

The Flow

September 2014 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Oct 1: [CRCA Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Oct 9: Clean Water Act [Webinar](#)
- Oct 10-31: Haunted Walk [at CNCP Ft Myers](#)
- Oct 23: [Park Girl Scout Event](#) in LaBelle
- Oct 27: [Water Dialogue](#) with students at FGCU
- Nov 9: [CRCA River Ride](#) in Alva

Editorial Disclaimer
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crca.caloosahatchee.org
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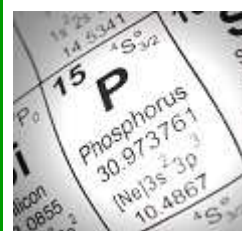
Cartoon (slightly altered) by Nate Beeler for *The Columbus Dispatch*.

Algae Creates Bird Brains



A type of algae that lives on hydrilla contains a neurotoxin that is making birds mentally sick. Hungry coots devour hydrilla then become clumsy and unable to fly. They are then easy prey for eagles that consume the toxin-laced coots and also become debilitated. Such toxins can also affect people. [\[Environmental Health News\]](#)

A \$10 Million Science Prize



On Sep 21 Everglades Foundation announced "The Grand Challenge," a \$10 million prize to anyone who can develop a cost-effective technology for removing and recycling phosphorus from our waterways with a method to recycle it for agricultural use. [\[Press Release\]](#) [\[The Grand Challenge Fact Sheet\]](#) [\[Facts About Phosphorus\]](#)

CRCA Meeting & Program



The Oct 1 Riverwatch meeting at Calusa Nature Center features Dave Ceiley of FGCU & Johnson Engineering who will talk at 7pm about restoring tape grass in the Caloosahatchee. Dave has provided technical assistance to CRCA since 1996 when he began doing biological assessments of the oxbows. [\[Article\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

Do Not Feed The Monster



The monster is a harmful algae bloom that is fed by excessive nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Overuse of these fertilizers threatens the health of the Peace, Imperial and Caloosahatchee rivers. Please learn how to fertilize smart. [\[Article\]](#) [\[Brochure\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Web Site\]](#)

Caloosahatchee River Ride 2014



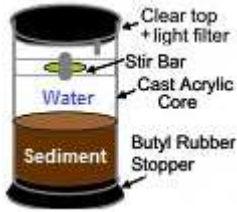
On Sunday, November 9, join Riverwatch for the 18th Annual River Ride, the recreational bike ride around the Caloosahatchee. Routes for 15, 30, 40, and 62 miles. Register in advance or on the morning of the event at Caloosahatchee Regional Park. [\[Register with Form\]](#) [\[Brochure\]](#) [\[Register Online\]](#) [\[Park Map\]](#)

North Spreader Salinity



As usual, the North Spreader is all fresh water during the rainy season. When the drought returns, without the Ceitus Barrier, it will convert to largely a salt water system. The lack of fresh water flows defeats the normal functions of an estuary. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Salinity Readings\]](#) [\[Graph\]](#)

River & Estuary Sediments



SFWMMD is analyzing Caloosahatchee bottom sediments. They are performing tests to estimate the rates at which nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus both accumulate on and release from the riverbed. Final reports are coming in July 2015. [\[Project Summary Report\]](#) [\[Diagram\]](#)

Capturing Highest of High Tides



The highest of the high tides will soak Florida Keys shorelines on Oct 8 and 9. The public is asked to document the event and send in photos. "The highest high tides of the year will be the average water levels of the future," says a statement from Monroe County's Sustainability program. [\[Keys Net\]](#) [\[Tide Tables\]](#) [\[Miami Climate March\]](#)

Utility vs. Industrial



Judge Donald Mason ruled electric power plants are industrial, not utilities land use. Hendry County thus incorrectly approved zoning for an FPL power plant on the north edge of the Seminole Reservation in southern Hendry County. [\[Court Ruling\]](#) [\[Ruling Notes\]](#) [\[WGPU Report\]](#) [\[About Judge Mason\]](#)

Caloosahatchee (Sep 16-22)



Flows to the estuary at S79 averaged 2,221 cfs over the past week with 98% of flow originating from the watershed. The salinity at Iona this week continues to be below the optimal range for oysters. [\[SCCF Caloosahatchee Condition Report\]](#) [\[Graphic\]](#) [\[SCCF Web Site\]](#)

ASR Regional Study



Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is proposed as the largest volume component of new water storage in CERP. It may include 333 5-MGD wells to store 1.6 BGD formerly lost to tide and also store water for long periods (years) to provide drought relief. Studies continue to see if it will work. [\[Presentation\]](#)

Dirty Water Politics



A proposed rule that would clarify what bodies of water fall under federal regulation has created a political firestorm in Florida, pitting environmental groups against a powerful coalition of big business, big agriculture & conservative politicians. 12 FL Republican Congressmen are co-sponsors. [\[Ocala\]](#)

Good Conversations



Engineering and environmental sciences students met with CRCA directors Mary Rawl, John Capece, Nargiza Abduvohidova and Ross Wherry at an FGCU event on Sep 11 to discuss service learning and internships as well as the AWRA conference. [\[Event Photo\]](#)

Lake O BMAP Draft



The draft Lake O Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) is available for review. Public comment period runs through Oct 3, submitted to Katie.Hallas@dep.state.fl.us & Yesenia.Escribano@dep.state.fl.us. [\[Announcement\]](#) [\[Draft Lake O BMAP\]](#) [\[Land Use Map\]](#) [\[Participation Map\]](#)

Sugar Hill



U.S. Sugar & Hilliard Brothers have created a development plan for 67sq miles west of Clewiston. Some say approving the "sector plan" would hinder land purchases for a southern flowway out of Lake O. Much of the land drains to the Caloosahatchee. A Sierra Club press conference in Ft. Myers is Oct 1. [\[Myth vs Fact\]](#) [\[Miami Herald\]](#) [\[Oct 1 Press Conf\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[WGPU\]](#)

Turner Defends Plans



Hendry Commissioner Karson Turner replied to a stand taken by the Sierra Club about the U.S. Sugar & Hilliard Brothers plan to change zoning in a large portion of eastern Hendry County. Turner stated that he disagrees with the Sierra Club's remarks. [\[Turner Letter\]](#) [\[The Sierra Club Remarks\]](#)

Marshall Foundation Input



John Marshall has weighed in, providing comments to the UF Water Institute that has begun work on a scientific review of the various options for moving more wet-season water south from Lake Okechobee rather than dumping it to the estuaries. Marshall advocates considering ecosystems services values. [\[JAM Message to UF\]](#)

Moving Water South Study



UF Water Institute Director, Dr. Wendy Graham has assembled a group of eminent scholars to review the options for moving water south from Lake Okechobee to the Everglades. In the group are Drs. R Reddy, K Havens, T Frazer, MJ Angelo, & P Frederick. [\[Scope of Work\]](#)

See CRCA web page for more details on each of the newsletter articles <http://crca.caloosahatchee.org/>

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