

Events

● **May 19: Calusa Waterkeeper [Annual Membership Meeting](#) 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at Franklin Lock in Alva**

● **May 31: Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience [Workshop](#) in Naples**

● **Jun 1: Water Management District [Workshop](#) in Ft Myers**



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The Save Our Water Summit expert panel included Calusa Waterkeeper.

Save Our Water Summit



The News-Press Save Our Water Summit on May 11 attracted 400 attendees. Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani was part of a panel of experts speaking on regional water challenges. Constructive controversy surrounded many aspects of the annual assembly and its discussions. [\[News-Press 1\]](#) [\[News-Press 2\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

Calusa Waterkeeper Annual Meeting



Please join us for our annual membership meeting on Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, at the Franklin Lock south bank picnic area (1660 S Franklin Lock Rd, Alva). This will be a potluck meal, so bring a dish to share and a chair. Also, feel free to bring friends and neighbors. [\[Invitation Letter & Agenda\]](#) [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#)

New Normal and Other Editorials



John Cassani writes: Government regulators need to exercise care when they characterize environmental problems. Lt Col Reynolds of the Army Corps said harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Lake O were natural. Unfortunately, given the increasing prevalence of HABs, they are becoming the new normal. [\[New Normal\]](#) [\[Funding for Billys Creek\]](#) [\[Bacteria Storm\]](#)

How is Your Government Doing?



As the campaign season heats up, it is a good time to reflect upon the actions of the Florida Legislature and Governor on water & environmental issues. As in recent years some bad environmental legislation passed and was signed. Some were thwarted. Think about these when candidates seek your vote. [\[WGPU\]](#) [\[Chiefland\]](#) [\[SCCF\]](#) [\[Sierra\]](#) [\[Surfrider\]](#) [\[FL Consv Coalition\]](#)

Enterococci Bacteria Results - May 15



May 15th enterococci bacteria results from Billy's Creek document a serious public health problem. City officials suggested the levels would decline after hurricane Irma but that has not happened. Levels have been this high off and on since 2001. [\[May 15 Results\]](#) [\[Apr 25 Results\]](#) [\[Toxic Water\]](#) [\[Do Not Swim\]](#)

Downtown Boat Ramp Gone



The downtown Ft Myers boat ramp on which so many depended for work and recreation has been closed. The City suggests that boaters use the Oasis ramp. For more than a year CWK President Gene Gibson has been asking the City to plan for and construct a replacement ramp but progress is painfully slow. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[City of Ft. Myers\]](#)

Our Grant Writing Machine!



Ruth Watkins, Calusa Waterkeeper Vice President, has been busily working to bring in grant revenues to help support our expanding organization. If you are interested in helping our group in this or other ways, consider joining one of our working committees. Waterkeeping requires the efforts of many. [\[Ruth Watkins\]](#)

Earth Day Clean-up



On April 21st Calusa Waterkeeper members and friends participated in the Earth Day clean up at Dog Beach on Estero Bay as part of a national Waterkeeper Alliance clean-up week. Thanks to all who helped. Our Ranger Terry "Calusa" Nelson also did his share of clean-up of the Caloosahatchee River. [\[Group Photo\]](#) [\[Collected Trash\]](#) [\[Terry Nelson\]](#) [\[More Photos\]](#)

Calusa Waterkeeper Introductory Video



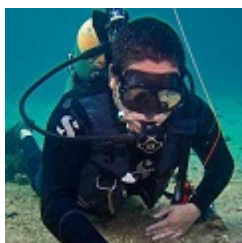
Calusa Waterkeeper now has a short introductory video linked to its web page. Produced by Pelican Media and funded through sponsor generosity, this video tells the story of our Waterkeeper program, its mission, jurisdiction, and how the public can join in the effort to protect our waters. [\[Watch the Video\]](#) [\[Rangers\]](#)

Recognition



Calusa Waterkeeper President Gene Gibson recognized Hank Appleton and the Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron for their ongoing support, including providing water safety training for John Cassani's Rangers Academy. [\[Photo\]](#) [\[Cape Coral Sail and Power Squadron\]](#)

A Good Problem to Have



The Executive Director position of CWK became vacant when Reinaldo Diaz left our local group to create the Lake Worth Waterkeeper program in Palm Beach County. Congratulations to Reinaldo! The ED position is responsible for fundraising and other tasks. Contact us if you are interested in applying. [\[Diving Into New Job\]](#) [\[He Fishes Too\]](#) [\[Email To Apply\]](#)

Thank You to FSW Students



Stephanie Frier and her Florida Southwestern State College Leadership Academy team raised \$250 to buy Secchi Disk water clarity testing equipment for the CWK Rangers. The students even did a beach clean-up to boot. There's hope for the future with an upcoming generation like these civic minded kids. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#) [\[FSW Leadership Academy\]](#)

Ranger Terry Nelson Reporting



Ranger Terry "Calusa" Nelson used a Secchi Disk to measure water clarity in the Caloosahatchee Estuary on Apr 29. "Nice day on the water. Clarity continues to improve in the river. Over five feet in every location except the canal, where it's 3.3 feet." CWK will expand its water clarity monitoring. [\[Details\]](#) [\[Photo\]](#)

Ceitus Boat Lift



A series of aerial photos shows progression of sedimentation that has accumulated downstream of the channel where City of Cape Coral removed the Ceitus Boat Lift in 2008. Calusa Waterkeeper attempted to force Cape Coral to restore a structure but DEP was complicit in ignoring the requirement. [\[Ceitus 2013-2016\]](#) [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Photos 2015-2017\]](#)

E. Coli Closes Franklin Lock Beach



The beach at Franklin Lock was closed much of this spring due to high bacteria levels. This beach is a favorite recreation area for inland families who cannot afford the time and money for trips to the Gulf beaches. Loss of safe access to this recreation diminishes our shared quality of life. [\[WGU News\]](#) [\[Corps Press Release\]](#)

27th Annual Water Conference



Calusa Waterkeeper co-hosted the 27th Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference back in February. CWK Director John Capece organized the program that included John Cassani presenting on algal blooms and also hosting a Caloosahatchee River tour. Author Michael Grunwald was the keynote speaker. [\[Michael Grunwald\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[River Cruise\]](#)

[\[Presentations\]](#)

Ranger Academy Graduates 16



A dedicated group of 28 people attended May 12th Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger Academy at Lee County Regional Public Library in downtown Ft. Myers. 16 participants received their Calusa Waterkeeper certificates. This was the second course and graduating class of the Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger Academy. [\[Photos\]](#)

Cleaning Up Billys Creek



Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann said, "My father learned to swim in Billy's Creek, so I have a personal stake in making sure the next generation swims in Billy's Creek. We want our citizens to enjoy it and enjoy it safely and we're not going to rest until it is indeed very safe." [\[WINK\]](#) [\[Cassani\]](#) [\[Mann\]](#) [\[Video\]](#) [\[NBC2\]](#) [\[WINK\]](#)

See Calusa Waterkeeper web page for more details on each of the newsletter articles www.calusawaterkeeper.org
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