



P.O. Box 1165, Ft. Myers FL 33902
www.CRCA.caloosahatchee.org
(239) 444-8584

November 28, 2016

Dear Caloosahatchee Riverwatch Members,

With the holiday season upon us, we should each consider our good fortune to be living in beautiful Southwest Florida. As an expression of that appreciation and our shared commitment to keeping our communities and waters both attractive and healthy, we ask you to **please send in your dues and donations** thereby renewing your Caloosahatchee Riverwatch annual membership for 2017. **Your support is more important than ever!**

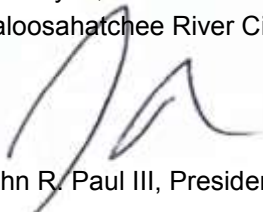
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (CRCA-Riverwatch) is transforming and growing. In January we will change our name to **Calusa Waterkeeper**. By the end of December we will achieve full member status within the national organization Waterkeeper Alliance, the largest and fastest growing nonprofit solely focused on clean water. Waterkeeper Alliance includes 300 organization spread over 34 nations with 10 in Florida. For the past year Riverwatch has been an "affiliate" member of Waterkeeper Alliance and ours will be the first group to make the jump from affiliate to full member since Waterkeeper created the affiliate program in 2014.

You may ask why are we choosing to change the name to Calusa Waterkeeper rather than retaining our traditional Caloosahatchee name. The Calusa peoples lived in all of Southwest Florida, not just around the Caloosahatchee River. Similarly, our **Calusa Waterkeeper mandate will expand to include more of our region**. In addition to the Caloosahatchee River and estuary, we are adding Estero Bay, Charlotte Harbor and Lake Okeechobee. **Leading the new Waterkeeper program are our first two staff members: the Calusa Waterkeeper, John Cassani, and the Executive Director, Jack Green.** Below you will find a brief introduction to each of them.

Along with the new name and new staff will come new assertiveness on issues of regional water quality. We ask you to be particularly generous this year as you decide how much you can donate to the Calusa Waterkeeper program. Enclosed is a remittance envelope you may use to send in your dues and donations. You may also use our PayPal payment system at www.CRCA.caloosahatchee.org.

Water quality is the lifeblood of our area; vital to all parts of the economy, social fabric, and leisure and underpinning our personal property values. It is a vital to our area, one that we must all work to improve. Please act now by supporting Riverwatch with your donation. We appreciate your consideration and support.

Thank you,
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/Riverwatch



John R. Paul III, President



Calusa Waterkeeper: John Cassani

John is a professional ecologist with degrees in both Biology and Fish and Wildlife. From 1978 to 2014 he has worked as a resource manager for Lee County Hyacinth Control District. He has authored both peer reviewed science publications and popular media sources on resource management, history, water policy and conservation issues. John is a courtesy faculty member at FGCU in the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences with research interests in the areas of exotic species and biodiversity. For his service he has received recognition from various civic groups, the Florida Audubon Society, Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management, Lee County Government, the Everglades Coalition, and the American Fisheries Society. He considers becoming the first Calusa Waterkeeper a great honor and responsibility and looks forward to sharing his knowledge of area waters with the current and next generation of waterway stewards.



Executive Director: Jack Green

Jack comes to Riverwatch with a wealth of public service. Jack retired from the U.S. Coast Guard at the rank of Commander after 30 years of service in 2005. He served as Principal Planner, Public Works Director, and Town Manager for the Town of Fort Myers Beach from 2005 - 2010. Following his departure from Town service he spent several months sailing the Leeward Islands aboard the S/V ALBORADA. He has an active real estate license and spent the last few years in various real estate endeavors. Being a self-proclaimed "tree hugger" and concerned about the degradation of our local waters he is eager to help transform CRCA-Riverwatch into a full-fledged affiliate of the Waterkeeper Alliance. He and his wife Mea have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.