

RIVERWATCH NEWSLETTER

Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (CRCA)

CRCA Info-line 433-4636 (x2722)

April, 1996

Editors: John Capece & Oleg Kisselev

COMMUNITY FORUM PREVIEW EDITION

Caloosahatchee River Community Forum

Saturday, April 20

**If you care about the river,
please come!
Everyone is welcome!**

EXHIBITS START AT NOON!

You are invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Caloosahatchee River Community Forum on April 20 at the spacious Barbara B. Mann Center on the Edison Community College campus. The event is free and open to public. A great program is guaranteed! The forum will discuss a wide variety of issues associated with the Caloosahatchee River and its neighborhoods. You will be able to view numerous displays as you enjoy refreshments in the Barbara B. Mann foyer. Among the exhibitors will be scientists, governmental agencies, motivated citizens, and bright young students. The inclusion of student science fair projects to the program is sure to add energy and ideas to the meeting. For information see inside, or call CRCA Info-line:

433-4636 (x2722)

CRCA'S FORUM-TO-FORUM
ACHIEVEMENTS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

CRCA PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY

FLORIDA YARDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS

CITIZENS GUIDE TO ESTUARY
PROTECTION

MANATEES CRISIS

CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER OXBOWS

CALOOSAHATCHEE ESTUARY PROGRAM

BOATERS AND THE RIVER

**CALOOSAHATCHEE
RIVER**
Citizens Association

Second Annual Caloosahatchee River Community Forum

<u>TIME</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Noon	Exhibits Hall Presentations	
1:00	Welcome & Overview of CRCA	<i>Jim Haggart</i>
1:10	Reports:	
	Technical Committee	<i>John Capece</i>
	Projects & Events Committee	<i>Rae Ann Scholle</i> <i>Pamela Bowman</i> <i>Laura Church</i>
1:20	YOU can help the Caloosahatchee River	<i>Laura Church</i>
1:30	Questions & Answers	
1:40	Break	
	<i>Concurrent Sessions</i>	<i>Various Presenters</i>
2:00	Session 1	
2:50	Session 2	
	<i>Topics:</i>	
	<i>Wildlife Resources in the Caloosahatchee River Basin</i>	
	<i>Water Quality Monitoring in the Caloosahatchee Watershed</i>	
	<i>Florida Yards and Neighborhoods / Keep it Clean</i>	
	<i>Manatees and Seagrasses</i>	
	<i>Preservation of the River Oxbows</i>	
	<i>The Caloosahatchee Estuary Watershed Program by the SFWMD</i>	
	<i>Boaters Issues</i>	
3:40	Overview of CRCA Goals & Objectives	<i>Bill Hammond</i>
3:55	Conclusion	<i>Jim Haggart</i>
4:00	Departure	

T-Shirts Available!

Great T-shirts with the Caloosahatchee Riverwatch logo will be available at the forum.

All sizes! Don't miss your chance! For

information call

Laura Church at:

941-772-2072

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers needed to unload 30 tables from the truck at 9:00am, and then load them back on the truck at 4:00pm on the day of the forum.

The tables will bear the displays. Any help is greatly appreciated. To volunteer contact

Don Skiba at:

941-995-8075

Caloosahatchee River Community Forum

Saturday, April 20, Noon - 4pm

If you are concerned about the Caloosahatchee River or just curious,
If you want to meet interesting people and share your ideas,
If you want to have a great Saturday afternoon, then

YOU ARE INVITED!

Location: Barbara B. Mann Center, Edison Community College

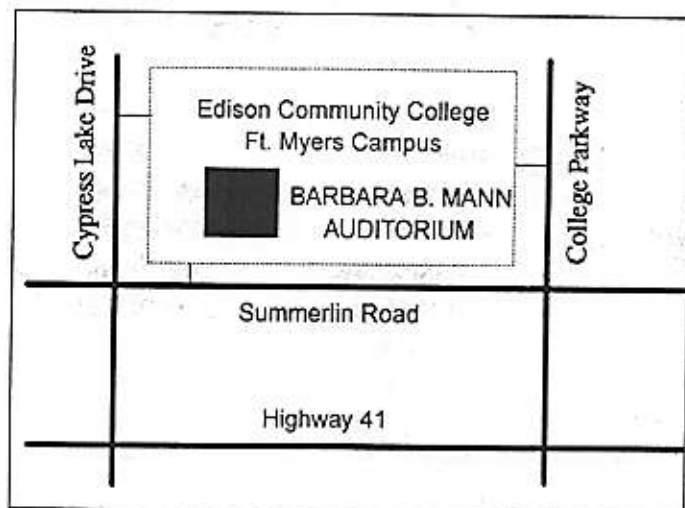
Time: The doors open at 12:00 for you to tour the exhibit hall. Formal presentations start at 1:00pm. The event ends at 4:00pm.

