

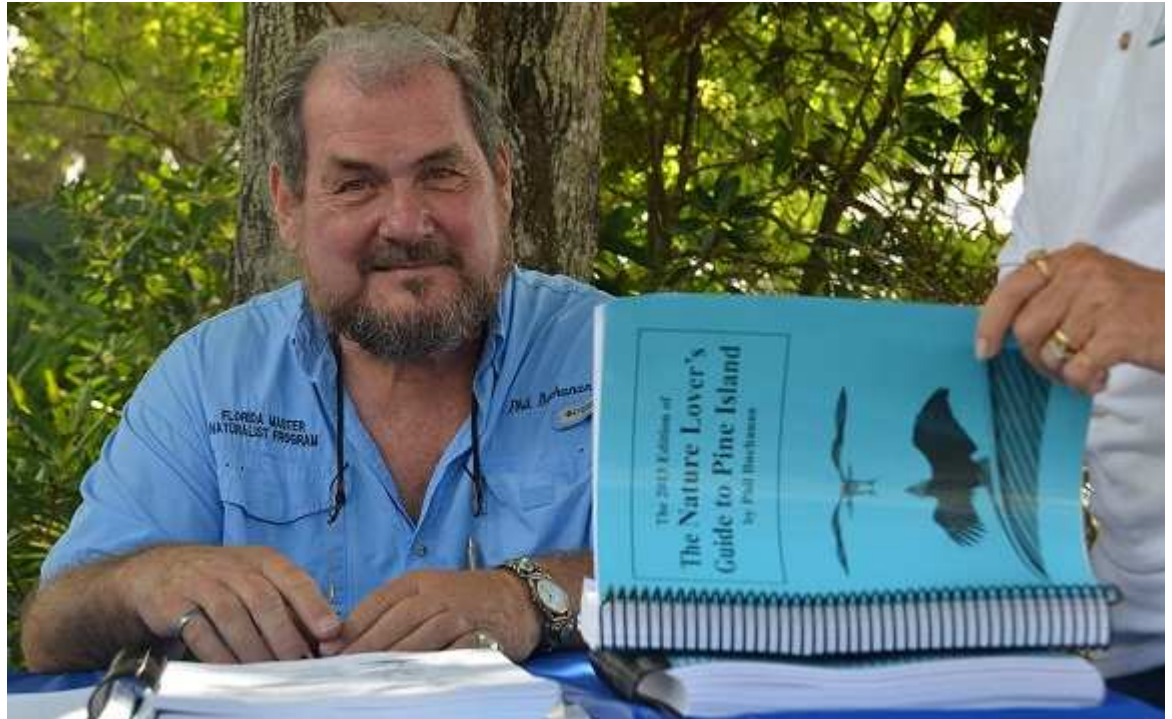
# The Flow

May 2016 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Special Events & Meetings

- June 1: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) at the Bridge Street Coffee Shop in LaBelle
- June 9: [SFWMD Board Meeting](#) at the Old Lee County Courthouse in Ft. Myers
- June 15: [Charlotte Flatwoods](#) at the SFWMD's Lower West Coast Service Center in Ft Myers
- July 6-8: [EvCo Law Workshop](#) in Naples

**Editorial Disclaimer**  
Visit the CRCA web site  
[crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)  
Join us at [Facebook](#)



*Riverwatch legal champion Phil Buchanan passed away on May 19.*

### Phillip G. Buchanan (1944-2016)



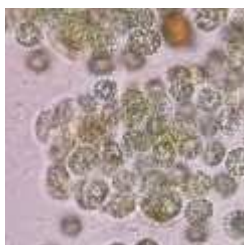
Phil Buchanan, champion of environmental and quality of life issues for Pine Island, Matlacha and our entire region, has passed away. A Riverwatch leader and issues advocate, his passing is a shock and great loss to the group and to each individual who knew Phil and called him friend. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Eagle\]](#) [\[Author\]](#) [\[Activist\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

### Unending Vigilance



Days after the passing of Phil Buchanan, the primary legal challenger to Cape Coral's 2008 removal of the Ceitus Boat Lift and the subsequent degradation of the Matlacha waters, Cape Coral began the same destructive process at the southern end of the spreader canal by opening up Chiquita Lock. [\[Daily Breeze\]](#) [\[Vigilance\]](#) [\[Location\]](#)

### Microsystis Algae Bloom in River



FGCU Prof. Serge Thomas provided microscope images of algae samples collected by Riverwatch from the Caloosahatchee River at LaBelle, May 20-23. Microsystis is a freshwater cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that can produce hepatotoxin (microcystin). [\[Image 1\]](#) [\[Image 2\]](#) [\[Image 3\]](#) [\[Image 4\]](#) [\[Image 5\]](#) [\[Image 6\]](#)

### Algae Bloom in River



Riverwatch Past President Scott Perry was interviewed on NBC-2 about the algae bloom he encountered on the Caloosahatchee in LaBelle while preparing for his annual kid's fossil camp. The algae blanketed the surface, obstructing any visibility of the river bed just inches below the water surface. [\[Scott 1\]](#) [\[Mathidle\]](#)

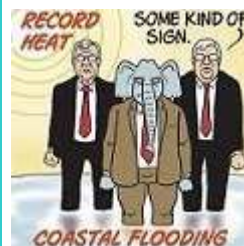
[\[Laurendon\]](#) [\[LaBelle\]](#) [\[Scott 2\]](#) [\[WBBH\]](#) [\[NBC-2 Video\]](#)

