

# The Flow

December 2009 Newsletter  
Dr Annette Snapp, President

## Special Events & Meetings

- Jan 2 - Christmas Bird Count
- Jan 3 - River, Roots & Ruts Trail Run
- Jan 7-10 - Everglades Coalition Annual Conference
- Jan 11 - Hendry-Glades Audubon: speaker Dr. Jerry Jackson in LaBelle
- Feb 27 - 28 - Swamp Cabbage Festival

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



*Keith Kibbey recognized for creating the River Ride in 1996.*

## CRCA Christmas Dinner Success



On Dec 6, CRCA members and friends enjoyed a holiday season party at the home of Rae Ann Wessel. Keith Kibbey was awarded a certificate of appreciation for creating the River Ride in 1996 and his continued organizing of this successful annual event, now coming up on its 14th year. [\[Photo Gallery\]](#)

## Caloosahatchee Needs Ignored



The Caloosahatchee Estuary needs fresh water to survive. On Dec 9 the Governing Board of the SFWMD summarily dismissed the opportunity to make critical releases to the Caloosahatchee. Lee County Commissioner Tammy Hall and editors of the News Press voiced concerns for the river. [\[Tammy Hall\]](#) [\[News Press\]](#)

## Alternative to Use Changes



The Clean Water Network and the Conservancy of SW Florida, along with other organizations, is writing to request that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection consider alternatives to the proposed designated use changes. CRCA Riverwatch joined in the effort to protect state water quality. [\[FDEP Letter\]](#) [\[SCCF Letter\]](#)

## 2010 Kabler Award to Cassani



John Cassani is recipient of the 2010 Everglades Coalition Kabler Award to be presented on Jan 9. He receives this prestigious award in recognition of his vision and commitment to reformation efforts in the Caloosahatchee and Big Cypress watersheds. Cassani is a co-founder of the Watershed Council. [\[SCCF\]](#) [\[Award\]](#) [\[Watershed Council\]](#)

## Bacteria Link with Red Tide



NOAA research found that a type of bacteria provides a necessary element for the algae that cause red tide to blast into a frenzy of reproduction. In the distant future, the discovery may point to a way to stop a bloom or diminish its effects. [\[The Tampa Tribune\]](#)

## NSEMA Findings & Conclusions



The NSEMA Stakeholder Group outcome report (Finding and Conclusions) is now available for review. It's the result of a year-long process of meetings and discussion over the Ceitus Boat Lift issue. A final decision whether to replace the lift may still be months away. [\[NSEMA\]](#) [\[Report\]](#)

## Lee County Buys 428 Acres



On Nov 20, the Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program acquired 428 acres in the Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource Area (DR/GR). Keeping this land as open space protects a groundwater recharge area and preserves a wetland system that purifies waters.

[[Eco Voice](#)]

## SFWMD OKs Pump Station



The governing board of the South Florida Water Management District gave the final nod on Dec 10 for the construction of a pump station at the future Lakeside Ranch Stormwater Treatment Area, that will help clean up Lake Okeechobee before it flows to the Caloosahatchee. [[TCPalm](#)]

## Fertilizer Ordinance



The Snook Foundation considers stopping fertilizer application from June 1 through September 30 to be the backbone of meaningful, effective fertilizer management. It supports a strong fertilizer ordinance for Cape Coral.

[[Snook Foundation](#)]

## Tamiami Trail Gets a Lift



An \$81 million project to restore fresh water flows to the Everglades beneath Tamiami Trail began on Dec 4. The one-mile long elevated roadway will be the largest construction project in the history of the National Park Service.

[[News Press](#)] [[The Miami Herald](#)]

## Kissimmee River Comeback



An almost day-and-night biological change met passengers on Dec 11 as the pontoon boat entered the restored section of the Kissimmee River. So far, the largest river restoration project in history is working. Flowing through the restored section of the Kissimmee helps clean water to lake Okeechobee.

[[News Press](#)]

## Manatee Deaths



2009 has been the worst year on record for FL manatees with 419 deaths. Lee Co leads the way in deaths of the endangered mammals with a total of 56 - 18 from boats & 38 from other causes. A very high number of young manatee died in 2009 - 114. [[News Press](#)]

## Water Pollution Attacked



Rivers Coalition presented its case against discharge pollution in a hearing in Washington, on Dec 16. Although no decision was made, pivotal arguments were narrowed down in the Rivers Coalition Defense Fund's riparian rights "takings" lawsuit against the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. [[TCPalm](#)]

## East Coast vs. West Coast



East coast cities are looking to keep water in Lake O for east coast drinking water and crop irrigation. West coast interests want enough freshwater from the lake to keep sea grasses and coastal estuaries healthy. A balance has to be found. [[Naples News](#)] [[News Press Editorial](#)]

## Chinese Mystery Snail Invasion



A new exotic species could be crawling its way across Southwest Florida. It's the Chinese mystery snail — and the biggest mystery about them is what their spread could mean for native ecosystems. So far there have been no reports of the snail in Collier County's estuaries.

[[Naples News](#)]

## America's Waters Coalition



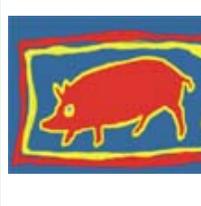
On Dec 8, an alliance representing more than 30 organizations came together with lawmakers from across the nation to launch America's Great Waters Coalition, representing 9 of the largest water ecosystems in 27 of the lower 48 states. [[National Wildlife Federation](#)] [[Waters Coalition](#)]

## Marco Island Cistern Program



DEP is allowing City of Marco Island residents to convert old septic tanks into water supply cisterns. The tanks are first cleaned, sterilized then sealed. Other design modifications allow the tanks to augment home water supplies. [[Cistern Design](#)] [[Policy](#)] [[Lamplight Letter](#)] [[Info](#)] [[Valve](#)] [[Max Valve](#)]

## River, Roots & Ruts Trail Run



The 7th Annual River, Roots & Ruts Trail Run is scheduled for Jan 3 at Caloosahatchee Regional Park in Alva. Registration for the half marathon and 2-person relay is now open online. The run is limited to 300 persons to assure a good time for all.

[[Registration](#)] [[Details](#)]