

# The Flow

November 2010 Newsletter  
Dr. Annette Snapp, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- Dec 11: CRCA Holiday Party
- Dec 11: LaBelle Nature Park Exotic Plants Removal
- Dec 12: SCCF River Cruise
- Jan 6-9: Everglades Coalition Conference
- Jan 9: River Roots & Ruts Trail Run
- Feb 26: Swamp Cabbage River Cruise

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online



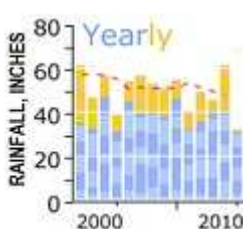
CRCA's River Ride brought people together for good health & good fun.

## New FL Water Quality Rules



The US EPA has issued its water quality standards for Florida to take effect in 2012, assuming no political reversals. The rule allows subareas of Florida to have site-specific water quality standards based on EPA guidelines. [\[Miami Herald\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[EPA Water Quality Rule\]](#) [\[Fact Sheet\]](#)

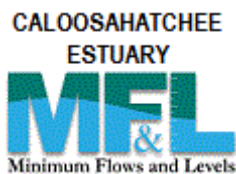
## Hoping for More Rain



Glades & Hendry are in drought already this year with Charlotte, Lee and Collier not far behind. Everyone is watching to see how this year's dry season progresses, with water restrictions on the horizon.

[\[Florida Drought\]](#) [\[US Drought\]](#) [\[Watershed Journal\]](#) [\[NOAA Page\]](#)

## SFWMD Votes Against New MFL



On Wed, Nov 15 SFWMD decided against updating the Minimum Flows & Levels standards (MFL) for the Caloosahatchee. Supporting Riverwatch were governing members Dauray, Estonez, Buerman, & Batchelor. Opposed were Collins, Powers, Montgomery, & Waldman. [\[CaptivaSanibel.com\]](#)

[\[Naples News\]](#) [\[Dauray\]](#) [\[Board\]](#) [\[We Want Water\]](#)

## Riverwatch Holiday Party



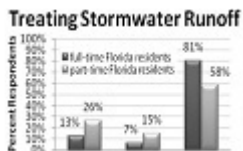
The Riverwatch Holiday Celebration & Campfire will be Sat, Dec 11 starting at 4pm. The location is 6651 Bright Road in North Ft Myers. Bring a chair and dish to share. RSVP: 239-731-7559. Come ready to share holiday wishes around the campfire. [\[Invite & Map\]](#)

## Scott Asks EPA to Slow Down



Newly elected Florida Governor is poised to eliminate a host of protections for the Caloosahatchee. In one of his first acts he has written to EPA calling for them to back off in implementing any water quality rules in Florida. [\[Scott Letter to EPA\]](#) [\[Naples Daily News\]](#)

## Surveys vs Reality



New surveys show overwhelming support for water quality, wetlands, & cleaner farms. But that does not translate to proper political decisions to implement clear public priorities. 80% seek stormwater treatment but the DEP still has no state rule. [\[Protecting Water Survey\]](#) [\[Drinking Water Survey\]](#) [\[Ground & Surface Water Survey\]](#)

## Stable and Sterile



Seawalls make it much easier for people to live along the river but they make it hard for wildlife to live in the river. Seawalls, which line vast stretches of the Caloosahatchee, don't offer the food and shelter Florida fisheries need to survive.

[[Amy Bennett Williams](#)]

## Recognition for Water Education



Ron Hamel, Hugh English, & Gulf Citrus Growers were recognized for more than a decade of support for the Florida Water Resources Conference. Receiving similar awards were Andy Tilton, Ron Edenfield, Tom Missimer, and Ken Passarella. [[History](#)]

## Cape Coral Fertilizer Ordinance



On Monday, Nov 29 the Cape Coral City Council approved a fertilizer ordinance. While stronger than the state rule, Cape Coral's is less stringent than that of Ft. Myers or Lee County, says Marti Daltry of Sierra Club and Riverwatch. [[NewsPress](#)] [[Lee County Fertilizer Rules](#)] [[Read Heated Comments](#)]

## Canoe & Cruise Time Again!



Start planning to participate in the Riverwatch 2011 Swamp Cabbage Festival traditions - canoe contest (\$2) & river cruise (\$20). Master naturalist Margaret England & others are your tour guides for the 3pm cruise on Sat, Feb 26.

[[Contest Poster](#)] [[Email for Tickets](#)]

## Lake O Water Releases to Estuary



Despite an impending drought, the Corps of Engineers is making efforts to release Lake O water to the Caloosahatchee Estuary to maintain its minimal health. The minimum target flow is 450 cfs and releases have averaged 500 cfs since Nov 14. [[PR](#)] [[Graph](#)] [[Data](#)]

## Breakfast Order: 1 Riverkeeper



The 13th Annual Environmental Breakfast drew 130 people to the scenic Riverside Community Center. MC Wayne Daltry delivered a presentation calling for establishment of a new Riverkeeper program, which emphasizes legal action to achieve progress.

[[NewsPress](#)] [[Editorial](#)] [[Endorsement](#)] [[Waterkeeper Alliance](#)]

## Who is ROGER?



ROGER is a dozen people from the Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie who gathered in Clewiston on Nov 16 to discuss River of Grass Everglades Restoration-a group to coordinate advocacy for the two estuaries. Rae Ann Wessel serves as co-chair for west coast.

[[The Big Picture Plan](#)]

## Nitrogen Estimates Questioned



In analyzing plans to achieve nitrogen reduction goals for the Caloosahatchee, the Southwest Florida Watershed Council has questioned both the estimates of natural N sources and the 5-year plan for reductions, which achieves only 10% of the goal.

[[Watershed Council Letter](#)]

## Water Resources Presentations



Riverwatch was a co-host of the 20th Annual SW FL Water Resources Conference on Nov 19. Slides of the 14 presenters are posted online. Also posted is the history of CRCA participation in the conference. [[Presentations](#)] [[History Tables](#)] [[History Posters](#)]

## Florida Legislature Cuffs Agencies



Florida agency officials rarely impose proper environmental rules to meet state & federal laws. But now it may be impossible for any new rules to be adopted given recent actions of the Florida Legislature. This leaves only the courts able to act. [[Sierra Club](#)] [[Overrides Session](#)] [[Damage Summary](#)]

## Fun & Fitness Enjoyed By All



More than 120 riders took part in the 14th Annual Caloosahatchee River Ride with distances up to 65 miles from Caloosahatchee Regional Park (Alva) to Moore Haven & back. Congratulations to Keith Kibbey, founder and continuing organizer of the event. [[Photo Gallery](#)] [[Rider Blog](#)]

## GOP Flushes Inspections, For Now



The GOP super majority in the Florida Legislature decided to delay implementation of the new state law requiring septic tank inspections. Perhaps this time can be used to implement septic utilities to minimize cost to homeowners & protect our water. [[News Press Editorial](#)] [[Septic Tank Rule Cartoon](#)] [[Pensacola Editorial](#)]