

The Flow

November 2011 Newsletter
Pete Quasius, President

Special Events & Meetings

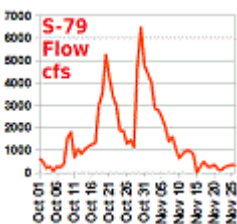
- Dec 3: Ellen Peterson [Going-away Celebration](#) at the Haphehatchee Center
- Dec 4: CRCA-Riverwatch [Annual Christmas Party](#) in LaBelle
- Dec 10: LaBelle Nature Park [Air Potato Roundup](#)
- Jan 8: [River, Roots & Ruts Trail Run](#)

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



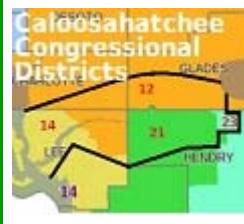
Both cycling enthusiasts & casual bikers joined in the CRCA River Ride.

Lake Okeechobee Water Peaks



Lake Okeechobee water levels peaked on Nov 23 at 13.87 feet, a level 9" higher than 2010 & 3" above 2009. Flow to the estuary is 250cfs, already below the MFL. But Oct & Nov flows were high, so this dry season effectively begins in December. In 2010-11, the estuary received only half its MFL. [\[Lake\]](#) [\[Conditions\]](#) [\[Estuary\]](#)

Ridiculous Redistricting



The proposed redistricting would put the Caloosahatchee in three primary Congressional districts (14,12,&21). Previously it was split between two. A fair redistricting would retain two districts. Lehigh is split from Lee Co. and goes with Glades Co. [\[Comparison\]](#) [\[Old\]](#) [\[New\]](#) [\[Fair\]](#) [\[State Senate\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Algae Bloom Wins



Students from UF, USF & FGCU won cash awards for their research posters at the SW FL Water Resources Conference on Nov 18. First prize went to Laura Markley for investigating causes of algae blooms in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. [\[Laura & Poster\]](#) [\[Poster\]](#) [\[Poster Group\]](#) [\[Conf Web Site\]](#) [\[All Student Posters\]](#)

CRCA Christmas Party



You are invited to the CRCA-Riverwatch Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 2:00 PM, followed by a walk at the LaBelle Nature Park at 4PM, at the home of Margaret England, 380 Riverview Drive, LaBelle, Florida. RSVP by December 2. [\[Invitation\]](#)

Anyone But The Public



At the Ceitus Boat Lift mediation hearing, Cape Coral representation included two nameless persons. DEP was absent. The Cape representatives objected to public attendance at the hearing...and then blamed manatees for any water problems. How typical. [\[Hearing Notes\]](#) [\[Dec 6 Hearing Announcement\]](#)

River Ride A Success



CRCA Director & River Ride organizer Keith Kibbey reports that the 14th annual River Ride attracted 121 riders. The weather cooperated and a fun, safe time was enjoyed by all. CRCA thanks Hendry County Sheriff Steve Whidden for providing safety escorts. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Photo 4\]](#) [\[Photo 5\]](#) [\[Photo 6\]](#)

Tribute at Memorial Cypress



Almost 200 gathered at Fisheating Creek Campground on Nov 13 for a tribute to the memory and accomplishments of Ellen Peterson. Master of ceremonies was Riverwatch director Wayne Daltry. This was followed by a procession of 50 vessels to Memorial Cypress for a final ashes ceremony. [\[Service Videos\]](#)

Save Our Creeks Elects President



Given the passing of Save Our Creeks president, Ellen Peterson, the organization's board of directors met on Nov 25 to elect new officers. The new SOC president is Mary Rawl, who was a highly effective president of Riverwatch from 2005 to 2006. [\[New SOC Board of Directors\]](#)

Crossing the Rubicon



"The Rubicon's dead end often collects vegetation, litter and other debris." So, Cape Coral proposes to solve the problem by flushing the Rubicon Canal more directly to the Caloosahatchee via a new connection to Redfish Cove, a move really designed to improve boat access & thus property values. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Location\]](#)

Some Attitudes Have Changed



Demonstrating how valuation of wetlands have changed over the decades, Prof. Royal Gardner showed an old Disney video of the 7 Dwarfs destroying (reclaiming) swamps. Gardner gave an excellent presentation at the SW FL Water Resources Conf on Nov 18. [\[Sleepy Drains Swamp\]](#) [\[Presentations\]](#)

Committee Fails to Serve



In addition to failing to agree on budget cuts, the Super Committee was unable to produce a Farm Bill, which it had oddly been assigned. Some thought the secret process was intended to preserve certain subsidies, like sugarcane south of Lake Okeechobee, while cutting others. [\[Sun Sentinel\]](#) [\[Candy Industry\]](#) [\[Eye on Miami\]](#) [\[Secret Farm Bill?\]](#)

River, Roots & Ruts Trail Run



The 9th Annual River, Roots and Ruts Trail Run will be held at Lee County's Caloosahatchee Regional Park on Sunday, January 8, 2012. The Half Marathon and Relay 8:00 am, 5K Fun Run 8:15 am. The registration is open. Sign up today! [\[Fall Trail Mail\]](#) [\[Information\]](#) [\[Web site\]](#)

IFAS Sustainability Conference



UF-IFAS Extension faculty Roy Beckford and Martha Avila, with the support of Lee County Commissioner Ray Judah and North Port Commissioner Linda Yates, convened a very successful sustainability conference in Ft. Myers on Nov 10. [\[WINK News\]](#) [\[Agenda\]](#) [\[Roy Beckford\]](#) [\[Linda Yates\]](#)

Ballast Water Regulations Letter



CRCA signed a letter opposing HR 2840, the Commercial Vessels Discharge Control Act of 2011 that would remove ballast water rules that help protect US waterways from exotic, invasive species. Zebra mussels have already invaded much of US waters. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[Zebra Mussels Map\]](#)

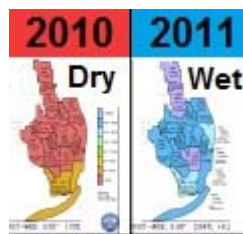
Lake Hicpochee...Finally!



Larry Hilton informed Glades County BOCC of a SFWMD project that will spend up to \$19 million to provide better surface water quality and quantity by partially rehydrating Lake Hicpochee, a lake drained by the channelization of the Caloosahatchee. [\[Donna Storter Long\]](#) [\[BOCC Notes\]](#) [\[Location\]](#)

[\[SFWMD Plans\]](#)

We Got Lucky!



Farmers told Riverwatch that if we were going to be saved from a 2011 dry season drought, it would happen in October. They were right! This Oct was the 4th wettest ever whereas Oct 2010 was the driest ever. The October rains caused Lake O to continue rising until Nov 23. [\[Briefing\]](#) [\[2010 vs 2011\]](#) [\[Hydrograph\]](#) [\[Water Restrictions\]](#)

Maybe They Are Serious



EPA told DEP that the numerical nutrient limits deal is off if the state exempts canals from pollution rules, a move being pushed by some of the state's most powerful industries. In such case EPA will impose its stricter rules, affecting agricultural & industrial canals feeding the Caloosahatchee. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Too Strict, But Pointless



CWN says Rich Budell of the Florida Dept of Agriculture claims that the new DEP/EPA water quality regulations are too stringent for agriculture, but nevertheless won't affect agriculture. So maybe the proposed rules are contradictory...and pointless? [\[CWN Report\]](#) [\[Socialized Pollution\]](#)