

RIVERWATCH

Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association

CRCA Info-Line 433-4636 (x2722)

November, 1997

Community Forum Set For November 22nd

The Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association will present the third annual Community Forum at the Hall of Fifty States in downtown Fort Myers from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22nd.

The program, hosted by RiverWatch and the University of Florida, will feature the first public viewing of WGCUTV's documentary about the Caloosahatchee River and a panel discussion about issues affecting the river and the region through which it travels.

The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Win Everham of Florida Gulf Coast University. Panelists will include Dr. Rob Loflin from the City of Sanibel, Lee County Commissioner Ray Judah, RiverWatch President Rae Ann Scholle, Executive Vice President/General Manager Ron Hamel of the Gulf Coast Citrus Growers Association, educator "River Rat" Charles Foster, Executive Director Ken Stead of the Southwest Marine Trades Association, Kim Dryden of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Area Manager Steve Lang of the Olga Water Treatment Plant, Lee County School Teacher Rick Tully, Dr. John Capece of the University of Florida, Dick Dawdy of the South Florida Water Management District Dave Westra of Lehr's Economy Tackle and Dr. Fran Stallings of the Save the Manatee Club.

Many river-related organizations and agencies will have displays and exhibits at the event, including the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, the Gulf Coast Citrus Growers Association, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the University of Florida, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and RiverWatch. Of particular interest will be the Florida Marine Research Institute's Manatee Rescue Boat and associated equipment used to rescue injured manatees. This display will be set up in the public parking lot next to the Hall of Fifty States.

As with previous Forums, participants will be able to bring water samples for analysis by technicians from the University of Florida.

The Community Forum is free of charge to the public. We thank the Audubon Society of Southwest Florida, the Calusa Dive Club and Mr. Charles Foster for their support. Special thanks go to our Sponsors: the Gulf Coast Citrus Growers Association and the Responsible Growth Management Coalition. For more information, contact Forum Chairman John Cassani at 694-5598.

Third Annual Caloosahatchee River Community Forum Agenda

1:00 p.m.	Exhibit Presentations
1:30 p.m.	Welcome..... Rae Ann Scholle
1:45 p.m.	WGCUTV Documentary on the Caloosahatchee River..... Cleo Garcia
2:15 p.m.	Panel Introductions..... Win Everham
2:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion
3:15 p.m.	Audience Questions/Discussion
3:30 p.m.	Conclusions..... Rae Ann Scholle

Location Map



Caloosahatchee Ecoscape Project

Peggy Hellenbach

The Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) program is reviewing projects for ranking on the 1998 CARL Priority Land Acquisition List. The CARL program was established by the Florida legislature to appropriate land for conservation, protection, and conservation-compatible recreation. One of the projects under review for the 1998 Priority List is the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project. The Caloosahatchee Ecoscape project was submitted as a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and an independent consultant.

This project encompasses approximately 13,220 acres with a variety of habitats and communities in north-central Hendry County and south-central Glades County. Ecoscape is about four miles east of LaBelle and abuts the south bank of the Caloosahatchee River, spans Highway 80, and continues south to within two miles of the Okaloacoochee Slough, a "Save Our Rivers project." The Ecoscape project represents one of the last significant undeveloped areas between Fisheating Creek in Glades County and the Okaloacoochee Slough in central Hendry County.

The Caloosahatchee Ecoscape area represents a large, generally intact mosaic of cypress-dominated strand swamps and good to fair quality prairie hammocks, wet prairies, floodplain marsh, depression marshes, scrub flatwoods, pine flatwoods, and wet pine flatwoods. Although modified by canals and agriculture, the Ecoscape area includes important habitat for the Florida panther, scrub jays, wading birds and prairie birds like the crested caracara. The Ecoscape area is of significant ecological and habitat value. In addition, acquisition and appropriate management of the area will result in water quality improvements in the Caloosahatchee River, a drinking water source in Southwest Florida. The potential recreational use of the area will provide education opportunities that are crucial in creating an appreciation of the Caloosahatchee River, one of Florida's unique and diverse natural resources.

The Ecoscape proposal includes management under a multiple-use concept. The area will be managed to preserve and restore the pine flatwoods and wetlands to provide a refuge for threatened animals like the Florida panther, sandhill crane, wood stork, and crested caracara; protect habitat for game species like white-tailed deer and turkey; and provide the public with a large area for natural resource-based recreation.

