

The Flow

May 2015 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Jun 3: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Jun 5: [Environmental Education Workshop](#) in Punta Gorda
- Jun 9: [Fostering Behavior Change Webinar](#)
- Jun 13: [Archaeology in an Hour Workshop](#) in Estero
- Aug 1: [Sea Level Rise Symposium](#) in West Palm

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Algal blooms are now a regular feature of the river. How utterly sad!

Another Year, Same Story



With the summer storm season officially beginning on June 1, the Army Corps is racing to lower the Lake O in time. However, dumping water west into the Caloosahatchee River and local runoff brings algal bloom and human health risks consequences. Another year, yet the same story. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#)

CERP and Water Budgets



Wayne Daltry explains why failing to act on the EAA land acquisition and instead simply moving ahead with currently-planned projects will not lead to a solution to our water problems and is therefore the unwise path. [\[Why the Purchase?\]](#)

SFWMD Governing Board Meeting



On May 14, 2015 the Governing Board meeting of the South Florida Water Management District took place. The public comments period got quite heated when the board received critiques of their Everglades and estuaries stewardship from the environmental advocates in the audience. [\[SFWMD Meeting\]](#) [\[Marion Gommenne\]](#) [\[Discussion Video \(begins 47:20\)\]](#)

[\[Public Comment: 1:23:45\]](#)

Algal Bloom Advisory



Alas, our waters are again greener than our grass. So yet again, Lee County Dept of Health has issued an advisory recommending people not expose themselves, pets or livestock to Caloosahatchee River water after an algal bloom was detected. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[NBC-2 with James Evans\]](#) [\[NBC-2 Sky Cam\]](#) [\[Corps of Engineers Beach Closure\]](#)

Caldwell Perspective on Amendment 1



Rep. Matt Caldwell blames Amendment 1 advocates for deceiving the public that it would bring new funds to land purchases. He seems to blame them for not anticipating that legislators like him would thwart Constitutional intent by allocating the land funds set-aside to unrelated budget items. [\[Email Correspondence\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Dampening Property Values



Florida Realtors say that poor water quality limits property values and forces to sell them at a loss. These are quantified now, nearly \$1 billion/year just in Lee and Martin Counties. While overall property values are rising in both counties, they're being "severely dampened" by poor water quality. [\[News Press\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Conditions

Date	Day	S79 Flow (cfs)
5/19/2015	Tues	1472
5/20/2015	Wed	1428
5/21/2015	Thur	1020
5/22/2015	Fri	1859
5/23/2015	Sat	2967
5/24/2015	Sun	2250
5/25/2015	Mon	1274
7 Day	Avg	1753

SCCF recommends reducing discharges to the Caloosahatchee with a target average flows ranging from 1,200 to 1,400 cfs at S-79 to improve salinity and spawning conditions in the estuary. Thus, the flows from Nicodemus seem not intended to help the river but rather to lower Lake O. [\[Conditions Report\]](#)

Riverwatch on The Vue Development



CRCA-Riverwatch Vice President Gene Gibson wrote a letter to Ft. Myers City Council Members concerning the proposed amendments to The Vue planned unit development (PUD) and its development agreement. CRCA continues to oppose development that would degrade the adjacent Centennial Park. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

Riverwatch Donor Sails I-75



Henry Mox, regular major donor to CRCA, weighed anchor and rode the winds of I-75 back to Michigan, but not before leaving another generous donation of \$2500 to Riverwatch. Intelligentsia students helped Henry prepare his boat and enjoy a Caloosahatchee shake-down cruise before his departure. [\[Farewell Photo\]](#) [\[Shakedown Cruise\]](#)

Nicodemus to C-19 to C-43



For the first time, SFWMD has begun sending to the Caloosahatchee water it pays Lykes Brothers to store in Nicodemus Slough (\$28 million total cost according to audit). While bringing some benefits, the highly-controversial project carries with it some further risks of abuse. [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[Storage Strategies\]](#) [\[Audit\]](#) [\[Controversy History\]](#)

Progress at National Level



On May 27 the US EPA finalized their Clean Water Rule, closing some loopholes regarding which water bodies fall under Federal oversight. While representing real progress, efforts are underway in Congress to weaken, undermine, or stop the rule completely. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Earth Justice\]](#) [\[NRDC Analysis\]](#) [\[CBS News\]](#) [\[Counties Opposed\]](#) [\[EPA Rule Web Site\]](#)

Fitzenhagen & Benacquisto Statements



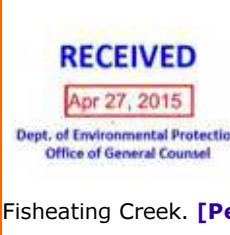
The next legislative session starts in a week, so several rallies throughout the next month are being organized. This time the demonstrators showed up at Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto's office. Although Sen. Benacquisto does not support the purchase, Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen does. [\[NBC2\]](#) [\[Fitzenhagen & Benacquisto Statements\]](#) [\[Aljazeera America\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Former Governor Shocked



Bob Graham published his opinion about the future of Everglades and Florida. The former Senator (1987-2005) and Florida's Governor (1979-1987) is shocked that despite scientific facts and Amendment 1 votes, the SFWMD tore up the land purchase contract with no alternate plan even in sight. [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

Cowbone Marsh & Fisheating Creek Litigation



ECOSWF and Save Our Creeks legal action against FDEP and FWCC over Cowbone Marsh/Fisheating Creek continues with the filing of a revised petition. It challenges a proposed sovereignty lands environmental resource permit to fill in a portion of Fisheating Creek. [\[Petition\]](#)

Advice from Experienced Leaders



A formidable group of current and former regional water managers published their opinion about the U.S. Sugar land purchase, describing scientific and engineering justification, economic benefits as well as possible funding options for the land acquisition.

What they see missing is the leadership. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Florida Panther a Myth?



In trashing panther protection, Sunshine State News again shows its wrong-headedness when it described as "noise" the citizen assertion of the 75% -voter-approved constitutional amendment for land purchases in the EAA. [\[Sunshine State News\]](#)

Sea Level Rise Summit



On May 7 SWFL leaders gathered to discuss sea level rise response in Estero. "Sea level rise is real," said Ray Judah, coordinator for the FCOC, which hosted the summit with the LWV of Lee County. "We can no longer ignore the sea level rise impacts to our environment and our economy." [\[Naples News\]](#) [\[David Trecker Opinion\]](#)

Good Uses for Surplus Land



UF-IFAS & FWS have proposed uses for BOMA land being surplus by SFWMD. IFAS wants it for agricultural and agro-ecology research while FWS seeks a panther easement on parts. Glades County is inclined to let Lee County decide what to do with it since they paid \$10,000,000 for the SFWMD purchase. [\[UF-IFAS Proposal\]](#) [\[Glades Feb BOCC Minutes\]](#) [\[Glades May BOCC Item\]](#) [\[Location\]](#)

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