The Flow

September 2013 Newsletter John Capece, Editor

Special Events Meetings

- Sep 14: LaBelle **Nature Park Clean-up**
- Sep 21: 8th Annual **Hendry/Glades NAMC**
- Oct 9: Riverwatch **BOD Meeting**
- Nov 10: 17th Annual Caloosahatchee River Ride
- Nov 23: LaBelle **Nature Park Clean-up**

Editorial Disclaimer Visit the CRCA web site crca.caloosahatchee.org Join us at Facebook



Algae creates an environmental tragedy in Caloosahatchee & St. Lucie.

Nature Park Clean-up



On Saturday, Sep 14, join CRCA members and FGCU students for a LaBelle Nature Park clean-up and luncheon. We will be working to save the park by going after those persistent air potato plants that are smothering so many of SW Florida's natural lands. Come lend a hand! [Details] [Flyer]

Visioning Report Released



The Caloosahatchee River Visioning Process Stakeholder Assessment Findings Design Process Recommendations Final Report, prepared by the Consensus Building Institute has Consensus Building Institute been released by SFWMD. The extent to which the unbiased CBI group will continue with the process is unclear.

[Final Report] [More Information]

1 in 10 Gets Us 1 in 2



In a News Press letter, CRCA President Wayne Daltry says that the Caloosahatchee is violated 1 year in 2, not 1 in 10 and that 6 additional inches of lake discharge in the dry season provides room for an additional 200,000 acre feet storage in the wet season - more than the proposed C43 reservoir. [News Press]

Register Early for River Ride



On Sunday, Nov 10, join Riverwatch for the 17th Annual River Ride, the recreational bike ride around the Caloosahatchee organized annually by Keith Kibbey. Routes are 15, 30, 40, and 62 miles. Register in advance or the morning of the event at Caloosahatchee Regional [Registration Form] [Online] [Map]

20/20 Conservation Plan Cut



Lee commissioners decided to eliminate funding for Conservation 20/20. The land purchasing program was adopted in 1996 after a public referendum voted in favor of 0.5 mils tax for this purpose. But now, commissioners eliminated it without consulting voters. [News Press]

Get Canoe Contest Tickets Now



The Win-A-Canoe Contest is back again thanks to The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Get tickets online, at Estero Outfitters, or from CRCA directors. Also, Riverwatch can mail your gift of contest tickets and card to friends & family. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. This could be your lucky year. [Card Sample] [Email for Tickets] [Order Online] [Canoe Picture]

Like a Duck to Fresh Water



Freshwater, nutrients and duckweed just love each other. High watershed runoff has combined with Lake O releases to cause Cape Coral canals to experience extensive duckweed growth. Duckweed does not typically thrive in these canals since in normal years, salinity is higher. [News Press] [Duckweed Cartoon]

Ceitus Bombshell



A Freedom of Information Act disclosure reveals that both NOAA and Corps of Engineers recommended replacing the Ceitus Boat Lift and maintaining the Cape Coral Spreader Canal system. DEP never revealed this in the EMA process...again showing that

the Corps cares more about FL waters than does DEP.

[Freedom of Information Request]

Extension Service Cuts



Lee County residents are upset about the severe funding cuts to the budget for the UF-IFAS Cooperative Extension Service. This office handles local horticultural, environmental, and youth programs. Funding responsibility is traditionally shared by UF and each

county. [News Press Mailbag] [News Press] [Keep Extension]

Fertilizing During Summer



Cris Costello of the Sierra Club challenges a news story based on an IFAS/UF study of lawn fertilization. The report suggests it is OK to apply fertilizers in the summer months. It is Not! Cris argues that the information presented to the media was flawed, incomplete and filled with omissions. [Letter] [Journal Article]

From Shells to Slime



Whereas Florida tourism ads promoted walking along our shores to collect shells and other souvenirs, today's visitors can enjoy a whole new experience -collecting bottles of our river and estuary waters and marveling at all the brilliant colors. [Letter] [Algae in River] [My Florida Algae Collection]

Economic Costs of the Flows

4. Have you suffered a financial loss because of the water issue?

61% 69.79

Innkeepers are suffering due to the polluted waters flowing from Lake O. A survey shows that more than 30 lodging property owners estimate their losses at \$1,000 to \$5,000. This raises concerns heading into tourism's slowest month, September. [News Press]

Scott Avoids Muck Mob



Gov Scott visiting the St. Lucie River to view Lake O water releases made a quick get-away to avoid protestors demanding changes to Florida's water management system. Scott avoided direct communication with the protestors but did release statements. [WPTV 1] [WPTV 2]

SFWMD Surplus Lands



CRCA signed a letter to SFWMD regarding plans to sell off public lands along the Caloosahatchee. Such transfers would be premature prior to fully considering issues of flood control, sea level rise mitigation, buffers and water storage. [Letter]

Lake O No-Nos



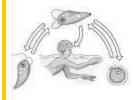
The problem of Lake O releases into the Caloosahatchee will not go away soon. Gov. Scott announced plans that the state will provide \$90 million for the Tamiami Bridge Project. However so much more needs to be done to allow sufficient flow to the Everglades. [News Press]

Bi-Coastal Rally



Hundreds of people from South Florida gathered near the U.S. Sugar Corp. refinery in Clewiston on September 1, to speak out about water pollution that's plagued the state this summer. Those attending were officials, environmentalists, businesses etc. [News Press]

Amoebae Live in Muck



The best way to prevent exposure to Naegleria is to avoid stirring up bottom sediments, as this is where the amoeba lives and feeds on bottom sediments composed of fallen leaves and dead plants. [Water Management Guide] [EASI News]

Sell It and Build



Governor Scott's DEP plans to sell off lands on Cayo Costa and is drawing wide criticism from Southwest Floridians. The lands targeted for surplusing are adjacent to existing homes and their sale would probably result in additional residential development on the sensitive island. [Buchanan Campaign] [Cayo Costa Cartoon]