Caloosahatchee Ecoscape has gone through the first two phases of review by the CARL Advisory Council, the project assessment phase and the project design phase. The third phase will be the ranking of

the project on the CARL Priority List during the December 5, 1997 Advisory Council meeting. Projects receive funding in the order in which they are ranked. To voice your support for this project, plan to attend the public hearings that will be held:

November 18, 1997
7:00 p.m.

Manatee Convention Center
1 Haben Boulevard
Palmetto, FL 34221

November 19, 1997
7:00 p.m.

City of South Miami
Com. Chambers
6130 Sunset Drive
South Miami, FL 33143

Or, write letters of support to the Land Acquisition Advisory Council Members:

Mr. James F. Murley, Secretary
Department of Community Affairs
Sadowski Building, First Floor
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Ms. Virginia B. Wetherell, Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 1041A
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 10
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Mr. Kirby B. Green, III, Deputy Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 1009A
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 15
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Mr. Earl Peterson, Director, Division of Forestry
Ms. Terry L. Rhodes, Deputy Com., Designee
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
The Capitol, PL 10
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0810

Dr. Allan L. Egbert, Executive Director
Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Farris Bryant Building, Room 101
620 South Meridian
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Mr. George Percy, Director
Division of Historical Resources, Department of State
R.A. Gray Building, Room 305
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Acquisition of the Caloosahatchee Ecoscape tract will significantly enhance conservation and recreational opportunities in this rapidly growing region. YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT!

WAIVER

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

I voluntarily request permission to participate in the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association River Ride bicycle event. I certify that my level of physical conditioning is appropriate to complete the event and that there are no known medical reasons why I should not participate. I understand that it is mandatory that I wear a bicycle helmet during the ride. I understand there are risks inherent in my participation in this event and that injuries including, but not limited to, abrasions, broken bones, quadriceps and even death do occasionally occur in events of this type. I recognize that it is my responsibility to follow the rules and instructions set forth by the organizers and officials of the event and that not doing so may increase the chance of injury occurring.

In consideration of permission to participate in this bicycle ride, I for my heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives and assigns do hereby discharge, release and hold harmless the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association from all liabilities arising out of or connected in any way with my participation or that of a family member in this event.

In addition, I the undersigned parent and/or guardian, hereby give authorization to the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association or any medical health care facility to treat my minor child, _____ as needed for any injury or illness occurring to said minor child. Further, under penalty of perjury, I certify that I am the father/mother/guardian of the above named minor.*

Signature *(If under 18 parent/guardian must sign)

Date



CRCA Riverwatch
P.O. Box 1165
Fort Myers, Florida 33902

The Caloosahatchee River
Citizens Association

presents the

1997 First Annual

Caloosahatchee River Ride



Sunday November 16, 1997

8:00 A.M.

Fort Myers, Florida

Join us for Caloosahatchee River Ride

An Invitation

Join members of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (Rivervatch) on their first annual bicycle ride along the Caloosahatchee River, Sunday, November 16, 1997. This event is designed to allow participants to enjoy the Caloosahatchee's watershed and scenic beauty. The ride begins at the Lee County Sheriff's Posse on Palm Creek Rd. off Bayshore Road near SR 31, and follows back roads to LaBelle, and back.

What is the CRCA

The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the River and its watershed, through education and promotion of the responsible use and enjoyment for all of the people.

Distance Options

There will be a 15, 28 and 62 mile option. This will allow cyclists of all levels to enjoy the ride.

The Course

The course is flat with scenic views of the river at the Franklin Locks, Fort Denard Bridge and in LaBelle. Rest stops will be provided along the way stocked with drinks and refreshments.

Support

The course will have a support vehicle to assist with mechanical problems.

Registration

All registrations received by Friday, October 31, are guaranteed an event T-shirt. Please appreciate that providing adequate food and refreshment for the event is difficult. Pre registration is preferred.

Cost

\$10 for CRCA members, and \$15 for non-members. This fee includes maps, rest stop food and refreshments, and support vehicles. It also includes an event T-shirt if received by October 31. A \$5.00 late fee will be added for all registrations received after that date.

