

The Flow

October 2012 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Nov 1-4: [Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival](#) in Ft. Myers-Sanibel
- Nov 7: [Lake Okeechobee Discussion](#) at RPYC in Ft. Myers
- Nov 9: [Expanding Sustainability](#) in Ft. Myers
- Nov 11: [16th Annual River Ride](#) in Alva

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



Event organizer, Keith Kibbey, invites you to the annual River Ride.

Running High, Running Red



As of Oct 22, flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary continue to run at an average of 3400 cfs, well above the maximum advisable limit of 2800 cfs. Lake O held its water level just below 16 feet. Shore waters are also experiencing red tide and other phytoplankton blooms resulting in fish kills. [\[SCCF Conditions Report\]](#)

Lake Okeechobee Discussion



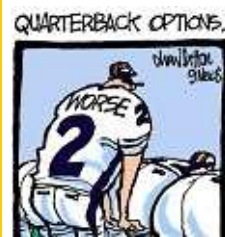
Dr. Paul Gray, researcher and advocate for Lake Okeechobee ecological issues is the Riverwatch guest speaker at the Nov 7 meeting, 7pm at the Royal Palm Yacht Club in Ft. Myers. Dinner is \$30 at 6pm which includes a CRCA contribution. [\[Details\]](#) [\[RSVP\]](#) [\[Payment\]](#)

Sweet 16 River Ride



Sun, Nov 11, join Riverwatch on the 16th Annual River Ride, the recreational bike ride around the Caloosahatchee. Routes are 15, 30, 40 & 62 miles. Register by Nov 1 for \$25. After that it's \$30 (online, post or day of event at Caloosahatchee Regional Park). Online sign-ups are triple last year's. [\[Regional Park Map\]](#) [\[Register by form\]](#) [\[Register online\]](#)

Strip the Army Corps of its Power



State Sen. Joe Negron wants to strip the Corps of Engineers of its power to manage water levels in Lake O. But the Corps is the one agency trying to ensure the Caloosahatchee gets some water during the dry season. Turn it over to SFWMD...really? Bob Graham doesn't think that's a good alternative. [\[TCPalm\]](#) [\[Graham: SFWMD Absent\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Ignore Half the Mandate



The proposed SFWMD Water Supply Plan claims, "water demands of the LWC Planning Area can continue to be met." This is only true if SFWMD ignores the half of the WSP mandate that reads to "ensure adequate supply of water to protect natural systems." [\[SCCF Comments\]](#) [\[Cassani Comments\]](#) [\[Comments 3\]](#) [\[Comments 4\]](#)

Survives Through Its Waters



It is time for all of us to protect our waterways. In an election season, when people point fingers at a failing health system, a failing Social Security system and a failing economy, there may be no bigger crisis than water quality. [\[News Press Editorial\]](#) [\[Dem Platform\]](#) [\[Rep Platform\]](#) [\[Libertarian Platform\]](#)

Every Little Bit Helps



To improve Caloosahatchee Estuary salinity, SFWMD installed pumps on an old Hendry County citrus grove (site of the proposed C-43 West Reservoir). The pumps can divert 300 cfs of fresh water headed towards the estuary. While not enough, it's at least some positive use of the SFWMD land purchase. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Fox4\]](#) [\[abc7\]](#)

Fracking Comes To Florida



Florida's fossil fuels come mostly from oil producing limestone and haven't been considered a viable target for fracking in the past. But that is changing in SW Florida where it's being used now. The most likely target for fracking is the Lower Sunniland Trend, stretching from Ft Myers to Miami. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Critics\]](#) [\[Give a Subscription Gift\]](#) [\[Global Frack-down\]](#)

15% More Will Do It



The State endorsed a plan claiming it will clean up the Everglades by building 6500 more acres of filter marshes on top of the existing 45,000 acres. 15% more of the same will probably not be enough but it placates the judge at a cost of \$888 million. While it's not the solution, it is progress. [\[The Miami Herald\]](#)

Cash & Sludge Down the Drain



Cape Coral was unable to auction off \$15 million in biosolids equipment even at a 75% discount. The equipment converts waste water sludge into a marketable fertilizer pellet, but the market has evaporated. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Water World\]](#) [\[Hi-end Market Problems\]](#) [\[E-edition for \\$1/wk\]](#)

Only a Passing Reference



In Ft Myers, Joe Biden didn't take up the News Press challenge to speak to the environment, making only a small reference to renewable energy in a mostly Medicare & economy speech. The Dem's platform may be stronger on the environment, but they don't see it as a vote-getter with undecided FL voters. [\[Letter to VP\]](#) [\[30% Environmental\]](#) [\[Swing Myth\]](#) [\[Analysis\]](#)

Libertarians on Environment



The Libertarian Party position on environmental issues puts the burden of action and responsibility on landowners and individuals. They believe environmental advocates and social pressure are the most effective means of changing public behavior. They emphasize the role of groups like CRCA. [\[Libertarian Environmental Platform 2012\]](#) [\[Full Platform\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Fisheating Creek Controversy



EarthJustice is suing FDEP over Fisheating Creek issues. After dredging resulted in over-drainage of Cowbone Marsh and scoured out a deeper channel, DEP & others have taken actions many consider harmful. Some question the agency's relationship with landowner Lykes Bros, but Audubon disagrees. [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[Documents\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#)

Cape Coral Troubled Waters



No doubt the decision of the ad hoc committee of two county commissioners and two Cape Coral officials on the Ceitus boatlift to not set an ending point for the talks and to allow more findings left everyone attending the last meeting unhappy. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Meeting Report\]](#) [\[Battle Cartoon\]](#) [\[Data Cartoon\]](#) [\[Cochrane & Snowden\]](#)

Calusa Blueways Festival Events



Join in the Calusa Blueways Festival events (canoe/kayak instruction, evening socials, film festival & photo contest, live music, fishing tournament, races, group tours, club paddles and more. An armada of volunteers help put on this annual event enjoyed by locals & tourists alike. [\[How to Volunteer\]](#) [\[Festival Info\]](#) [\[Sign up today!\]](#) [\[Festival Web Site\]](#)

Mercury Problem in South FL



The SW FL Watershed Council met on Oct 25 at the Royal Palm Yacht Club. Dr. Darren Rumbold of FGCU spoke about the levels and impacts of mercury contamination in fish plus its linkages to the sulfur in water and soil. [\[Dr. Darren Rumbold Bio\]](#) [\[Details\]](#) [\[Presentation Summary\]](#)

A Negotiated Settlement



Views or opinions expressed in the web site & newsletter are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of "Riverwatch." Comments & questions about editorial content & facts can be directed to John Capece, CRCA Secretary and newsletter editor. [\[email to CRCA Secretary\]](#)

Florida Fish Advisories



After testing for Mercury, Florida advises eating no more than 1 meal per month of bass taken from the Caloosahatchee or Lake Okeechobee. But bass from Fisheating Creek area should not be eaten at all. Some other types of fish can be eaten weekly. [\[Eating Limits\]](#)