

# The Flow

November 2016 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Special Events & Meetings

- Dec 7: [CRCA-Riverwatch Board Meeting](#) in LaBelle
- Dec 8: [Rally for EAA Land Purchase](#) in West Palm Beach
- Dec 14-15: [Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable](#) at FGCU in Ft. Myers
- Jan 13: [26th Annual Water Resources Conference](#) at FGCU Cohen Center in Ft. Myers

Editorial Disclaimer  
Visit the CRCA web site  
[crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)  
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*More than 60 joined in the CRCA Billy's Creek Clean-up.*

## Executive Director Selected



Jack Green spent his career in the Coast Guard and later served as Fort Myers Beach Director of Public Works (including responsibilities for water utilities). He has now been selected as the Executive Director for CRCA-Riverwatch. Our group will soon change its name to Calusa Waterkeeper. [\[Jack Green resume\]](#) [\[Jack Green bio\]](#)

## Calusa Waterkeeper Selected



Career scientist and outspoken water advocate John Cassani has been selected to become the Calusa Waterkeeper. This title becomes effective once Waterkeeper Alliance approves the application submitted by CRCA Riverwatch to become a full Waterkeeper member organization. [\[Cassani Resume\]](#) [\[Bio\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

## Waterkeeper Membership Proposal



On Nov 8 Riverwatch submitted a proposal to Waterkeeper Alliance to upgrade our status from affiliate to full member. If the proposal is approved by the Alliance on Dec 23, CRCA will change its name to Calusa Waterkeeper becoming part of the largest non-profit organization focused on clean water. [\[Waterkeeper Proposal\]](#) [\[Waterkeeper Alliance Website\]](#)

## Please Dig Deep This Year



With the elevating of Riverwatch to a full Waterkeeper member and the hiring of staff, we need each of our members to dig deep this year when they renew their membership. Letters have been sent to all current members. Please respond soon and generously. We thank you. [\[Membership Letter\]](#) [\[Renewing Members\]](#) [\[New Members\]](#) [\[Donations\]](#)

## Cocktails & Conversations



Jack Green, CRCA Executive Director & John Cassani, our first Waterkeeper, spoke at the Nov 9 Cocktails & Conversations. Thank you to our sponsors Sanibel Captiva Bank and Tween Water Inn, event organizers Rob Wilson and Mary Rawl, and generous donors Robin Krivanek, David Laties & John Gucciardo. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#)

## Great Boat Donation!



Thank you to Tom Torgerson of TPI Hospitality for his generous donation at the Cocktails & Conversations event held on Captiva Island. The Zodiac Yachtline 420 Deluxe will power one of the seven planned Calusa Waterkeeper Rangers as they travel our waterways investigating water quality issues. [\[Zodiac Photo 1\]](#) [\[Zodiac Photo 2\]](#) [\[TPI Hospitality\]](#)

## They Will Really Do It



DEP intends to grant Cape Coral permission to remove the Chiquita Lock so boats can get from homes to estuary more quickly. Many are objecting to this proposal but DEP under the Scott administration does not really care about environmental impacts. [\[Roger Wood Objection\]](#) [\[CRCA Report\]](#)

## 26th Water Resources Conference



The Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference has announced the lineup of speakers for the 26th conference to be held on Jan 13. The conference topic is the need of cooperation from all elements of society to improve our water systems. Carol Collier of Drexel University is keynote speaker. [\[Florida Weekly\]](#) [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[website\]](#)

## Telegraph Creek Fish Kill



On Nov 20 Calusa Waterkeeper (designate) John Cassani and NPR reporter Jessica Maszaros investigated the scene of a fish kill in Telegraph Creek where it runs through the Lee County Bob Janes Preserve. Tests were performed and samples taken for analysis. Results may shed light on the cause. [\[Actions Update\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#)

## Wanted: Water Quality Rangers



The 1st Calusa Waterkeeper Rangers meeting was held on Nov 19. The volunteer Rangers will monitor quality of area waterways (Estero Bay, Pine Island Sound, Matlacha Pass, Charlotte Harbor, the Caloosahatchee River, & Lake Okeechobee). If you are interested, contact Waterkeeper @ Caloosahatchee.org. [\[Ranger Update\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

## Billys Creek Cleanup



The CRCA-hosted Billys Creek cleanup was successful. More than 50 students plus a dozen community volunteers joined the event on Nov 4. Huge piles of trash from the Creek and the new Ford Street filter marsh were collected. TV stations covered the event. Many thanks to Felicia Nudo, the organizer. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Wink News\]](#) [\[More Coverage\]](#)

## Dec 8 EAA Reservoir Rally



On Dec 8, a rally is organized to support senator Negron's EAA Land Purchase Plan & save the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Rick Scott has to make a decision and we do not want it to be at the cost of the environment again. The rally will be held from 11 am to 12 pm in West Palm Beach. [\[Flyer\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Facebook Event\]](#)

## EPA to Be Abolished?



One of Trump's campaign promises was to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency. Treasure Coast environmentalists are hoping it will not become presidential action. The Indian River Lagoon Council received \$625,000 from the EPA for the current fiscal year for research and restoration projects. [\[TC Palm\]](#)

## No Changes Despite 20/20 Passage



On Election Day 83% of voters endorsed the 20/20 land purchase program. But the current set of county commissioners do not intend to limit the free hand they are currently giving developers in their disregard for environmental impacts. BOCC member Pendergrass' comments seem to make that very clear. [\[News-Press\]](#)

## Audubon Breakfast in News-Press



Carl Veaux honored at Environmental Breakfast

The Nov 6 News Press published photos of the Audubon Environmental Breakfast held on Oct 27. The article describes the meeting discussion on the Lee County Conservation 20/20 program. Also at the breakfast event Carl Veaux was presented with the Conservationist of the Year award by Dan Van Norman. [\[News-Press Part 1\]](#) [\[News-Press Part 2\]](#)

## Worst Year Ever



According to flow estimates reported by the Corps of Engineers, the Caloosahatchee has delivered harmful volumes of water to the estuary for 232 days in 2016. This is more days than any year since records began in 1963. The previous record was 2005 with 230 days. [\[Daily Flows at Franklin Lock\]](#) [\[Press Release PDF\]](#) [\[Days per Year\]](#)

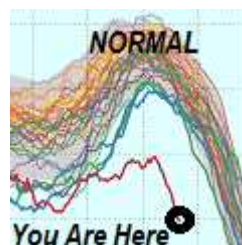
## UN Climate Change Conference



Rock Aboujaoude Jr, a Univ of Florida student from LaBelle represented US students at the UN climate change youth conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, Nov 3-6. Rock studies in the Food & Resource Economics Department. He traveled to Marrakech to talk about US student & NGO activities on climate change. [\[Morning Ag Clips\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#)

[\[Press Release\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[COY12\]](#) [\[COP22\]](#)

## Unprecedented!



Polar night, when the sun never rises in the Arctic, typically triggers rapid ice growth as bitter cold sets in. However 2016 temperatures are a shocking 20 degrees C (38 degrees F) above average. Graphs of ice area show low seasonal ice patterns never before seen since record keeping began. [\[CNN\]](#) [\[Snopes\]](#)