The Start

The ride starts from 8:00 to 8:30 A.M. at the Lee County Sheriff's Posse Ranch on Palm Creek Rd. off Bayshore Road just West of the Lee County Civic Center.

Helmets and Safety

This is not a race. All traffic laws must be obeyed. An ANSI approved helmet must be worn while riding. Headphones are not only illegal, but extremely dangerous.

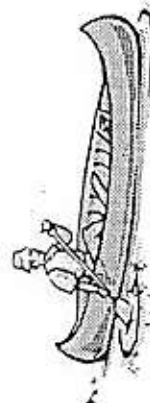
Information

For more information, please call 941-433-4636 Extension #2722 and the event chairman will contact you.

This event is being held in concert with the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association annual public forum to be held Saturday November 22, 1997 at the Hall of Fifty States, Downtown Fort Myers.

The Goals and objectives of Rivervatch are:

- To strive to improve the River from its source to its mouth, including its impacts on riparian and estuarine systems, wildlife habitat, and marine life
- To promote public education concerning the historical significance, present condition, and future of the River and its watershed
- To increase public awareness of the importance of the River to our quality of life.
- To study the effect of domestic, commercial, and agricultural uses of the River's resources
- To monitor and work to improve the River's water quality, quantity, and flow characteristics.
- To observe and participate in the activities of public bodies responsible for the management of the River and its watershed.



Registration Form

One person per form.
Please print legibly or use address label.
Photocopy as needed, trim to size.
(If photocopied please copy waiver on reverse)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

Emergency Contact _____

Ride _____ 15 mi. _____ 28 mi. _____ 62 mi.

T-Shirt Size _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL

CRCA Members \$10.00

Non-members \$15.00

Late Fee (After 10-31) \$5.00

CRCA Individual Membership \$10.00

Total _____

Make checks payable to: CRCA

MAIL FORM AND CHECK TO:

CRCA Rivervatch

P.O. Box 1165

Fort Myers, FL 33902

ROLLING



FOR THE RIVER



Skate-a-thon
Hosted by Division 19 of the
Florida District of Key Club International

Monday Night, November 24th, 1997

Raymond's Rollerland, Tice, FL

(I-75 exit 25 West, Palm Beach Blvd. aka Hwy 80. Next to Sonny's BBQ.)

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Come help us raise funds for the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association. We have created a divisional partnership with them in their efforts to protect the river which offers so much to us—recreation, economy, and natural beauty. Let's join them in their River Watch. Cost of admission is \$5.00. Anyone is welcome!! Collect pledges and turn them in at the event. Any person earning \$15 or more in pledges enters free!!! Fun and games for everyone!! Highest pledge-earners will be declared the King and Queen of the river. Come out-have a blast-and make a difference!!

Skater's Name: _____

Pledged by/Donated by:	Pledge per hour	Total (2 hours)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Need more room?? Use the back!!!!

All money must be turned in on the night of the event.

Total: _____

Direct Questions to Lt. Governor Andy Howard, P.O. Box 2767, LaBelle, FL 33975 (941) 675-9376
Make any checks payable to LaBelle High School. Good Luck and Good Times!!

The First Divisional Project of the Division 19 of the Florida District in Key Club International was a success!! Via TEE FOR IDD, our golf tournament held at the wonderful Olde Hickory Golf and Country Club saved over 50,000 young lives from the threat of Iodine Deficiency Disorders. To the many who put in much time and effort, much thanks is rewarded to you. You are wonderful. So now the question is, "What is the Key Club going to do next?"

Rolling For the River is the answer. We are going to have a skate-a-thon on Monday, November 24th from 6:00-8:00 at Raymond's Rollerland in Tice. The cost of admission is \$5.00. Those participating are asked to collect pledges and/or donations. Any participant who brings over \$15.00 in collections will be admitted at no additional cost. Please try to collect some pledges. The money is due at the event. We will be skating for 2 hours—if you need it for the math.

