

CALOOSAHATCHEE
RIVER
WATCH

P.O. Box 1165, Ft. Myers FL 33902
P.O. Box 2199, LaBelle FL 33975
www.CRCA.caloosahatchee.org
(239) 245-9954

November 2015

Dear Friends of the Caloosahatchee River,

The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (CRCA-Riverwatch) has reached its 20th year and we are announcing to all members that this month CRCA-Riverwatch has submitted its application to Waterkeeper Alliance seeking Affiliate status. Riverwatch has sought Waterkeeper status since 2007, but only in 2014 did Waterkeeper rules change to make this possible for our organization. The Caloosahatchee Riverwatch Affiliate program will dramatically escalate advocacy and activism of CRCA-Riverwatch. Our role as Caloosahatchee Riverwatch, a Waterkeeper Affiliate, will be to remedy and eliminate threats to the watershed, the river, its estuary system and the associated coastal waters. We hope that you will help us in this endeavor through your continued participation and expanded support. Our first year goal to support our new Waterkeeper program is to increase Riverwatch annual revenues from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Last year, many of you sent in donations to support the work of the Association. Will you please support us once again in 2016?

In so many of our past mailings and newsletters, we have told you about the problems faced by the River and Estuary, how they can be traced to changes people have made to the river, Lake Okeechobee region, and all of south Florida over the past 100+ years. These changes permanently reshaped the Caloosahatchee and had unintended, negative consequences for our watershed. As a result, the river now sends too much fresh water to our estuary in the rainy season and not enough in the dry season. To make matters worse, all the freshwater flowing to the estuary carries excess nutrients and other pollutants.

Since 1995, Riverwatch has brought together citizens from all along the river and throughout the watershed to advocate remedies that can help solve some of the problems while preserving the economic benefits and flood protection. The Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association (Riverwatch) is dedicated to the protection of the River and its watershed, through education and promotion of the responsible use of the river for the enjoyment of all people. Our association's goals are:

1. Strive to improve the river;
2. Promote public education;
3. Increase public awareness;
4. Study the effect of use of the river;
5. Monitor and work to improve the water of the river; and
6. Observe and participate in activities of public bodies.

The Caloosahatchee River 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 dynamic natural resource for our area, one that we must all work to improve. Please act now by supporting Riverwatch with your donation. We appreciate your consideration as we advance through the next 20 years to refine and re-shape our mission to keep the Caloosahatchee River issues at the forefront of public interest. We also welcome and encourage your personal involvement.

Thank you,

Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association/Riverwatch



John Paul, President