

RIVERWATCH

CRCA Info-Line (941) 433-4636 ext. 2722

January, 1999

Sustaining the Caloosahatchee, Its Cities and People 1999 Forum Set for January 30th

Under the direction of River Watch Board member Rob Andrys, the 1999 Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association Forum will take place on Saturday, January 30th from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Michael's School in Fort Myers.

Participants at the Forum will explore the issues surrounding growth, development and economic vitality as they relate to the preservation and enhancement of the River and the unique environment of Southwest Florida.



Exhibits from a number of area businesses and organizations will be on display at 11:30 a.m. The Forum will open at 12:30 p.m. with a presentation by keynote speaker Don Ross, a wetland scientist and President of Florida Environmental, Inc. Mr. Ross serves on the Governor's Council for Sustainable Florida and is a member of the 1000 Friends of Florida. He has served on the Charlotte County Board of Commissioners and as a member of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council. Mr. Ross will speak about the balance between the natural environment and the economic health of our area.

Panel discussions will follow the keynote address, and will center on agriculture, the planned growth of cities, sustainable communities and sustaining life in the Caloosahatchee watershed. Panelists will include scientists, public servants, business professionals and university faculty. Participants will have the opportunity to attend three of the four panel discussions, and will have time to ask questions and join in on the conversations.

The Forum is open to all members of River Watch, as well as to the public at large. We encourage you to come listen, learn, and share your thoughts with us. Together, we can develop a common vision for the River and find ways to balance the ecological needs of this region with our desire to live and prosper in the Caloosahatchee River basin.

St. Michael's School is located at the corner of Broadway and Carrell Streets in downtown Fort Myers. For more information about the Forum, please call Chairman Rob Andrys at 728-2807 (evenings).



The Forum at a Glance

Agenda		Co-Sponsors
11:30 a.m.	Exhibits Open	Sierra Club
12:30 p.m.	Forum Opens	Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium
12:40 p.m.	Keynote Address by Mr. Don Ross	Audubon Society of Southwest Florida
1:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion	
2:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion	Supporters
3:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion	St. Michael's School
4:30 p.m.	Wrap Up	American Planning Council, Florida Chapter
4:45 p.m.	Forum Adjourns	

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Begins New Water Quality Monitoring Program for the Caloosahatchee River



This month, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will begin a new project to monitor ambient water quality in the Caloosahatchee River. Water

samples will be collected once each month at 30 to 32 stations east of the Franklin Lock. Most of the sampling stations will be located on canals or tributaries to the River.

Water samples will be analyzed for major nutrients, metals and pesticides. Locating the sampling stations on the "feeder canals" and tributaries will help determine where the pollutants are coming from.

The project is funded for one year, but it is anticipated that additional funds will be applied for in subsequent

years to develop a meaningful data base, according to Mr. Bruce Boler of the Florida DEP.

The water quality information will be used to develop Total Daily Maximum Loads (TMDL) for the Caloosahatchee River. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has delegated its authority under the Clean Water Act to the Florida DEP to develop TMDL's for all the major river systems in Florida.

The basic concept behind TMDL's is that once a river system has reached its maximum load (e.g. nitrogen or phosphorus) or its ability to assimilate additional pollutants, no additional permits would be allowed for activities that might increase the load further. Mr. Boler indicated that it is often difficult, however, to attribute non-point source pollution to a particular permit applicant. No TMDL's have been established yet for any system in Florida, however, DEP expects to have TMDL's established for all the major river systems in Florida during the next 16 years.

Volunteers are being recruited to help gather water samples for this project. Interested persons should contact Mr. Boler at (941) 332-6975, extension 103.



**Environmental Confederation
Of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

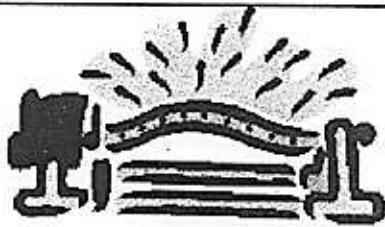
Permitting In Sanity or Permitting Insanity?

Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida Annual Meeting and Seminar

The Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida (ECOSWF), of which the Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association is a member, will hold its annual meeting and seminar on Saturday, January 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Victoria Estates, 24000 Rampart Boulevard in Port Charlotte.