The profits collected will be turned over to the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association. This is an organization in our area who's objects are: (1) to strive to improve the River from its source to its mouth, including its impacts on riparian and estuarine systems, wildlife habitat, and marine life. (2) to promote public education concerning the historical significance, present condition, and future of the River and its watershed. (3) to increase public awareness of the importance of the River to our

ROLLING FOR THE RIVER

quality of life. (4) to study the effect of domestic, commercial, and agricultural uses of the River's resources. (5) to monitor and work to improve the River's water quality, quantity, and flow characteristics. (6) and to observe and participate in the activities of public bodies responsible for the management of the River and its watershed.

Sounds good to me!! The cause is great and we are really going to have a blast with this thing if you help me talk it up big!!! I mean BIG!!! I haven't been skating in a long LONG time, so at least come to watch me fall around!! GOOD CLEAN FUN FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS. We are promoting many things here—one of which is an alternative to the many negative things that go on in our area due to lack of positive choices. Here is a healthy choice and a chance to make a difference. Be a concerned citizen and help us out. Here are two great organizations—two heads with some common goals!

Key Club In Brief— Who we are and what we do...

Key Club is has become the largest High School organization in Florida, the United States, and the world. Sponsored and founded by the Kiwanis—Key Club stands alone in its dedication and commitment to youth leadership in the betterment of our homes, schools, and communities. Our area's charter clubs are organized into Division 19 of the Florida District of Key Club International. These schools presently include: Cape Coral, Bishop Verot, Academy, Cypress Lake, Estero, LaBelle, Lehigh, Riverdale, Mariner, and North Fort Myers and are chartered into the high schools by a sponsoring Kiwanis Club. Key Clubbers can be found easily in the community making a difference. That is essentially the foundation of our great organization!!

****Printed from the official newsletter of Division 19; Florida District of Key Club International.**

Comments and/or questions can be directed to:

Andy Howard, Lt. Governor (941) 675-9376

P.O. Box 2767; LaBelle, FL 33975



Membership Invitation

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Fax _____

Student \$ 5. _____ Individual \$ 10. _____ Family \$ 20. _____ Other \$ _____

River Friend \$ 50. _____ River Guardian \$ 100. _____ River Sponsor/Corporate \$ 250. _____

River Protector \$ 500. _____ River Champion \$ 1,000. _____

Return with check, payable to Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, P.O. Box 1165, Ft. Myers, FL 33902.

Thank you for your interest in helping to protect the River.

East County Water District Master Plan Unveiled

Rob Andrys

On Tuesday, Sept. 16th, the East County Water Control District, the special water district that encompasses most of Lehigh Acres, unveiled a second part of its master plan for public comment. Both parts of the multi phase plan are aimed at solving the flooding problem along the creeks and rivers that form the out falls of the drainage district. The target out falls include the Orange River, Hickey Creek and Bedman Creek. The first component, presented in July, proposes digging a 400-foot wide waterway to divert floodwaters contained in a 60-foot wide canal away from the 20-foot wide flood-prone Bedman Creek. The new waterway would slow floodwaters, extracting suspended sediments out of the water column before emptying into the Caloosahatchee River.

The second part presents a plan to divert flood waters away from the Orange River and Hickey Creek. This plan is to divert excess water into an old drainage basin called the Hickey Creek Swamp. East County Water District and other agencies yet to be named will purchase the 750 acres of partially drained swamp land. The swamp would be restored to its natural hydrologic condition by storing excess flood waters and slowly releasing them into the Caloosahatchee just upstream of the Franklin Locks. This design would slow down flood waters, allowing for regional ground water recharge and pre-treatment of the water which eventually dumps into the Caloosahatchee estuary.

