

## **PURRE takes its case to nation's capital:**

### **Local representatives participate in River Lobby Day**

When the Caloosahatchee River was selected as the seventh “Most Endangered River in the United States” by American Rivers, several local organizations that supported the nomination decided this was the appropriate time to send representation to Washington, D.C. Each year, American Rivers gathers leaders from all over the country to convene at the capital and work with congressional leaders on crucial federal issues that also have local implications.

“The timing is perfect for us, as we are in the middle of the comment period for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the upcoming Lake Okeechobee release schedule, which is one of the very reasons that we listed the Caloosahatchee on our nomination paperwork,” Mary Rawl said.

Rawl is the former president of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association and now executive director of People United to Restore our Rivers and Estuaries (known as the PURRE Water Coalition).

Rawl traveled to Washington, D.C., along with Jennifer Hecker from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. The primary focus of their visit was to work on two major issues: the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act and the ironing out of the details for the Water Resources Development Act.

Marti Daltry, president of the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, coordinated the local efforts for River Lobby Day.

According to Daltry, “Just as important as the personal visits from our local delegation are the efforts of each and every citizen of Southwest Florida. We are encouraging the people to do two things:

- Log onto the American Rivers’ website ([www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)) and take action by calling their representatives in Washington, D.C.; and
- Write a letter to the Corps and tell them the new release schedule is unacceptable. The email for comments to the Corps is [publicmail.cesaj-cc@saj02.usace.army.mil](mailto:publicmail.cesaj-cc@saj02.usace.army.mil).”

To find out more about PURRE, check the coalition’s new website at [www.purre.org](http://www.purre.org) .

PURRE’s Mission is to promote the protection and restoration of the Caloosahatchee, its estuary, the South West Florida environment and the broader South Florida ecosystem.

Source: PURRE Water Coalition