocacy on behalf of the Caloosahatchee River mobilized Sanibel & Lee Co to action for the needs of the estuary. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#) [\[Full Video Featuring Carla\]](#) [\[Carla Video Clip\]](#)

CRCA Meets June 1 in LaBelle



The next CRCA Riverwatch meeting will be held on Wednesday June 1 at 6:30 PM at the Bridge Street Coffehouse in LaBelle. One important item of discussion will be deciding the next legal steps in the Ceitus issue. [\[Details\]](#)

The Press Spinning to Dizziness



The press has become an advocate for a position of convenience, one shared by much of the public. The Cape Coral Breeze effectively says in an editorial that there is no need to deal properly with the stormwater implication of Cape Coral development. [\[Daily Breeze\]](#) [\[Letter to Editor\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

EPA Eyes FDEP Appointment



The appointment of FDEP head Vinyard is under EPA inquiry. Florida Clean Water Network and PEER assert that the appointment by Scott violated Clean Water Act provisions due to Vinyard's recent employment by NPDES permit holders or applicants. [\[FDEP Response\]](#) [\[EPA Investigates\]](#) [\[Petition\]](#)

A Day at the Creek with CRCA



CRCA invites members and friends to a day of food & fun at Fisheating Creek on Sunday, June 12. CRCA will provide the canoes and comradery. You can bring your personal food for grilling and maybe a side dish to share. See the link for more details. [\[Details\]](#)

Environmentalists Killed in Brazil



An activist fighting to protect the Amazon rain forest from loggers was shot and killed with his wife, Wednesday. This is not an uncommon occurrence in Brazil, as the rich often take out contracts on people standing in their way.

[CBS News]

Environmental Guillotine



Gov Scott pressured the Southwest FL Water Management District to disband its basin boards. Could the long-successful Big Cypress Basin in SFWMD be next? Scott's actions are systematically executing one by one, environment protection state agencies.

[Watery Foundation]

Salty Waters Cause Shutdown



Lee County temporarily shut down its Olga treatment plant on the Caloosahatchee due to high salt (>250 ppm chlorides) and high algae levels in the river. Water will be redirected from other plants to prevent any change in water delivered to homes.

[News-Press]

Boyd Will Never Stop Fighting



Ellie Boyd showed Florida what a group of dedicated people can do to help prevent the environment from unwanted growth. Upon retirement, Ellie and Gene Boyd's work to give great examples and hope to all who protect our environment.

[News Press] [Editorial]

New Governing Board Members



Gov. Scott appointed five new members to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, completing the 9 member Board for Florida's largest water district. Most of the appointees are unknown quantities to environmental groups.

[FLgov] [Governing Board Members]

New Guy, DeLisi, a Mediator



Dan DeLisi, the new Southwest Florida Rep on the SFWMD Governing Board, approaches his position as a mediator. DeLisi says that Environmentalists must search for win-win solutions to regional problems. CRCA will present its priorities to DeLisi.

[News-Press]

No Reconstruction, says DEP



The DEP has decided against conclusions and testimonies by the USFWS, SWF scientists, and environmental findings of the EMA stakeholders by denying reconstruction of the boat lift in Cape Coral. DEP never intended to approve a permit.

[Permit Request & Denial PDF]

Misinterpretations in Cape Coral



It now seems that both the government AND the media are intent with misrepresentations at every step of the Ceitus Boat-Lift/Barrier process. It is this attitude that has environmentalists fuming.

[Daily Breeze] [Response] [Cartoon]

Septic Law: Up to DOH



The Septic Inspection Law (SB 550) remains unchanged because the FL Senate did not follow the House. It is now up to the Dept of Health to enforce this law, but they have to submit a budget for approval before any action is taken.

[News_Herald] [SB_550]

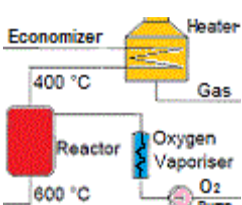
Fishy Deal at Fisheating Creek



Save Our Creeks says a deal was made in Fisheating Creek, with little public knowledge, to control water flow in Nicodemus Slough. Fisheating Creek was the last Florida river without man-made obstruction. Alas, no longer.

[Editorial] [SFWMD Project PDF]

Dirty Source, Clean Energy



A wastewater treatment plant in Orlando has successfully overcome the problems that have long blocked the use of sewage sludge as an energy production fuel. The trick is using "supercritical water oxidation" a high pressure combustion process.

[Orlando Sentinel] [Technology]

Algae Study for New Policy



Algae expert, Brian LaPointe, has been given the green light to start a study on the algae and nutrients from Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River with hopes for new public policy... and eventually less algae!

[Sanibel-Captiva Islander]