

# The Flow

## Special Events/Meetings

- Sept. 7—WRAC Meeting—Naples Beach Club (9a—4p)
  - Sept. 12—Master Recreation Plan (CERP) - Ft. Myers-3:30 pm
  - Sept. 12-14 —Ft. Myers Parks & Skatium-City Pier—6 pm
  - Sept. 14 —Corps Presentation on Lake O Schedule—Lee Cty. Commission Chambers (6:30 p)
  - Sept. 16-1st Fisheating Creek & Glades Cty. National Migratory Bird Count
  - Sept. 18—Everglades Master Recreation Plan—6:30 pm in Ft. Myers
  - Sept. 28—SFWMD Nutrient Load Analysis Public Meeting—Ft. Myers (9:30a)
  - Oct. 4—CRCA BOD Meeting-LaBelle (6:30p)
  - Oct. 7—Golf Tournament Heritage Palms CC—fundraiser
  - Oct 7—Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival (10 a-3p)
  - Nov. 19— 10th Annual River Ride
- Introductory FYN Classes
- Sept. 16—9a– 12 noon
  - Oct. 14– 9a –12 noon
  - Nov. 3—1p-4p

Please check for updates and additional meetings at [crca.caloosahatchee.org](http://crca.caloosahatchee.org)

Also, online membership services available, too.

## Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study (LORSS) Needs Your Input! Public Meeting—Sept. 14th Lee Cty. Commission Chambers

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this very important meeting. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has scheduled a public meeting on proposed revisions to Lake Okeechobee Water Control Plan. The doors will open at 6:30p.m. and presentations will begin at 7 p.m. This is one of a series of public meetings to present proposed revisions to Lake O and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan, being held in various locations throughout the state. The proposed revisions include a new regulation schedule of water releases.

There is a 45 –day public comment period which began August 18 and ends October 3, 2006. At that time, the Corps will consider the public input received at the various meetings as well as written feedback and will prepare a new control plan for Lake O and the Everglades Agricultural Area.

### Why should you comment?

The waters of our ecosystem



VIEW OF MARSH  
LAKE OKEECHOBEE

here in Southwest Florida have been greatly affected by water releases from Lake O into the Caloosahatchee. The nutrient-laden water from the lake has drastically impacted our waters; algae blooms adversely affect our marine life and in turn, affect our lives as well. Toxic algal blooms create respiratory symptoms and other ills. The inability to enjoy boating, swimming and fishing impact on both the locals and the tourists. People who earn their livelihood from

the water, either as fishing guides or providing supportive services for the fishing industry are suffering.

Currently, the Army Corps' Tentatively Selected Plan or TSP is going to further damage our vulnerable ecosystem. The Corps biologists have recommended a specific amount of water that should be released but the Corps wants to release polluted water, beginning in 2007, at a greater rate than the one recommended by their own biologists!

Come to the meeting and speak out. Or submit your comments by email at **publicmail.cesa.jcc@saj02.usace.army.mil** or call **Pete Milam**, Proj. Mgr. at **904-232-3432**. You can also ail your comments to him: Pete Milam, Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 701 San Marco Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207

**Let your voice be heard! The Caloosahatchee has no voice but you do!**

## New C.R.C.A./Riverwatch Officers for 2006-07

At the June 7th Board of Directors Meeting, a new slate of C.R.C.A./Riverwatch officers was elected. Our new leaders are: Marti Daltry, President, Margaret England, First Vice President, Karen Bickford, Second Vice President, Paula Bender, Treasurer, and John Capece, Secretary. Standing Committee Members include Mary Rawl, Public Affairs Karen Bickford, Projects and Activities, Linda Mattos, Corresponding Secretary and Keith Kibbey, Nominating Committee Chair. We also welcome new Board Members Linda McVey, Diane Fromm and Nancy Dickmon. Welcome aboard!

Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association—RiverWatch

Tel: 863-674-5727  
Efax: 561-828-8458  
E-mail: Riverwatch@caloosahatchee.org

*A nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of the River and its watershed, through education and promotion of the responsible use and enjoyment for all people.*

Non-Profit

Permit No 64

LaBelle, FL 33975

## Blue-green algae and red tide return to plague The Caloosahatchee

Reruns can be fun but not if it pertains to blue green algae. This summer began with five different types of toxic algae outbreaks, including some new ones. The infestation began in Lake Okeechobee in May, moving downriver to LaBelle and Alva in June. In July it made an appearance at Four Mile Cove in Cape Coral.

As if that wasn't bad enough, reoccurring red tide blooms caused beachgoers to flee in-



indoors. Exposure to red tide can result in respiratory irritation, nausea and vomiting and a host of additional nasty symptoms.

Red tide kills fish including mullet, pompano, and snook. In addition, the toxin in the red tide renders shellfish poisonous. There were eleven reported cases of shellfish poisoning

among tourists this July; ten on Sanibel and one at Fort Myers Beach. Six people had to be hospitalized. Four of these people had to be admitted to intensive care units. A shellfish epidemic was declared July 18th by the Lee County Public Health Dept.

Capt. Harvey Hamilton, operator of Native Charters out of Bokeelia Marina, says the red tide is the worst since 1946, when millions of dead fish were found from Tarpon Springs to Marathon.

## The South Florida Water Management District Presented Tour of C-43 Reservoir Test Cells

On a July summer day under cloudy skies and occasional showers, the South Florida Water Management District unveiled their C-43 Test Cells located on 11,000 acres of land west of LaBelle and adjacent to the Berry Groves. Media, public officials and curious taxpayers were transported by min-vans to the test cells. These cells are being monitored in order to evaluate seepage, water embankment design and water quality in preparation for the construction of the west reservoir, which is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). When completed, the C-43 reservoir is expected to store approximately 170,000 acre feet of water.

Critics of the reservoir feel that the reservoir's capacity is not adequate to handle maximum flows from Lake Okeechobee. In addition, opponents of the plan are concerned that the design and construction will increase water quality problems in the Caloosahatchee and its tributaries.



### OCTOBER 7TH—CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT RIVERWATCH!

Construction Materials is hosting this year's charity golf tournament at Heritage Palms Country Club on Saturday, October 7, 2006. All proceeds will go to support Riverwatch. 12 volunteers are needed to help with refreshments, etc. Please contact Karen Bickford