The seminar will feature comprehensive panel discussions on the permitting process at the federal, state, regional and county levels. Speakers will include Dr. John Hall of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Richard Coleman of the Sierra Club, Ms. Kathy Liles of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Mr. John Huer of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Ms. Susan Watts of Bonita Bay Properties and Mr. Ray Judah of the Lee County Board of Commissioners, among others. An agency representative will present an overview of a permitted activity, and then other panel members will recommend changes to improve the permitting process.

The seminar is open to the public, and we encourage members of CRCA to attend, as it promises to be a good one! The cost is \$20, and includes a lunch of sirloin steak, stuffed grouper, chicken cordon bleu or pasta primavera. Advance reservations are due by January 16th — please call Dr. Fran Stallings at (941) 992-7832.



Water-saving tips from "Fifty Ways to Turn It Off"

Water/irrigate your landscape only when needed. Generally, lawns will only require watering once every 7-10 days during the rainy season (June through October), and once every 10-14 days in the dry (November to May) season.

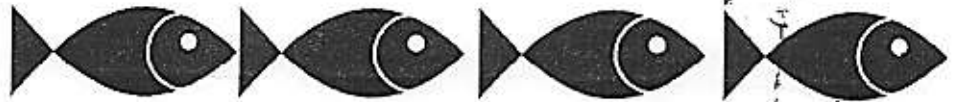
A hearty rain can eliminate the need to water for as long as two weeks!

Overwatering can weaken lawns and other plants, because overwatered plants have shallow roots, and can be less resistant to disease or pests.

Water lawns during the early morning hours (before 9 a.m.), when temperatures and wind speed are lowest, reducing losses from evaporation.

SMOOKERED

by Steve Brookman



Have You Renewed Your Membership?

If you have already renewed your membership, then please pass this membership form on and *recruit a friend!*

As you know, the Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association needs your continued support to make sure that good things occur on our river.

Name: _____ Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Fax: _____

Membership Level:

Student \$5 (\$2.50) _____ Individual \$10 (\$5) _____ Family \$20 (\$10) _____

Friend \$50 (\$25) _____ Guardian \$100 (\$50) _____ Sponsor/Corporate \$250 (\$125) _____

Protector \$500 (\$250) _____ Champion \$1,000 (\$500) _____

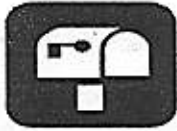
*Please note that all memberships expire at the end of the calendar year. Members joining from July through October should pay the amount in parentheses.

Volunteer Interests:

Clerical _____ Technical _____ Membership _____ Education _____

Projects and Events _____ Publicity/Communication _____

Please complete this form and send it with your check to: CRCA, Box 1165, Fort Myers, FL 33902

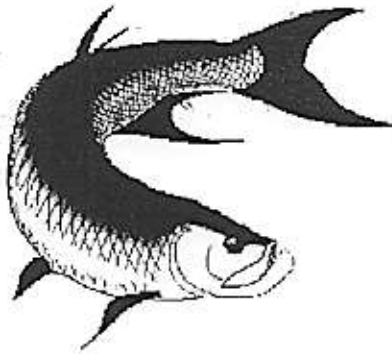


Change of Address? Let Us Know!

If your address has or is going to change, please let us know so we can be sure that you don't miss a single issue of our newsletter. To change your address, please cut off or copy the address label on your newsletter, note your new address and send it to:

CRCA
PO Box 1165
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Thanks for taking the time to notify us; it saves us time, and money too.



CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER Citizens Association

P.O. Box 1165
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Caloosahatchee River Citizen's Association

Officers:

President:	Rae Ann Scholle
Vice President	Pam Porter
Secretary	Jill Haggart
Treasurer	Bill McGrath

Directors:

Rob Andrys	Susan Beckman
Steve Boutelle	John Cassani
Win Everham	Peggy Hellenbach
Keith Kibbey	Erick Linblad
Laura O'Brien	T.C. Porter

Committee Chairmen:

Technical	John Cassani and John Capece
Newsletter	Susan Beckman
Membership	Peggy Hellenbach
Projects	Rob Andrys

See you at the Forum!