

The Flow

May 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

• Jun 4: [CRCA Meeting at 6:30pm & Program at 7pm](#) in Ft. Myers.

• Jun 7: [Waterways of SW Fla: Reminiscing](#) 7pm in Ft. Myers

• Jun 16-19: [FLMS 25th Symposium](#) in Stuart

• Jun 27: Discussion on [Water Quality Issues in Lee County](#) in Ft. Myers

• Jul 25: [Sea Level Rise Symposium](#) 9am in West Palm

Editorial Disclaimer
Visit the CRCA web site
cra.caloosahatchee.org
Join us at [Facebook](#)



Riverwatch demonstrated solar energy for students at Earth Week 2014.

Earth Week 2014



CRCA & Audubon director Margaret England once again hosted the Earth Week activities for 1000 Grade 2-4 students in Hendry & Glades Counties. This year Riverwatch & Intelligentsia did climate change & solar energy presentations. [\[Presentation\]](#) [\[Solar Panels\]](#) [\[Hendry House\]](#)

CRCA Meeting & Program



CRCA meets on June 4 at 6pm followed by a program at 7pm with the guest speaker Rep. Matt Caldwell, Chair of the Florida House Ag and Natural Resources Subcommittee, who will provide an update on water projects in the basin. Caldwell has served on East County Water Control District board in Lehigh. [\[Details\]](#)

Sawfish Caught and Released



A group of friends caught a 6 1/2 foot sawfish off the banks of the Caloosahatchee River by the US-41 bridge on May 13. As an endangered species, landing smalltooth sawfish is illegal. They must be released as quickly and safely as possible. [\[FOX News\]](#) [\[Sawfish Catch Video\]](#)

C-43 West Reservoir Authorized



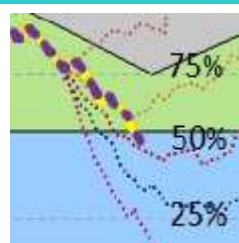
The US Senate on May 22 passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. It authorizes \$12.3 billion for 34 projects, including the \$313 million C-43 West Reservoir. The bill now awaits Obama's signature. The projects are not funded yet by Congress. FL would also need to pay \$313 million. [\[The Hill\]](#) [\[WRRDA\]](#)

Benaquisto on Water Quality



\$18 million in the state budget is set aside to clean & store polluted water from Lake O before it goes into the Caloosahatchee. Senator Benaquisto says this project has been on the boards for a long time. Gov Scott is expected to approve the budget line. [\[Fox News\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Still Downward



Despite a couple of false starts upward earlier in May, Lake O water levels have continued to decline, now entering a more limited water use range. Statistics suggest another few weeks of falling water levels before the lake starts to rise. [\[May 27 Graph\]](#) [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[Current Graph\]](#)

Are We All Drinking Drugs?



Recent researches have shown that sharks which live in the Caloosahatchee river area are contaminated with several different kinds of drugs. Riverwatch members and officers are quoted in a Florida Weekly story on pharmaceuticals in our local waters. [\[Florida Weekly\]](#)

Water Quality Reality



On May 8 Ray Judah, Florida Coastal and Oceans Coalition Coordinator, was in Fort Myers talking about current problems of the Caloosahatchee River. The presentation covered diverse and divergent problems of the River and challenged legislators and agencies to get serious about solving the problems.

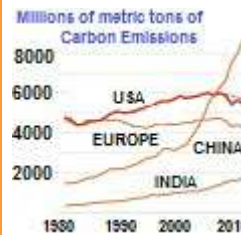
[\[Ft. Myers Beach Talk\]](#)

Four Directors Added



Riverwatch added four new directors to their roster at the May 7 meeting in LaBelle. Joining the board were: Ruth Scott, Ray Judah, Greg Rawl, and Nargiza Abduvohidova. The board now numbers 15 with 6 seats still available. Greg serves as Technical Com Chair and Nargiza is Membership Com Chair.

Memorial Day 2050



An editorial points out how our present political system fails to give future generations a proper voice or consideration in present day decisions, particularly relative to Climate Change. President Obama is said to be planning executive action on this issue, targeting coal-fired power plants. [\[New York Times\]](#) [\[Executive Action\]](#) [\[Goals\]](#)

Boaters vs Manatees



A Citrus County business group want manatees off the endangered species list so boat speeds can increase. They are suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saying protecting manatees hurts their fishing and tourism profits. [\[Naples News\]](#)

Pieces of the Water Puzzle



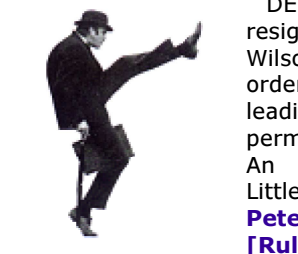
Given divergent political and environmental tasks and interests, achieving water quality restoration requires economic, political, and public support. The News Press outlines current projects and the history of water quality efforts in our region. [\[News Press\]](#)

House Drops The Ball



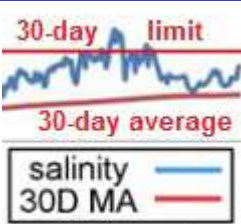
The Florida Senate took an important step in the effort to protect Florida's springs and groundwater by unanimously passing the Springs and Aquifer Protection Act. Unfortunately the Florida House's inaction caused the bill to die this legislative term. So,...lots of talk, but no action. Shameful! [\[FCC Legislative Update\]](#) [\[SB 1576\]](#)

Silly Steps...Better Direction?



DEP Deputy Secretary for enforcement resigned and was replaced by Clifford Wilson III. Littlejohn is known for ordering Connie Bersok, the agency's leading wetlands expert, to approve a permit that she said violated state law. An administrative law judge found Littlejohn's testimony not credible. [\[St PetersBlog\]](#) [\[Clifford Wilson\]](#) [\[Ruling\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Condition Report



Caloosahatchee River salinity has crept up as water managers reduce releases from Lake Okeechobee. But the onset of the summer rains will hopefully keep salinity below harmful levels. The only question is when the waters will become too fresh due to wet season runoff. [\[Caloosahatchee Conditions Report\]](#) [\[SCCF Website\]](#)

Nelson Gets Involved



On May 1, Sen. Bill Nelson said the EPA should get involved in the SW FL fracking issue by reviewing deep injection wells that store the massive fracking waste water. DEP has also stepped in to halt drilling at 5 sites pending additional review. [\[LA Times\]](#)

Sailing With Henry Mox



After a long day of Earth Week presentations, CRCA members & volunteers took a boat ride with Riverwatch member and top donor Henry Mox. Henry arrived in LaBelle Saturday from Michigan via Key West on his way sailing to Europe. He gave his new crew some sailing lessons. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#)

Seagrass Need Protection



In places where habitat loss harms fish, protection and restoration are a very real opportunity says a new study. Every acre of seagrass could add US\$80,000 of commercially important fish to the oceans every year. [\[National Geographic\]](#) [\[Sunken Billions\]](#) [\[Report\]](#)

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

Editorial Disclaimer: Views or opinions expressed in the CRCA web site & newsletter are solely those of the author(s) & do not necessarily represent those of "Riverwatch." Direct comments & questions to John Capece, CRCA Newsletter Editor.