Internship with Caloosahatchee Riverwatch
Florine Asherman, Industrial and Environmental Risk Management (France)
Supervisor: Dr. John C. Capece, Director & Recording Secretary

Mission

My mission as a Riverwatch intern is to support public communications by performing issues research and producing information products. I am in charge of publishing news boxes on the Riverwatch website and Facebook page each day to keep the membership and general public informed on the latest water issues news. I help produce documents describing the Riverwatch organization and regional environmental challenges to national and international organizations so they understand how serious are the ecological issues of the Caloosahatchee River and its estuary. My technical reports have been delivered to American River Association and the Waterkeeper Alliance.

American Most Endangered Rivers 2017

Creation and submission of a nomination package to American Rivers Association to name the Okeechobee Waterway one of the top ten American Most Endangered Rivers of 2017.

Tasks:
- Gather information about how important the waterways are for the area
- Describe the threat and what actions are needed

Web Page News Boxes

- Move Faster With Funding
- Cocktails & Conversations
- Billy Creek Cleanup Success
- Accelerate Everglades Restoration
- Caloosahatchee Nov 8-14
- Endangered Species VS Water

Waterkeeper Alliance Full Member

Assembly of a proposal document required as part of an application for the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (Riverwatch) to become a full member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a worldwide network for the protection of waterways.
Background

University: INSA Rouen Normandy, France

Degree: Master’s Degree in Engineering in Industrial and Environmental Risk Management

Main skills:
• Assessment of the risks for an industry and its employees
• Assessment of the environmental impact of human activities
• Technical knowledge in environmental engineering
• Project management
Experience

As a French university student, the tasks assigned to me were good opportunities to understand how deep and complex are the environmental issues of Florida, especially concerning water. When I see how rich and beautiful the nature is in Florida, it gives me the conviction that the progress Riverwatch achieves is essential, and I am happy to contribute to this work.

I always felt concerned about environmental pollution and problems. I choose to study environmental engineering to have the tools to understand the scope of the problems and their solutions. Communicating with people is the key. The better people understand the issues, the more they feel concerned and the easier it is to take action.

This internship also allowed me to spend time with family friends living in Southwest Florida and to visit many of the attractions that Florida has to offer international visitors. It has been satisfying to not only see Florida’s natural areas but to also help in their protection.