

# The Flow

October 2015 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Special Events & Meetings

- Oct 23-31: [Haunted Walk](#) at Nature Center
- Nov 2: [Terry Tempest Dialogue-Climate Change](#) at FGCU
- Nov 4: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Nov 4: [Vue Planning Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Nov 7: [Billy's Creek Clean Up](#) in Ft Myers
- Nov 13: [Climate Reality Viewing Party](#)

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[crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)  
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doinmytoons.blogspot.com Cathy Cochrane

*Matlacha & Pine Island face a range of threats on land and water.*

## Florida Bay Seagrass Dead



A slimy toxic algae bloom in FL Bay might be around the corner. A SFWMD scientist says levels of chlorophyll are starting to rise in shallow water where seagrass meadows died over the summer. The seagrass died in 1987 then algae blooms erupted five years later, devastating the Bay for many years. [\[Problem Area Map\]](#) [\[Miami Herald\]](#)

[\[Yellow Fog\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

## Save Downtown Boat Ramp



The City/County agreement protecting the Centennial Park Boat Ramp expired in 2014 and the ramp is now vulnerable to removal by the City of Ft. Myers. Riverwatch is contacting all boat owners in the area to enlist their help in telling the City officials that the people want to keep the boat ramp. [\[Situation Summary\]](#) [\[Boat Ramp Location\]](#)

## Politics and Water Quality



Governor Rick Scott's July public relations event on Pine Island touting our "pristine waterways" was yet another feeble attempt to convince the public that he and his policies are making Florida a better place to live. John Cassani editorializes on how the state's actions ignore state law. [\[The News Press\]](#)

## How Do You Spell That?



For years Watershed Council & Riverwatch director John Cassani has been sounding the alarm bell regarding nitrogen levels in the Caloosahatchee Estuary. Despite this, state agencies are doing everything they can to avoid truly addressing the issue. Cape Coral too is sticking its head in the muck. [\[Florida Weekly\]](#)

## Experts Agree with Riverwatch



For years Riverwatch has been advocating (and suing) to ensure that downtown Ft Myers waterfront remains open and accessible. In a symposium hosted by Ft Myers, professional planners voiced the same fundamental truth, "There's more success in that than in just having buildings on the waterfront." [\[News Press\]](#)

## Your Presence Requested



The Ft. Myers Planning Board will meet to discuss the Vue development project on Wed, Nov 4, 1pm at the Fort Myers City Hall. Please attend to help save our downtown Centennial Park. Let the City know that you don't want the downtown waterfront park lands diminished or overshadowed by a tower. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

## Filtration Sense



Oysters are more important than just a half-shell delight. They improve water clarity by filtering out impurities. A single adult oyster can filter 10 to 50 gallons a day. Historically, oysters were mainly known for their food value. Now researchers are looking at their many ecosystem services. [\[The News Press\]](#)

## Did You Say 2 BILLION?



Mosaic Fertilizer will pay about two billion dollars to settle an EPA lawsuit over improper hazardous waste management in FL & LA. That's a stack of money as high as some of Mosaic's radioactive phosphogypsum stacks that litter the Central Florida landscape. [\[Tampa Bay Times\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

## Save the Water Date



The 2016 Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference will be held at FGCU on Friday, Jan 15 with the theme "Here We Grow Again: The Future of Water Resources in Southwest Florida." Attendees include both professionals and students. Riverwatch has been a co-host of the conference since 2004. [\[Website\]](#)

## Water Rule Blocked Nationwide



A federal court ruled that Obama's regulation to protect small waterways from pollution cannot be enforced nationwide. The court in Cincinnati delivered a defeat to Obama's most ambitious effort to keep streams & wetlands clean. It said that the rule, dubbed Waters of the United States, is illegal. [\[The Hill\]](#)

## Environmental Breakfast 2015



CRCA directors and interns attended the Environmental Breakfast in Ft Myers on Oct 22. Wayne Daltry served as the event's master of ceremonies. Jason Lauritsen, Director of Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, was the guest speaker. He talked about Corkscrew and its conservation programs. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Photo 4\]](#)

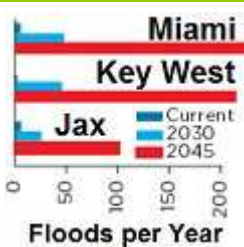
## Environmental Brainstorming



[\[Photo 2\]](#)

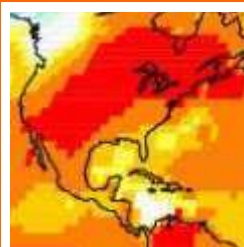
Reps from schools, parks & nonprofits shared strategies and solutions at the 2nd annual EE Alliance of SW FL Conf on Oct 2 in Naples. The event showed ways to connect with and engage the community in environmental education. CRCA Director Nargiza Abduvohidova and intern Carilyn Martin attended. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[CRCA BOD Nargiza\]](#)

## Nuisance to Maelstrom



Parts of Miami can flood even on a perfectly sunny day! Street flooding in Florida cities is expected to increase from their current couple of days a year to as much as 250 days per year...that's 2 out of every 3 days by 2045, making these downtown areas completely unlivable. [\[The Washington Post\]](#)

## Like a Broken Record



NASA global data analysis shows that September of this year was the hottest ever measured on earth. Like a broken record, this "fill in the month" news story of another broken temperature record repeats over and over again. And yes, Sep 2015 is no exception in that it was exceptionally hot. [\[Climate Progress\]](#)

## Be Aware of the Danger



Vibrio vulnificus, a flesh-eating bacteria, killed a Polk County man 3 days after he contracted it in Estero Bay. The man had a small cut on his leg where the bacteria had direct access. The State Dept of Health said the bacteria is always present in warm Florida waters and people should be cautious [\[NBC2 News\]](#)

## Oct 23 Red Tide



Oct 23 sampling results for red tide organism shows *Karenia brevis* are present in, along and offshore of eastern Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Gulf counties in NW FL and in, along and offshore of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte and northern Lee counties in SW FL. [\[Map\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[FWC\]](#)

## River Network Promotes Diversity



River Network promotes inclusiveness & diversity in environmental organizations. Like most, Riverwatch lacks sufficient diversity in its leadership. While 36% are women, others are absent: 0% Hispanic, 0% African American, and 0% under 30 years of age (5% under 40). Renewed outreach is required. [\[River Network Magazine\]](#) [\[Diversity Statistics\]](#)

## Vigilance Always Required



Water managers sent Lake O water to the EAA for irrigation but cut back flow to the estuary. This resulted in higher estuary salinity levels. Expressions of concern by west coast stakeholders on the weekly science call resulted in SFWMD and COE sending more water to the estuary the following week. [\[Conditions\]](#) [\[Salinity\]](#) [\[Lake O\]](#) [\[Website\]](#) [\[Estuary Flow\]](#)