Cost: FREE! Refreshments provided!

GREAT PROGRAM GUARANTEED!

For Information
please call CRCA hot line:
433-4636 (x2722)

Sponsored by Caloosahatchee River
Citizens Association with assistance from
the University of Florida and News-Press



**CALOOSAHATCHEE
RIVER**
Citizens Association

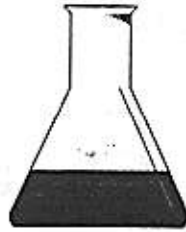
NEWS-PRESS



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Please Post This Notice In A Public Place For All to See

Water Quality



A four year study (1992-95) examining water quality in the Caloosahatchee River was conducted by Lee County Hyacinth Control District. Mr. John Cassani, the Resource Manager of the District, will give some insight on interpretation of the results of the study, as well as familiarize you with vocabulary and terms used in water quality analysis. Co-presenting at the session will be Mr. Keith Kibbey, Lee County Environmental Laboratory Director. He will conduct a discussion of Lee County's watershed monitoring program and how it relates to the Caloosahatchee. Dr. John Capece will provide a table top exhibit to demonstrate basic water quality testing. CRCA members Harry Green, Jerry Swallow, Peggy Hellenbach, and others will staff the tables and perform the analysis beginning at noon.

SFWMD Presentation



Five top scientists and officials from the South Florida Water Management District will describe their new Caloosahatchee River and Estuary programs. This panel discussion will include:

- I. Estuary Program Objectives
- II. Background
- III. Technical Approach
 - A. Assessment of resources
 1. Land Management
 2. Flow Budget
 3. Estuary (Pollution Load Reduction Goal Research)
 - B. Monitoring Program

C. Flow Models

1. Watershed
2. Estuary

IV. Coordination of the Program

V. The Evolving Caloosahatchee Watershed Plan

Panel members consist of Mr. Bill Hammond, Mr. Dan Haunert, Dr. Nick Aumen, Dr. Eric Flaig, and Dr. Ken Konyha.

Oxbows Preservation Project

Rae Ann Scholle, an aquatic biologist and President of environmental consulting firm, Ecosystem Specialists, Inc., and Dr. John Capece, UF assistant professor responsible for Southwest Florida water quality programs (CRCA Technical Committee Co-Chairs) will present results of a survey of 35 oxbows located between Franklin Lock and LaBelle. The study was undertaken to assess the health of each oxbow and identify candidates for a potential restoration project. Caloosahatchee oxbows are all that remain of the old river when it was channelized. The oxbows provide shelter for a variety of wildlife and are also favorite spots for homeowners and fishermen.

Wildlife



in Caloosahatchee Basin

Kim Dryden, a biologist with the Office of Environmental Services of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, will present a program covering wildlife species that utilize the Caloosahatchee River area (watershed) with the emphasis on the following species and their habitats: bald eagle, Florida scrub jay, Audubon's caracara, snail kite, sandhill crane, gopher tortoise, American alligator, gopher frog, Florida panther, Florida black bear, listed small mammals, shorebirds and wading birds. In addition to that, Ms. Dryden will talk about the river's function in the regional landscape as riparian habitat and a wildlife corridor.

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods



This program is a public education and participation program that was started as an effort to restore our bays and estuaries. The program encourages individuals to change their landscapes to become more environmentally friendly. Paul Hinchcliff, a University of Florida Aquatic Science Agent for the Charlotte County Florida Cooperative Extension Service will introduce you to the program and talk about how you can be a part of it. Carla Kappmeyer, Environmental Specialist at the Southwest Florida Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves, will be the co-presenter at this session. Her portion of the presentation is: KEEP IT CLEAN - A Citizen's Guide To Protecting Our Estuary.



Science Fair Exhibits

Students of the Caloosahatchee River area are taking an active part in the public forum. More than 20 students from LaBelle, Fort Myers and other adjacent areas will have their science fair exhibits at the forum. The Technical Committee toured the regional science fair and selected the students whose projects focused on the Caloosahatchee River and related topics. These students are special. All are winners of outstanding science project awards. Come and see for yourself what local young bright students have to show you.



Caloosahatchee Fossils

The remains of animals going from 5 million to 10 thousand years ago will be displayed by Scott Perry, an amateur fossil hunter

from LaBelle. Scott has been fossiling in the Caloosahatchee since he was 8 years old. Most pieces of his spectacular collection belong to the Plio-Pleistocene Period. Being a youth counselor, Scott has taken many local kids on fossil expeditions as part of his Teen Leadership Challenge Activities and he has donated a number of exhibits from his collection to local schools. Don't miss your opportunity to see his display!

DISPLAYS

Starting at noon you can enjoy a great variety of display dedicated to the Caloosahatchee river and its habitat. Among the displayers are: Marine Habitat Foundation, Lee County Parks and Recreation, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Gulf Citrus, Growers Association, South Florida Water Management District, Southwest Florida Aquatic and State Preserve, The University of Florida, Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium and many others.