### Algae Bloom Aerial Photos



Photos of the Caloosahatchee algae bloom taken between LaBelle and Olga show areas of extremely high algal concentrations in the more stagnant parts of the river, like at Oxbow 24 within the Old Ft Denaud development. Algal streaks are visible in the high flow velocity portions of the river as well. [\[Ft Denaud\]](#) [\[Franklin\]](#) [\[DS of Lock\]](#) [\[River Forest\]](#) [\[Olga\]](#) [\[Oxbow 24\]](#)

### BOCC Says Let It Die



Lee County Commissioners Pendergrass, Hamman, & Kiker suggest the SW FL Regional Planning Council should die because it performs useless activities like climate change planning. SE FL coastal communities years ago stood up a climate change compact and task force, but SW FL leaders remain in denial. [\[SLR Work\]](#) [\[Activities\]](#) [\[BOCC\]](#) [\[SWFRPC\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

[\[Cartoon\]](#)

## SFWMDBlasts Riverwatch



On May 11, SFWMD issued a press release suggesting it was not invited to the Riverwatch public forum on the C-43 West Reservoir. The email invitations were distributed to "Riverwatch Members and Friends" which included 40 @SFWMD.gov names and addresses. CRCA encouraged SFWMD participation. [\[Flier\]](#) [\[Press\]](#) [\[Position\]](#) [\[History\]](#) [\[Reservoir\]](#) [\[Invitation\]](#)

## C43 West Reservoir Presentations



Watershed Council and Riverwatch Directors addressed an audience of 50 on May 11 describing the history, benefits, risks and deficiencies of the C-43 West Basin Reservoir first proposed in the 90's and now under construction at a cost of \$600 million. [\[Forum Program\]](#) [\[Wayne Daltry\]](#) [\[John Cassani\]](#) [\[John Capece\]](#) [\[Jennifer Hecker\]](#) [\[William Mitsch\]](#)

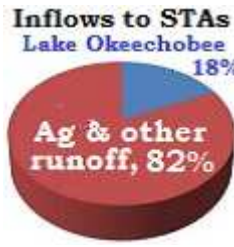
[\(editorial\)\]](#)

## Eye On Miami - Taxpayer Dollars



Eye On Miami describes how SFWMD is spending taxpayer dollars to wage a blatantly political agenda-driven campaign against citizens who are organizing to protest state water policies that put coastal lands and waters at severe jeopardy of continued pollution. [\[Eye On Miami\]](#) [\[Alan Farago \(gimleteye\)\]](#) [\[SPB\]](#) [\[Protester\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

## Gary Goforth v US Sugar



Dr. Gary Goforth analyzes the U.S. Sugar advertisements and the case they make. He gives a more accurate interpretation of the actual facts and what the data tell us. Very clearly, the current solutions in place barely begin to address the water volume and quality problems of agriculture. [\[Presentation\]](#) [\[Resume\]](#) [\[Graphic\]](#) [\[Gary Goforth\]](#)

## Estuary Bottom Once Sand Now Muck



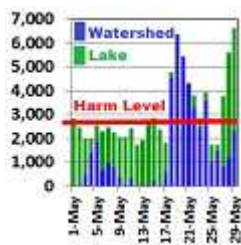
Historically, the Caloosahatchee bottom was sandy, almost beach-like. Today it's difficult to tell what the bottom looks like because it's impossible to see through the suspended solids and excess tannins that have crippled part of the Caloosahatchee River & estuary. The river bottom is now muck. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Photo 4\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

## Buying Land May Be Cheaper



C-43 West Reservoir analysis shows it will deliver under 75,000 ac-ft/yr of water to the estuary for \$600 million. Buying EAA lands & reallocating that irrigation water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee MFL would be more cost effective. Water allocation policy would be the limiting factor. [\[Public Forum Slides\]](#) [\[Water Storage Analysis\]](#)

## Watershed-Lake Cycle



The estuary damage pattern experienced in Jan-Feb repeated in late May. First the Corps stopped discharges from Lake O into the Caloosahatchee while stormwater runoff from the watershed passed. Then they open up S-77 and start draining the Lake. The estuary is pummeled by these one-two punches. [\[S-79 Flow Graph\]](#)

## Tarpon Scarce in Tournament



Only a couple tarpon were caught by the 230 fishermen in the Doc Fords Tarpon Tournament. Even knowing the weather reasons, the experts were surprised the teams caught so few fish. These are some of the best tarpon fishermen from all over, said Capt. Bill Hammond. [\[News Press 1\]](#) [\[News Press 2\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Tee-shirt\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Results\]](#)

## Babcock Ranch Project



Syd Kitson proposes to build baseball fields in Lee County and put up a movie theater and a hotel right in our Density Reduction Groundwater Recharge lands. The runoff from these businesses and fields will only foul the land south of the town and pollute the Caloosahatchee. [\[Guest Opinion\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#)

## Cape Justifying Lock Removal



Cape Coral claims it is conducting "special operations" at Chiquita Lock (leaving it fully open) for maintenance. But DEP says the Cape has set up monitoring equipment to collect water quality data. These data are needed to justify a permit application for removal of the lock. [\[DEP Email\]](#) [\[WINK-TV Video\]](#)

## EPA Report: How to Sue Us



You know the Obama Administration must be incredibly frustrated with states when the EPA issues a manual instructing people on how they can sue the government using the Clean Water Act. "Protecting Aquatic Life from Effects of Hydrologic Alteration" will surely become a very hot download. [\[Fact Sheet\]](#) [\[Draft Report\]](#) [\[EPA Comment Page\]](#) [\[Webinar\]](#)

## Thanks to San Carlos Marine



CRCA-Riverwatch would very much appreciate the mention of San Carlos Marine, situated at 3300 Palm Beach Blvd. in Fort Myers. We appreciate the kind service we received on our new Waterkeeper boat. The future of our Waterkeeper program depends on the generosity of sponsors like San Carlos Marine. [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[About San Carlos Marine\]](#)