

Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association—RiverWatch

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

Non-Profit

Permit No 64

LaBelle, FL 33975

## Audubon of SW Florida, Inc. Presents Award to Margaret England and C.R.C.A./Riverwatch

At their Annual Meeting, held on Saturday, May 6, 2006, Audubon of SW Florida, Inc. recognized Margaret England, Vice President of Riverwatch, as Conservationist of the Year for 2005. Margaret is an educator in the Hendry County School System, Secretary of Hendry/Glades Audubon and a Florida Master Naturalist. She is a STA5 tour leader for Hendry/Glades Audubon and also participates in Oxbow Restoration Educational activities and LaBelle Nature Park projects. Congratulations Margaret for this well-deserved award!



Marti Daltry, Pete Quasius & Margaret England at  
The Audubon of SW Florida's Annual Meeting.

In addition, Riverwatch was the recipient of \$500 from Audubon of SW Florida, in recognition of our environmental protection efforts in the past year. Marti Daltry, Public Affairs Director, accepted the award on Riverwatch's behalf.

For their continuing support of C. R.C.A., Audubon of SW Florida has been made a member of Riverwatch with the member designation of "River Protector." We extend a warm welcome and look forward to a close association with them in the years to come.

## Riverwatch Members Participate in Protest Rally

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, Riverwatch members participated in a protest rally in downtown Fort Myers to save the historic Exhibition Hall from demolition and preserve public access to the waterfront. Waving signs that read "Save Our Hall," "Preserve Public Access of Our Waterfront," and "Keep Our Legacy," the 50 protestors stood on the sidewalk in front of the hurricane-damaged building. Although downtown traffic was sparse that morning, the majority of the cars that drove by honked their horns in support.

As part of Riverwatch's outreach, our organization has been an ardent supporter of "Friends of Centennial Park" and the downtown waterfront. The threat of removing the downtown boat ramp from its present location to further the expansion of development has been an ongoing concern of C.R.C.A. Riverwatch has been in attendance at city council meetings and has urged Lee County residents to become involved in this crisis. If further encroachments by developers are permitted to our beautiful waterfront, public access as we know it will be limited and the enjoyment of the River will be attainable by the wealthy few and not the general public.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE—JULY 15, 2006

Riverwatch has joined Save Our Creek, headed by environmental activist, Ellen Peterson. We will join with the Save Our Creek members for a General Meeting on July 15th, location to be announced. Details are being worked out and a location will be selected shortly. Check our website for final plans as they become available.

# The Flow

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Summer 2006

## Special Events/ Meetings:

- June 2-4—Great Calusa Paddling Festival, Matlacha
- June 7—Babcock Preservation Partnership, Ft Myers
- June 7—CRCA Board, Ft Myers
- June 17—Save Our Creek BOD Meeting—Fisheating Creek
- July 15—Save Our Creek Mtg.—Location TBA

### Introductory FYN Classes

June 17—9am—noon

July 19—9 am—noon

Aug. 12—9 am—noon



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

Also, online membership services available, too.

*Thanks to all of our members and volunteers.....*

*Your efforts do make a difference!*

## Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) Program

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) program is a partnership of the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Florida's water management districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the National Estuary Program, the Florida Sea Grant College Program, concerned citizens, members of private industry and numerous other nongovernmental agencies. FYN addresses the serious problems of pollution in storm-water runoff, water shortages and disappearing habitats by enlisting Floridians in the battle to save our natural resources. The program, which is implemented through the counties' UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension Service, provides education and outreach activities in the community to help residents reduce pollu-

tion, conserve water and enhance their environment by improving home and landscape management.

This integrated approach to landscaping emphasizes nine interrelated principles:

- Right plant, right place
- Water efficiently
- Fertilize appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract wildlife
- Manage yard pests responsibly
- Recycle yard waste
- Reduce storm-water runoff
- Protect the waterfront

FYN is an educational program. We teach homeowners that a yard can be beautiful AND environmentally friendly. The best part for homeowners who attend our FYN workshops is that by practicing these principles



they can benefit both the environment and themselves – saving valuable time and money.

In Lee County, 3-hour workshops are offered every month. A new initiative, "Rain Barrel Workshops" are also offered monthly. For more information on these and other classes, check the website <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/fyncalendarofevents> or call Tom Becker 239-461-7515 or Mary Ann Parsons 239-461-7526.

## C.R.C.A./Riverwatch Helps Celebrate Earth Fest at FGCU

On Tuesday, April 11, 2006, Riverwatch participated in Earth Fest 2006 on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University. Sponsored by the FGCU Environmental Association, Earth Fest featured hands-on activities like basket weaving and t-shirt decoration, musical entertainment and speakers, who shared their ideas on conservation and ecology. Representatives from several environmental groups provided brochures and educational materials.

The FGCU Environmental Association presented Riverwatch with a generous donation of \$150, which will help us to continue to fulfill our goals and objectives of preserving, protecting and promoting the Caloosahatchee River through education and public awareness. In turn, Riverwatch made FGCU Environmental Association an Associate Member of our organization. We welcome them and look forward to a continuing relationship with this group of environmentally-active college students.