

The Flow

January 2008 Newsletter
Marti Daltry, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 6 - CRCA Board Meeting
- Feb 9 - Step Up Florida Movin in the Park
- Feb 9 - Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Second Annual Conference
- Feb 11 - Boat Smart Workshop

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at cra.caloosahatchee.org. Also, you can renew your membership online



Susan Brookman traces the River Roots & Ruts Trail Run

FYN Annual Conference



Florida Yards & Neighborhoods will hold its 2nd Annual Conference on Feb 9. "Protecting Our Water Thru Living Green" is the conference topic. 'Ask the Expert' sessions, trade displays and silent auction are also planned. Register now! [\[Conference Brochure\]](#)

A True Coalition



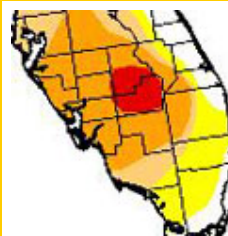
Riverwatch directors participating in the 2008 Everglades Coalition conference represented several organizations: Marti Daltry, Sierra Club; Rhonda Roff, Save It Now Glades!; Joe Frank, Seminole Tribe; Rae Ann Wessel, SCCF, and John Capece, CRCA.

Fifty Year Losing Streak



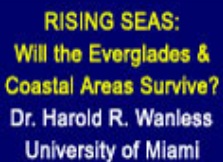
Top state and federal engineers agreed in a series of meetings that a major new south outlet from Lake Okeechobee must be constructed in order to save the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. These meetings happened 50 years ago. [\[Karl Wickstrom\]](#)

Dealing with Drought



SFWMD approved \$25 million to deal with the deepening drought — including \$1.4 million for pumps that could drain Lake Okeechobee nearly dry. The NOAA web site provides an ongoing drought index. [\[PalmBeachPost\]](#) [\[NOAA Drought Info\]](#)

Refocused Priorities



At its 2008 conference, Florida's premier environmental group, the Everglades Coalition, discussions focused on global climate change and sea level rise. Dr. Harold Wanless of U.Miami provided the reality check. [\[Wanless\]](#) [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

Fertilizer Limits Feed Debate



Critics say the Lee County's ordinance is too strict and doesn't follow the BMP manual, "Best Management Practices for Protection of Water Resources in Florida." Expert naturalists disagree. [\[News Press\]](#) [\[Riverwatch\]](#) [\[Editorial\]](#) [\[Sierra Club\]](#)

New Water Use Restrictions



For the first time in the agency's history, SFWMD declared an extreme District-wide water shortage, instituting a one-day-a-week watering schedule for residential landscape irrigation effective Jan 15. [\[The Rules\]](#) [\[Q & A\]](#) [\[SFWMD Water Info\]](#) [\[40 Tips\]](#)

Manatees to Lee Waters



Manatees are extremely cold sensitive, they can die from what scientists call "cold stress" & when water temperatures drop to 68 deg., they move to warm-water refuges such as canals of Matlacha Isles & the discharge from FPL plant on Orange river. [\[News-Press\]](#) [\[NP1\]](#)

SFWMD Plans Concerned



Audubon Society President Pete Quasius addressed the Glades County Commissioners. He informed the county about the continuing progress of the Kissimmee project and the Caloosahatchee River basin pollution treatment plans. [\[NewsZap.com\]](#)

Money Where Your Mouth Is



CRCA commends Ft. Myers Councilmember Warren Wright and former Lee Commissioner Charlie Bigelow for funding the public interest lawsuit opposing selling public park land for a misplaced waterfront tower. Unfortunately Ft. Myers is pressing ahead. [\[Appealed\]](#) [\[Letter to NPS\]](#) [\[Funding\]](#)

WRDA Projects for So. Florida



The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 increased the budget authorization (this was not an actual funds appropriation) for the C-43 Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project (test well) from \$6.0 to \$8.2 million. [\[WRDA Project Budgets\]](#)

Action Alert



Send the Capitol a message...be part of a 100,000 letter campaign to the legislature on Preemption Legislation! This is statewide legislation to prevent municipalities from enacting stricter local fertilizer regulations than adopted by the state [\[Details\]](#)

C-43 Reservoir Project Update



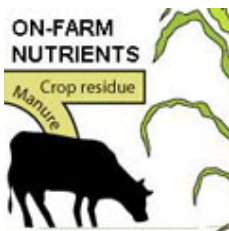
At the Nov 30 County Coalition meeting, the Corps of Engineers provided a south Florida projects update, including the C-43 West Basin Reservoir. The Corps says the project will provide 13% of all water storage needed for CERP. [\[C-43 Reservoir\]](#) [\[All Projects\]](#)

Algae Study



On Jan 4, Lee County TDC endorsed spending \$192,272 from its beach & shoreline reserve fund to support research on causes of the slimy red drift algae, which has plagued local beaches. It will be led by a team from FGCU Division of Marine Sciences. [\[News-Press\]](#)

A New Rural Industry



Government spends up to \$350 per pound of phosphorus removed and per acre-ft of water stored. The time has come to start privatizing the lucrative nutrient removal and water storage industries to rural workers & keep taxable lands. [\[Caloosa Belle\]](#)

SFWMD Takes Action

Dear Mr. Weintraub:
IN AID OF SETTLEMENT
Notice of Violation,
Alcorn Tract, Lee County
Permit No. 36-05821-P

Fort Myers SFWMD has acted on the Willow Lake case. The office requires restoration of the six acres and penalties/fees of \$40,000. The land owner has until mid-February to come up with a proper restoration plan. [\[SFWMD\]](#) [\[NewsPress\]](#)

Solutions to Pollution



PURRE Chairman Michael Valiquette discussed his "Solutions to the Pollution" white paper with Col. Grosskruger, Connie Mack, Charles Dauray and others in an effort to address a wide range of regional water management challenges. [\[PURRE Solutions\]](#)

Many States Fear NPDES



SFWMD claims its "Robust Permitting System" protects water quality in Florida without any need for federal oversight. SFWMD has called other state water agencies to its defense in appealing a federal court ruling. [\[SFWMD PR\]](#)