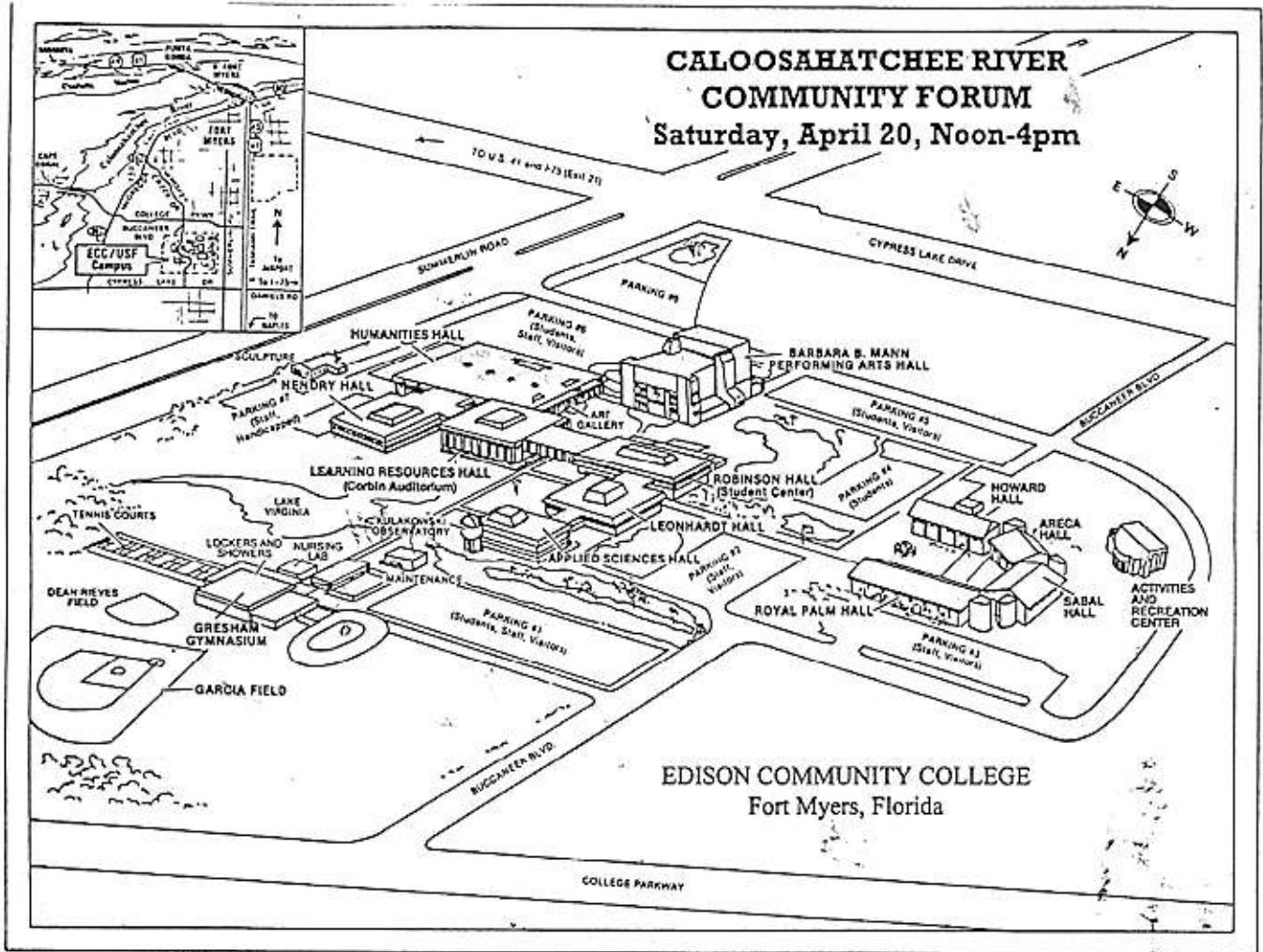
Ancient Indian Canals

Ryan Wheeler, University of Florida graduate student, traced the history of the Ortona Canals, as seen through the eyes of early explorers, engineers, map makers, and archaeologists who visited the site and the surrounding Everglades/Lake Okeechobee basin region. The Ortona Canals, fed by feeder streams, connect Lake Flirt and the Caloosahatchee River. Stop by the display as Ryan will tell you fascinating stories on the history of the Ortona Canals and the relationship of the canals with the natural and aboriginal landscape.

Water Testing Demonstrations at the Forum!

Bring your water samples!

Arrive at noon!



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 P.O. Drawer 5127
 Immokalee, FL 33934

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This edition of the CRCA newsletter was produced and distributed by the University of Florida's Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee as an educational service to the community.

