

# The Flow

September 2012 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Special Events & Meetings

- Oct 3: [Panther Talk](#), dinner & meeting in LaBelle
- Oct 6: [LaBelle Nature Park Cleanup](#)
- Oct 9: [Water & Land Legacy Amendment Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Oct 14-20: [Ding Darling Days](#) in Sanibel
- Nov 11: [16th Annual River Ride](#) in Alva

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [cra.caloosahatchee.org](http://cra.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online



*Amy Bennett Williams with CRCA major donors John & Gillian Paul.*

## Panther Presentation



On Wednesday (Oct 3) at the Port LaBelle Inn, Riverwatch is sponsoring a presentation titled "Giving Panthers Room to Roam" by speakers Laurie Macdonald, Defenders of Wildlife, and Brad Cornell, Audubon. The panther talk begins at 7pm. You can come early at 6pm and join the group for dinner. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Port LaBelle Map\]](#)

## Stay & Socialize



After the Oct 3 Panther presentation, Riverwatch members and guests will socialize at the Port LaBelle Inn lounge. Set aside post-bar driving concerns by staying the night at the Inn for only \$65. Before the dinner, CRCA directors will meet at 5pm. A general business meeting will follow at 6:30pm. [\[Directions\]](#) [\[Port LaBelle Inn Web Site\]](#) [\[Sign\]](#)

## Dump or Store?



Having reached just over 15 feet, Lake O is at an ideal storage level for the coming dry season, unless of course another large storm hits, filling the lake much faster than water can be discharged down the Caloosahatchee. Water levels of 16 feet stress the dike integrity due to "piping." [\[Lake O Stage\]](#) [\[Sentinel\]](#) [\[Impacts\]](#) [\[Piping\]](#)

## Totally and Entirely Absent



Commenting on the Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan at the SFWMD board meeting, Lisa Interlandi, Executive Director of the Everglades Law Center, requested restoration of language about an initial water reservation and other essential elements of a comprehensive Caloosahatchee restoration plan. [\[Link to Video \(4:59:15 hrs\)\]](#)

## Signing a Success



Amy Bennett Williams spoke on Caloosahatchee history and Riverwatch's role in preserving that heritage. She concluded by reading a canoe journey essay. Afterward Amy signed copies of her book for many of the nearly 50 dinner meeting attendees. [\[Pic1 by C. Krieger\]](#) [\[Signing\]](#) [\[Audience pic by M. Fidler\]](#) [\[Photo History Book Purchase\]](#)

## Salinity See-Saw



TS Isaac's tidal surge combined with low salinity from basin runoff to create a wide swing in Estuary salinity at Shell Point (5 to 34 psu) as salt water moved into the estuary. But high freshwater flows averaging over 5000 cfs (well above the harm 2800 limit) pushed Estuary salinity too low. [\[Conditions\]](#) [\[SFWMD\]](#) [\[Shell Point\]](#) [\[Play Game\]](#)

## Defunding Attempt Thwarted



Ray Judah's seat is not even vacant yet, but winds of change are in the air. Commissioner Tammy Hall again sought to end Lee County's legal efforts to restore Ceitus Boat Lift. Her attempt failed, but may return once Ray is gone. Hall claims she wants to negotiate a solution with an obstinate Cape. **[Why Ceitus Matters] [Actions] [Salinity Consequences] [Cartoon]**

## Oxbows Thesis Published



The Master's degree thesis of Chloe Delhomme has been published by USF. Chloe completed her Caloosahatchee oxbows measurements during the summer of 2011 with help from the Intelligentsia International interns of Dr. John Capece in LaBelle. Her work followed from Riverwatch & SFWMD oxbows surveys. **[Title & Abstract] [Delhomme Thesis (90MB)]**

## Republican Environmental Platform



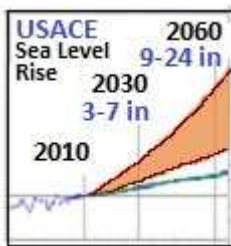
The Republican Party 2012 platform completely ignores the climate change issue, except to oppose any greenhouse gas regulations. In 2008, the GOP platform advocated responsible measures to address climate change. This year, it's gone. **[2012 GOP Environmental Platform] [Full GOP Platform] [2008 GOP Environmental Platform] [TakePart.com] [Forbes]**

## Democratic Environmental Platform



The 2012 Democratic Party Platform states they will work to ensure the integrity of the waters Americans rely on by supporting initiatives that restore our rivers, oceans, coasts, and watersheds, including the Florida Everglades. As always, Democrats are good with rhetoric but short on delivery. **[Democrats on Environment] [2012 Democratic Platform]**

## Bill 1 = \$206 Million



The first in what will be an endless series of Climate Change bills is coming due in Miami. Increased flooding due to Sea Level Rise is dictating that Miami Beach revamp its stormwater system. Costs will steadily grow from millions to billions as SLR comes to drive FL construction plans. **[Miami Herald] [SE FL Sea Level Rise]**

## Havens & Frazer on N&P



Environmental agencies have long sought to improve water quality of lakes & estuaries by reducing inputs of phosphorus. New research indicates that we must reduce both phosphorus & nitrogen to reverse eutrophication. Co-author Karl Havens is a UF-IFAS professor who was once a scientist at SFWMD. **[Details] [Website]**

## Like 20 Years of CO2



While scientists stare in shock and awe at this year's data on the Arctic's unprecedented ice melt, the BBC explains how the loss of the ice's reflectance is the equivalent of adding 20 more years of CO2 emissions to our atmosphere. And get a laugh (or cry) watching a Canadian weather-girl lose it. **[BBC Article] [Straight Dope] [Watch Weather-girl Goes Rouge]**

## CRCA Facebook



We are up to 92 likes. Please visit our Facebook page and like us today! Facebook with its easily-accessible style is ideal for posting your River photos and sharing with the community. Facebook complements the CRCA web site, designed to provide a more permanent record of issues and positions. **[CRCA Facebook]**

## The Water Games



According to John Cassani no other resource more importantly controls the economy and way of life in a state where water wars are far from fictional. The Earthjustice lawsuit sets the stage for this real-life struggle to control the most precious natural resource to Floridians, freshwater. **[Cassani Opinion] [Earthjustice Filing] [NewsPress]**

## Lake Posturing



SFWMD board members took positions on Lake O when discussing Lower West Coast Water Supply Plan. DeLisi said this was not the place to deal with Lake O, while Collins stated that the lake should be held at a higher level once the dike is repaired. **[Case for Low Lake] [Case for Higher Lake]**

## Service Learning Park Cleanup



Join us for the LaBelle Nature Park Cleanup on Saturday, Oct 6 from 8am to 1pm. Free lunch is provided. For FGCU students, the park day qualifies for up to 5 service learning hours. If you need help finding the place then call Margaret England at 863-517-0202 or email [margaret@caloosahatchee.org](mailto:margaret@caloosahatchee.org). **[Flyer]**

## Water & Land Legacy Amendment



Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign is in the thick of volunteer recruitment. Please consider helping the campaign by sending an email alert to your members, recruiting volunteers at meetings or by posting a campaign write-up in your outreach. **[Kickoff Meeting Announcement] [Details] [Publicity Toolkit] [Full Text]**