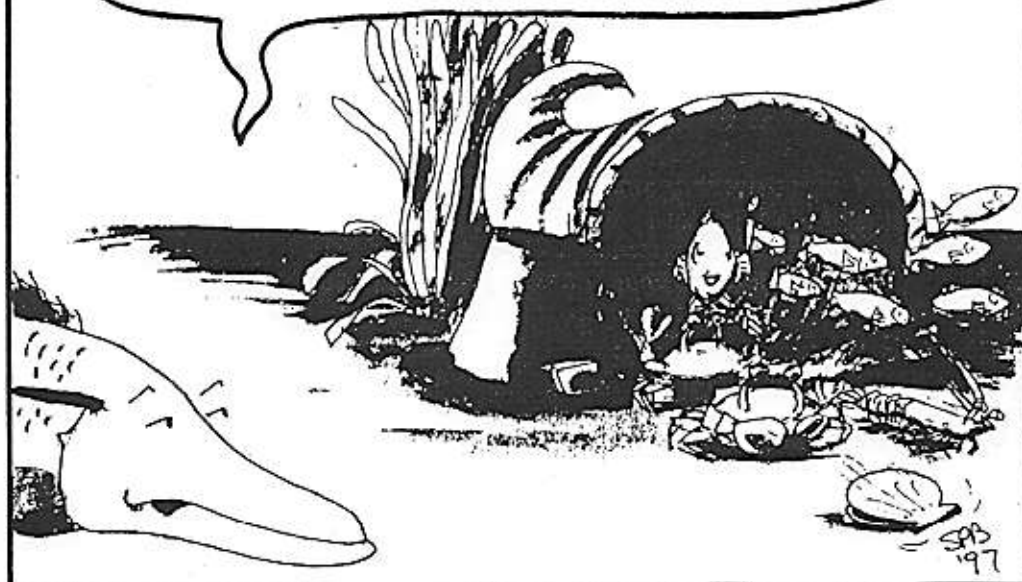
Riverwatch representatives were present at both meetings and expressed both our approval and concerns with the plan. First, while we are supportive of efforts to stop property loss and damage to creek banks when flooding takes place, we also strongly support the plan to store floodwaters over large areas allowing sediments to drop out of the water column. This is another step in improving the overall water quality of the Caloosahatchee. Soil sediments become suspended in the water column after heavy rains, creating turbidity that reduces light penetration through the water and results in decreased oxygen. Decreased oxygen often causes fish kills.

We approve of the Hickey Creek Swamp being purchased, restored and used for water storage to help with aquifer recharge. These 750 acres will also add valuable wildlife habitat in an area where nearby existing sanctuaries will create a more sustainable wildlife preserve. We have asked that the water district also formulate plans to retain water 'up on the hill,' in Lehigh, which is 12 feet higher than the new outfall structures. Retaining more water in Lehigh, creating wetland swales and vegetated shelves that pre-filter nutrients from the storm water will be ideas we explore further. If you would like to become involved in this work, call our information line at 433-4636 (x2722) and leave your name, address and phone number so that we can get in touch with you.

SMOOKERED

by Steve Brookman

It's always the season to be thankful in an estuary!



Welcome!

New Members:

Theresa Fields
Ken Frey
Sara Nell Gran
Frank Grieco

Renewing Members:

Carla Kappmeyer
Phil Sherwin
Kathy Walsh



River Ride!

Join members of RiverWatch and other area cyclists for our first annual River Ride on Sunday, November 16th! This ride, which promises to be lots of fun, will begin at the Lee County Sheriff's Posse off of Bayshore Road. Riders may begin between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. You can ride 15, 28 or 62 miles.

The 15 mile ride will take you to the Franklin Locks, where we will have a rest stop with food and beverages, and then you'll return to the Sheriff's Posse. The 28 mile ride will go to Alva and back, and the 62 mile ride will take you across the Fort Denaud Bridge (where you will find another rest stop), into LaBelle to Port LaBelle, across the river and back to the Sheriff's Posse via State Route 78.

An application form for the ride is enclosed with this newsletter. If you have questions, call River Ride Chairman Keith Kibbey at 433-4636, ext. 2722.

Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association

Officers:

President:	Rae Ann Scholle
Vice President:	Steve Boutelle
Secretary:	Jim Haggart
Treasurer:	Bill McGrath

Directors:

Rob Andrys	Susan Beckman
John Cassani	Win Everham
Peggy Hellenbach	Butch Jones
Keith Kibbey	Erick Linblad
Mike McCartney	Laura O'Brien
Pam Porter	T.C. Porter
Walter Stephens, Jr.	Laura Wewerka

Committee Chairmen:

Technical:	John Capece and Win Everham
Community Forum:	John Cassani
Membership:	Peggy Hellenbach
Projects and Events:	Laura O'Brien and Pam Porter
Public Affairs:	Jim Haggart and John Cassani
Speaker's Bureau:	T.C. Porter



Happy Thanksgiving!

CALOOSAHATCHEE

RIVER

Citizens Association

P.O. Box 1165
Fort Myers, FL 33902