



# The Flow

John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper  
Reinaldo Diaz, Executive Director  
Gene Gibson, President

November 2017 Newsletter  
John Capece, Editor

## Events

- Dec 10: Save Our Creeks [Annual Meeting](#) in Palmdale
- Feb 2: 27th Annual SW FL Water Resources [Conference](#) in Ft Myers
- Feb 6-7: UF Biennial Water Institute [Symposium](#) in Gainesville



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*John Cassani instructs volunteers in the first Ranger Academy course.*

## Key to Future of Florida



A 143-mile dike is crumbling and offers no major southern spillway. Dreadful algae blooms choke Florida's Lake Okechobee and coastlines. In a Florida Weekly interview with the Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani, Florida Weekly's Roger Williams explores these and other south Florida water issues. [\[Florida Weekly\]](#)

## FL Waterkeepers Demand Action



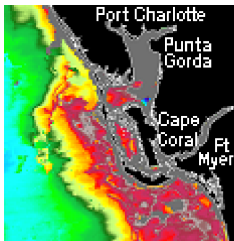
All 12 Florida Waterkeepers have signed onto a letter calling for the renewal of funding for the Florida Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) Task Force through legislative appropriations in the 2018 session. This is a necessary step towards protecting Florida waters, wildlife, visitors and residents. [\[HAB Position Letter\]](#)

## Annual Dues & Donations



Please renew your Calusa Waterkeeper membership and make a donation before year's end. Our group has made amazing progress in its new Waterkeeper programs, including algae & bacteria sampling, Ranger training & other advocacy activities. Support making our waters drinkable, swimmable, and fishable! [\[Donation Page\]](#) [\[Membership Renewal\]](#)

## Ongoing Harmful Algal Blooms



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) currently pervade the SW FL nearshore Gulf of Mexico. The blooms extend into Pine Island Sound, Charlotte Harbor and Caloosahatchee Estuary. Satellite imagery show where chlorophyll concentrations are highest, indicating an intense red tide. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

## Bill Hammond Instructs Rangers



Environmental educator Dr. Bill Hammond was a guest lecturer at the Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger Academy on Nov 18. The final lecture for John Cassani's first graduating class will be held Dec 2 at Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. [\[Ranger Academy Class\]](#) [\[Hammond Lecture\]](#) [\[Bill Hammond\]](#)

## Your Brain on Algae



A new documentary about toxic algae and the growing body of scientific evidence that ties it to neurological diseases, "Toxic Puzzle," presents the work of biologist Paul Alan Cox. Links between the BMAA algae toxin and ALS were first observed by Cox 20 years ago on the Pacific U.S. territory Guam. [\[Keys News\]](#) [\[Toxic Puzzle\]](#) [\[Trailer\]](#)

## CWK Executive Director at SFWMD



Reinaldo Diaz of Calusa Waterkeeper spoke at the SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Commission meeting held on Nov 2, 2017. Most of the advocacy groups at the hearing made considerable oral and written responses to the proposed MFL revision by SFWMD. The District's maintained the MFL at 400 cfs at S-79. [\[Meeting Agenda\]](#)

## Daltry on Regional Planning



Past planning practices are to blame for many of our regional water problems. Past directors of Calusa Waterkeeper - Wayne Daltry, Ray Judah a Rae Ann Wessel - explain the history of planning in SW Florida in a Florida Weekly article by Roger Williams. [\[Florida Weekly\]](#)

## Environmental Breakfast Award



Courtney Kern received a \$1500 scholarship at the 20th Annual Environmental Breakfast hosted by Audubon. Courtney is an FGCU Environmental Studies senior & Student Naturalist with plans for grad school and a teaching career, perhaps as a professor. [\[Presentation by Tony Lee of FGCU\]](#) [\[Announcement by Dan Van Norman\]](#) [\[Breakfast\]](#) [\[Riverside Community Center\]](#) [\[Courtney Kern\]](#)

