

The Flow

September 2015 Newsletter
John Capece, Editor

Special Events & Meetings

- Oct 7: [CRCA Board Meeting](#) in Ft. Myers
- Oct 19: [CRCA Fundraiser](#) on WGPU
- Oct 22: [Environmental Breakfast](#) in Ft. Myers
- Oct 23: [CHNEP Environmental Ed Workshop](#) in Venus
- Oct 27-28 : [Fracking Summit](#) in Ft. Myers

Editorial Disclaimer
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crca.caloosahatchee.org
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Phil Schwartz introduces IREX Fellow Carilyn Martin to Caloosahatchee

Watershed Council



The Council meets 3pm on Oct 14 in FGCU Cohen Center Room 162. Dr. Gregg Poulakis of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will speak about smalltooth sawfish research in Caloosahatchee Estuary and Greater Charlotte Harbor System. Catch the latest research on this endangered specie. [\[Photo\]](#) [\[SWFWC\]](#)

Water Quality Warning



On Sep 25 water tests at Caloosahatchee North Shore Park of N Ft Myers showed high bacteria levels. The public was advised not to come in contact with the water. Such warnings, once infrequent, are now a regular occurrence. Officials assume that public apathy will allow their continued inaction. [\[Daily Breeze\]](#) [\[NBC 2\]](#)

Caloosahatchee Sep 22-28



From Sep 21 to 28 flow at S-79 to the estuary averaged 2,600 cfs. This is down from 5000 cfs the previous week and pushed salinity out of the oyster mortality range. Still there's no discharges from Lake O with all the water coming from watershed runoff west of S-77. [\[SCCF Caloosahatchee Conditions\]](#) [\[Salinity\]](#) [\[Lake O\]](#) [\[SCCF Website\]](#)

Riverwatch on WGPU-FM



On Monday, Oct 19 at 1pm, Riverwatch President John Paul and Riverwatch Director Ray Judah will be on the radio live at WGPU to help with a pledge drive. Each \$35 you donate provides Riverwatch with a future public information announcement (spot) on WGPU. 2 for \$70, 3 for \$105, 4 for \$140, etc. [\[WGPU Donation Link \(select Riverwatch\)\]](#)

All Hands On Deck!



The Ft Myers Planning Board meets on Wed, Oct 7 at 1pm to potentially allow grossly improper waterfront development next to Centennial Park on the former Vue property. The project is too big, on too small a piece of land in the wrong place. Please plan to attend this meeting to express opposition. [\[Details\]](#)

Cold Front Blows Through SFWMD



An early cold front blew through SFWMD from the direction of Tallahassee causing Executive Director Blake Guillory and Chief of Staff Dan DeLisi to resign. In July they advised the Governing Board to not cut taxes this year so as to preserve \$21 million for environmental projects. [\[Guillory\]](#) [\[DeLisi\]](#) [\[Sunshine State News\]](#)

Invasive Species Clean Up



CRCA director Marti Daltry joined the invasive species clean up at Labelle Nature Park on Sep 5. *Dioscorea bulbifera*, known as air potato vine, is a non-native plant spread without human intervention. Natural area managers constantly remove invasive plants to maintain our natural public lands. [\[Photo\]](#)

Honk for Clean Water



Each day, for one straight month, SWFL CLEAN WATER MOVEMENT members are standing atop the Fort Myers Beach Bridge to raise community awareness and demand action against harmful flows from Lake O. This despite the fact that this summer's flows have almost all come from the Caloosahatchee watershed. [\[Letter\]](#) [\[Signs\]](#) [\[FOX 4\]](#)

C-44 Assuage Lake O



The Corps of Engineers awarded a Montana company the contract to build the C-44 reservoir. The project intends to reduce fertilizer laden Lake O & urban runoff into the St Lucie Estuary. It will cut excess N&P and moderate salinity levels in the St Lucie Estuary & southern Indian River. [\[Corps\]](#) [\[FL Daily\]](#) [\[Factsheet\]](#)

FWC Wordplay



Florida Fish & Wildlife Consumption Commission has decided to focus on manufacturing conflict between humans and panthers south of the Caloosahatchee River rather than establishing new panther population. That's agency speak for halting the addition of habitat & conservation easements. [\[Naples News\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#)

Ceitus Litigation Continues



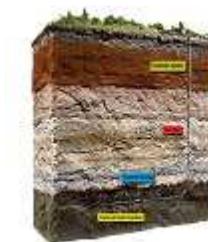
Judge Alane Laboda is adjudicating the litigation involving Riverwatch, CLT, GPIC, RGMC, SCCF and SWF Watershed Council vs City of Cape Coral to restore Ceitus Barrier. Mediation with all parties was conducted Sep 10 but it did not result in an agreement amidst damages in the coastal ecosystems. [\[Phil Buchanan Update\]](#) [\[Court\]](#) [\[Judge Alane Laboda\]](#)

Ceitus Assessment Report



A 736-page Full Report on the NW Cape Coral/Lee County Watershed Initiative Phase 1 strongly supports restoration of Ceitus Barrier. The report was commissioned as a way of deciding the Ceitus issue and everybody promised to follow the science. The report is now done, so what's next? [\[Lee County\]](#) [\[Exec Summary\]](#) [\[Summary Report\]](#)

First Fracking Summit



Florida's first Fracking Summit is Oct 27-28 in Ft Myers. Experts will address the potential risks to air, land, water, and human health and what can be done to stop unconventional oil drilling, including the secret fracking formulas allowed in Florida sans regulatory oversight. Register early! [\[Program\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Ray Judah Editorial\]](#)

CRCA Secretary at Rotary



Dr. John Capece, CRCA Secretary, was invited by Riverwatch Director & Rotarian Mel Karau to speak at the Rotary Club of LaBelle on Sep 8. John described CRCA activities in LaBelle Nature Park and Intelligentsia International programs. [\[Presenting\]](#) [\[John Capece, Carilyn Martin, & Michael Jordan\]](#)

CRCA Sep 2 Meeting



CRCA BOD Meeting on Sep 2 tackled the tapegrass restoration, Ceitus litigation, Vue update, Watershed Council sign on letter, City boat ramp update, Waterkeeper Alliance application and public affairs protocol. Monofilament Madness and Billy's Creek clean-up will be held Nov 7. [\[Agenda\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#)

[\[Photo 2\]](#)

Zombie Boat End



Zombie boats in Cape Coral are gathering mold and grime. Some zombie boats leak oil and sludge and are becoming eyesores to the residents. In cases where the landlords fail to respond to an ultimatum, the government will either fine the owner or move the boat and fine the owners later. [\[NBC2 News\]](#) [\[Cartoon\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

River Orientation



Riverwatch Director Phil Schwartz gave a river & oxbows orientation tour to IREX Fellow Carilyn Martin and others on Sep 26. Carilyn is helping with the Riverwatch website. This was her first on-water experience with our river. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Photo 3\]](#) [\[Photo 4\]](#)

Phil Schwartz Joins Board



At the Sep 2 meeting in LaBelle, Alva resident and river enthusiast Phil Schwartz was elected to fill the one remaining vacancy on the CRCA Board of Directors. Phil brings more experience, ideas and energy to the board. Welcome, Phil! [\[Phil Schwartz\]](#)