The Flow

November 2012 Newsletter John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Dec 1: <u>Ellen Peterson</u>
 <u>Commemoration</u> in
 Estero
- Dec 5-6: <u>Public</u>
 Issues and Conflict
 Management in
 Lakeland
- Dec 16: <u>CRCA Holiday</u>
 Party on the river
- Jan 2: Lake O Discussion at Calusa Nature Center

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



Riverwatch added number 16 to its record of successful River Rides.

CRCA Holiday Party



All are welcome to join Riverwatch members for their annual holiday party. This year we will go on a 2-hour cruise Sunday, Dec 16 afternoon 3-5 pm aboard the Capt JP departing from Downtown Ft. Myers. Cruise cost is \$10 for adults and

\$5 for children - a great Sunday family outing. [Details] [Capt JP Photo] [Reservations] [Directions] [Capt JP web site]

Lake Okeechobee Discussion



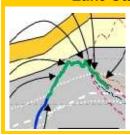
Dr. Paul Gray, researcher and Lake Okeechobee advocate for ecological issues is the Riverwatch guest speaker at the January 2, 2013 meeting at the Calusa Nature Center in Ft. Myers from 7-8pm. The presentation is free and open to the public. A CRCA board meeting will follow the presentation. [Details] [Registration] [Driving directions]

Peddling Perfection



It was another picture-perfect Florida day for the 16th annual Caloosahatchee River Ride on Sun, Nov 11. 118 riders joined in the event. Thank you to all riders who made this a fun and safe event! We look forward to seeing you again next year for #17. Congrats to event organizer Keith Kibbey. [Photos]

Lake Stage Starts Downward



Lake O is 1.5ft higher than last year. Good news for the Estuary! With the rainy season over, the lake has started to drop. Storing more water north of the lake is a way to reduce damage from high wet season flows to the Caloosahatchee. But filling all available storage reduces flood protection. [Lake News] [Lake Stage Graphic]

Holiday Gift From You & CRCA



The Win-A-Canoe Contest is back again this year thanks to The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Buy tickets online, at Estero Outfitters, or from CRCA directors. Also, Riverwatch can mail your gift of contest tickets with a holiday card to friends & family. The winning tickets are drawn on Feb 24. [Card Sample] [Order Tickets & Gift] [Canoe Picture]

Bigelow & Judah Legacies



Judah was the environmental crusader, fighting to keep land and water preserved & pristine, willing to battle any powerful adversary. Bigelow was a risk taker, willing to take stands on issues, asking the tough questions. Both supported Riverwatch and will be missed on the Lee County Commission.

[News-Press]

ECOSWF Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of ECOSWF will be held on Jan 26, 11AM-2PM in Port Charlotte. David Guest, managing attorney of the environmental law firm EarthJustice, will discuss current litigation. EarthJustice has two notable SW FL cases pending - Caloosahatchee River and Fisheating Creek. [Flyer] [Web Site] [Letter Campaign] [Caloosahatchee Case]

Landfill Debate in Charlotte



A privately-owned landfill proposed for Charlotte County along SR 74 is the subject of a meeting on Dec 6 in Punta Gorda. The location is on the boundary of several watersheds flowing to Charlotte Harbor and the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Adjacent property owners are concerned. [Agenda] [Maps] [Site Report] [Video] [Opposition Web Site] [Another Site]

Kicking and Screaming



Cape Coral paid \$27 million for 215 acres to build Festival Park (for events like their Burrowing Owl Festival). When asked to mitigate the project impacts on Scrub Jay habitat at a cost of under \$1 million, the Cape said "No one is happy about paying this money because of federal regulations." [News-Press] [CC.com] [Breeze] [Cape Facts]

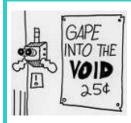
Oops! A Million Will Fix It



EPA asserts that the FWC Fisheating Creek channel clearing contractor did in fact cut into sediments (dredge). FWC is thus responsible for \$1.25 million in restoration costs. This finding supports the assertion of Lykes, Army Corps, & Audubon. [News Press] [Cookie Cutter] [EPA FINDING & ORDER] [Fisheating Creek Documents]

[Legal Case]

Status of the Ceitus Issue



All five Lee Commissioners agreed to proceed with arranging for the appointment of a mediator, the next step towards suing Cape Coral and DEP over the Ceitus issue. But Cape Coral refuses additional mediation. And with two new commissioners, Lee County could perhaps eventually back off the case. [Details] [Cartoon]

Congratulations, Karen!



Former CRCA director Karen Bickford, who since 2006 has handled water quality planning for Lee County, was been awarded the Together We Mean Community award for Q4,2012 which recognizes employees who go above and beyond their assigned duties. [Details]

Keeping Land Preservation Affordable



Lee County Clerk, Charlie Green released a series of critical audits of county land purchases over recent years. A committee, including Watershed Council founding member Noel Andress, has recommended improvements to the Lee County Commission. [Committee Roster] [County Clerk Audit] [Committee Recommendations] [News Press]

The Absolute Pits



Employees who survive the ongoing DEP purges are being directed to cite instances of how they have achieved "job creation" & cost savings for regulated industries, suggesting a fundamentally new, bizarre mission. DEP may now stand for Dept of Economic

Profitability, not "Don't Expect Protection." [PEER]

Kevin Cam & Andrew View



The News-Press now has a special web site called "Playing In Paradise" featuring videos by journalist Kevin Lollar & amazing images by photographer Andrew West. Lucky for Kevin, this whale shark checking him out eats only algae. Algae, unlike Kevin, is something we have in excess here in SW Florida. [Kevin Cam]

Estero Outfitters Benefit Event



Join Riverwatch at the Annual Estero River SUP, Canoe, and Kayak Regatta on Jan 19. The event is a benefit for Josh Stuller and includes recreational, educational & competitive events. Thank you to Estero River Outfitters for sponsoring the 2nd place prize in the CRCA Win-A-Canoe Contest! [Outfitters Web Site]

Connecting the Dots



Documenting the demise of Florida's springs and its inland aquifers reveals the true story behind the firing of one of Florida's longest-serving and most respected WMD directors, David Still. He sought to protect water resource by challenging a JEA water use permit and was pushed out as a result. [Tampa Bay Times] [Special Report]

Win Some, Lose Some...more.



The 11th Circuit Court refused to review an EPA rule that exempts the transfer of polluted EAA canal water into Lake Okeechobee. These transfers are therefore not subject to the permitting requirements of the Clean Water Act. [Opposing Views] [Court Ruling] [Save the Twinkie cartoon]