

The Flow

February 2007 Newsletter
Marti Daltry, President

Special Events & Meetings

- Feb 24-25, 2007 Swamp Cabbage Festival
Barron Park, LaBelle
- Mar 7, 2007 Audubon SWFL Annual Meeting, aboard the Delta
(5:00 pm – 8:00 pm)
- Mar 17, 2007 Riverwatch Annual Meeting at ROYAL PALM YACHT CLUB, Ft. Myers
(10:30 am – 1:00 pm)
- Mar 30-31 and Apr 1, 2007 Big "O" Birding Festival.

Please check for updates and additional meetings at crca.caloosahatchee.org
Also, you can renew your membership online.



- Native trees maintain the ecological balance and beauty of the Sunshine State -

CRCA is looking for New Board Members and Officers

If you think you might be willing to take on a greater level of participation this year then please take a look at the position descriptions. Contact Keith Kibbey if you are interested. The election of Board Members will be held at the March general membership meeting and new Officers will be elected in April 2007.

See CRCA web site for the board members/officers job descriptions.

Oxbow Tours

Join Riverwatch for a cruise through the historic remnants of the Caloosahatchee River. Rae Ann Wessel will introduce you to wildlife, history and folklore of the Oxbows. Cruises are scheduled for April and May.

See CRCA web site for details.



CRCA Annual Meeting

The Annual CRCA Members Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 17th, 2007 10:30 am – 1:00 pm.

The meeting will be held at ROYAL PALM YACHT CLUB on West First Street in Ft. Myers.

See CRCA web site for regular updates of the meeting details.

EPA Proposes a Solution!



EPA has proposed a total phosphorus limit of 77 ppb (parts per billion) in the Okeechobee watershed. This is a 50% pollution reduction in most of the basin. DEP may oppose the EPA solution. See CRCA web site for details.

UF Award Winner

University of Florida professor Dr. Martin Main and Master Naturalist program coordinator Ginger Allen presented Riverwatch V.P. Margaret England with the 2006 SW Florida regional recognition award on Nov 4, 2006 at the first statewide conference.

See CRCA web site for details.

**Caloosahatchee River
Citizens Association
CRCA-RiverWatch**

P. O. Box 2199, LaBelle FL 33975
Tel: 863-674-5727 Efax: 561-828-8458
Email: Riverwatch@caloosahatchee.org
Web site: crca.caloosahatchee.org

Non-Profit
Permit No 64
LaBelle, FL
33975

William Byrnes
7717 Southdown Rd
Alexandria, VA 022308

*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.*



Water Pollutant Credits Trading



DEP has sent recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for a system of Water Quality Trading Credits. DEP sees this as a possible way to achieve water pollution reduction goals.

See more on CRCA web site.

Will DEP Downgrade River?



The Florida DEP plans to reclassify all "man-altered" state waters. The plan is creating waves in many grassroots organizations dedicated to making Florida's waters clean and safe. This plan will effectively allow greater degradation of the Caloosahatchee.

See more on CRCA web site.

Riverfront Towers & The Vue



The public continues asking the Ft. Myers City Council to do the right thing for the City and River's future by not allowing riverfront towers to encroach on public park land. Experts offer world class planning advice.

See CRCA web site for details.

U.S. Senator Martinez on River Issues

On Dec 19, Sen. Mel Martinez promised to help solve SW Florida water quality problems. He acknowledged the linkage between red tide and nutrient-laden fresh waters flowing to the Gulf from the Caloosahatchee and other sources. See more on CRCA web site



Big "O" Birding Festival

Start planning from now and mark your calendars for a 3 day Big "O" Birding Festival on Mar 30-31 and Apr 1, 2007.

It's going to be a great event with a lot of interesting activities both for adults and children.

Riverwatch (CRCA) is sponsoring in this Festival "Kids Are for the Birds Art Contest" children activity.

At the Big "O" Birding Festival arts and crafts you will find many unique items for sale as well as a wide variety of food.

Come and see what naturalist and local activists have to show you to keep on protecting Florida landscape and its wildlife.



See more on the Festival web site
www.bigobirdingfestival.com

River Commission Conclusion

The Caloosahatchee- St. Lucie Rivers Corridor Advisory Committee was formed by the Florida Legislature to make recommendations for solving the water quality problems.

The collective expertise in resource management can provide valuable insight to the operation and management of Lake Okeechobee.

The estuarine environment is extremely sensitive to large freshwater releases from Lake O. Scientists focus on analyzing the effects of freshwater discharges on salinity levels, seagrasses, oyster beds and other organisms living within these habitats.



See more on CRCA web site