## Grunwald on Cape Coral



In a Politico.com expose on Cape Coral development, Michael Grunwald quotes Calusa Waterkeeper member & former president Wayne Daltry on past planning & future risks for the low-lying, fast-growing city. Grunwald has been invited to be the keynote speaker at SWFWRC, co-hosted by Calusa Waterkeeper. [\[Politico.com\]](#)

## Environment & Constitution



A Florida Constitution amendment proposed for the 2018 ballot seeks to give people the right to a clean and healthful environment. However, a national "Green Amendment" activist says that as currently proposed the FL amendment has no real teeth and should be changed before consideration by voters. [\[The Ledger\]](#) [\[FL Constitutional Commission\]](#) [\[Video\]](#)

## Rangers Gather Water Data



Calusa Waterkeeper and Rangers are collecting basic water quality data from the tidal Caloosahatchee River. The data being collected include salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen. Ranger & Director Ruth Watkins is monitoring Hendry Creek and Estero Bay. Ranger Terry focuses on the estuary. [\[Example Dataset\]](#) [\[Water Quality Data\]](#) [\[Website\]](#) [\[Ranger Terry\]](#)

## UN Climate Change Conference



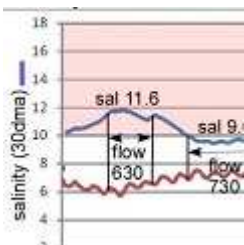
UF students Rock Aboujaoude Jr (from LaBelle) & Taymour Khan attended the annual UN climate change conference (COY13) in Bonn, Germany. They were the only US students attending. Their COY workshop was organized by Calusa Waterkeeper members as was Rock's participation in COY-Paris & COY-Marrakesh. [\[Photo 1\]](#) [\[Photo 2\]](#) [\[Climate Corps\]](#) [\[Facebook\]](#)

## Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP)



Calusa Waterkeeper John Cassani analyzed the DEP BMAP report on nutrient reduction efforts for the Caloosahatchee Estuary. He discovered clearly deceptive accounting that attempts to make it look like water quality is improving when, in fact, it is not. [\[Formal Comments\]](#) [\[Conservancy\]](#) [\[BMAP Cartoon\]](#)

## Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL)



Calusa Waterkeeper (CWK) submitted comments to SFWMD on the draft revision of Caloosahatchee minimum flow criteria (MFL). CWK is opposed to setting the MFL at 400 cfs but supports an MFL in the range of 600-800 cfs at S-79 to maintain a healthy estuary salinity balance. [\[Formal Comments\]](#)

## EAA Reservoir Public Comments



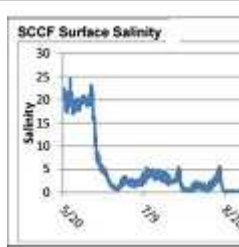
Calusa WaterKeeper John Cassani submitted comments to SFWMD on the scoping phase of the EAA Reservoir Project. CWK asks that modeling of stored reservoir water occur for Chlorophyll a, principal nitrogen species, specific conductance and total suspended solids under relevant residency scenarios. [\[Submitted Comments\]](#)

## Capece Discusses Climate with Coalition



Dr. John Capece, board member of Calusa Waterkeeper, addressed the SWFL Justice4All Coalition at its Nov 6 meeting at the Naples Unitarian Church. His topic was climate change. Other panelists spoke on fracking, solar energy, sea level rise, and carbon tax. [\[Panel\]](#) [\[Suzanne Cherney\]](#) [\[Amy Clifton\]](#) [\[Pam Gharabally\]](#) [\[Sally Woliver\]](#) [\[Clifford Mitchem\]](#)

## Caloosahatchee Status, Nov 14-20



Discharges from Lake Okeechobee continued at maximum practicable releases with average flows of 6,103 cfs to the Caloosahatchee at S-77. Discharges at S-80 averaged 3,288 cfs. To return lake levels below 16 ft the Corps will be forced to continue maximum discharges in all directions (E,W,&S). [\[SCCF Condition Report\]](#) [\[SCCF\]](#)