

# The Flow

December 2008 Newsletter  
Mary Ruth Prouty, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- Jan 7 - CRCA Board of Directors Meeting
- Jan 9, 14, 22 - CHEC Seagrass Adventures
- Jan 10 - Fisheating Creek Celebration
- Jan 11 - River Roots & Ruts Trail Run
- Jan 25 - Oxbow River Cruises by SCCF

For more river news visit the CRCA web site at [cra.caloosahatchee.org](http://cra.caloosahatchee.org)  
Also, you can renew your membership online



*Compare sizes of the old (blue) and new (black) river through LaBelle.*

## Decision Day



Dec 16 was the deadline for SFWMD to make a decision on the U.S. Sugar purchase. Opinions varied widely with the Everglades Coalition, Audubon, Conservancy, and PURRE are in support. The Palm Beach Post and Riverwatch had concerns. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#) [\[CRCA EvCo\]](#) [\[CRCA Discussion\]](#) [\[PURRE\]](#)

## C-43 Reservoir Absent in List



SFWMD cannot request funds to construct the C-43 West Reservoir system on the Caloosahatchee in its Congressional stimulus package wish list because the project has still not been authorized through WRDA legislation in DC. [\[SFWMD Stimulus Package\]](#)

## Celebrate the Wild Florida



Attend the Jan 10 celebration of the history of Fisheating Creek & the trail opening at Fort Center. Event includes Interpretive hayrides, fascinating stories about the animals and people connected to the waterway, guided hikes & paddling trips. [\[FWC Event\]](#) [\[Map\]](#)

## River Ride 2008



The 12th annual River Ride was held Sunday, Nov 23. Beginning and ending at Caloosahatchee Regional Park near Alva, the event allowed 120 riders to enjoy the Caloosahatchee scenery...and burn off a few calories before Thanksgiving. [\[Photos\]](#)

## SCCF River Spotters



River Spotters are being asked to report changes in the Caloosahatchee River. A location map of SCCF RECON units and an interactive online form have been designed for recordings. Sign up to monitor your stretch of the river. [\[DataSheet\]](#) [\[Map\]](#) [\[Website\]](#)

## Fort Myers River Plan Rolling



The Fort Myers City Council unanimously approved a \$708,675 contract with a development team to create a plan for stores, restaurants and possibly a hotel along the Caloosahatchee River. The plan is for completion in 4 years. [\[News Press\]](#)

## Mangroves Festival



The Mangrove Action Group and the Conservancy of SW Florida invite you on Saturday, Feb 7, 2009 to come and learn the importance of preserving mangroves and associated benefits to wildlife and coastal areas. [\[Invitation\]](#)

## Nature Park Cleanup



The Hendry/LaBelle Recreation Board and Coalition for Eco-Recreation would like to invite community organizations, youth groups, and individuals to a LaBelle Nature Park Trail Clean Up on Sat, Feb 1 from 8-10 am. [\[Details\]](#)

## No Deal Yet on Utility



Lee County Management was unable to reach agreeable terms for the purchase of the North Fort Myers Utility. Alternative options for the Waterway Estate Treatment Plant will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their January 5th meeting to begin at 1:00 pm in the Commission Chambers.

## No New Developments Needed



"This recession is not only going to be bad for us. It's going to be worse than the nation's," said David Denslow, a University of Florida economist. "Florida's residential construction boom grew at twice its normal rate and we got overbuilt." [\[Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau\]](#)

## Student Project Affects C-43



UF law student Kim Koleos helped draft the Water Resources Restoration Act with Ashley Henry, Richard Hamann, & Sen. Bob Graham. This might make Federal authorization for the C-43 West Reservoir easier. [\[WRRRA\]](#) [\[Update\]](#) [\[Support\]](#)

## SFWMD Agrees To Buy Land



In a 4-3 vote, SFWMD Governing Members voted to approve the \$1.34 billion purchase of 185,000 acres of sugar cane and other farm land from U.S. Sugar Corporation, while leasing the same land back to U.S. Sugar for \$50/acre/year for 7 years. [\[Palm Beach Post\]](#)

## Caloosahatchee Budget Crisis



The failing economy and subsequent budget crunch could slow the implementation of an initiative to cleanse the Caloosahatchee River, despite unanimous support for the plan Monday from state water managers. [\[News Press\]](#)

## CHEC Seagrass Adventures



Take a walk on the wet side! Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Inc. (CHEC) will be conducting free Seagrass Adventure Wading Trips at Cedar Point Environmental Park starting on December 16. [\[Details\]](#)

## Cleaning Billy Creek



For Friends of Billy's Creek Saturday morning was the maiden voyage for a new fleet of kayaks. Purchased with a \$9,000 grant the fleet allows more volunteers to sweep the six-mile creek for trash as part an ongoing clean up effort. [\[News Press\]](#)

## No Urban Sprawl



Favoring urban redevelopment over urban sprawl, Riverwatch endorsed a letter from Alva, Inc. to the Corps of Engineers opposing the proposed North River Communities development inland along the Caloosahatchee River. [\[Letter\]](#)

## Hedging Their Bets



U.S. Sugar is unsure if the SFWMD approval of the purchase deal will result in follow-through by the state. It says that it will therefore entertain legitimate, bona fide offers from other potential buyers. So, the drama continues. [\[SW Florida Online\]](#)

## Submit Your Recipes



Caloosahatchee Cookbook invites you to share your favorite recipes, including picnic & boating favorites. Include your culinary secrets in the fundraiser cookbook. The sooner you submit, the better your chances of being included. [\[Form\]](#) [\[Online Form\]](#)