

TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving our water

April 2006 Volume 173

TOOFAR Inc

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Inverness Fl. 34451

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Email address:

toofarinc@earthlink.net

Office hours are:

Mon-Fri 10 -3

Summer Office Hours

Mon—Thurs 10-3

Meeting Notices

TOOFAR General Meeting

Thurs. April 27

East Citrus Community Center

Hwy 44, East of Inverness

Speaker: Dr Joan Bradshaw

UF IFAS Extension

TOOFAR Board Meeting

Thurs May 4, 6pm

TOOFAR office

Withlacoochee Basin Board

April 13 9am

Brooksville

SWFWMD Governing Board

April 25 & 26 9am

Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners

April 11 & 25

County Courthouse

Sumter County Commissioners

April 11, 18 & 25

County Courthouse

Lake Panasoffkee

Restoration celebration

Sat. May 13, 9:30—3:30

Outlet River Park on 470

See Page 4

For more details

Chain of Lakes Task Force

April 10, 3pm

Lecanto Gov't Offices

Our website: **toofarinc.com**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello from Marco:

I hope this letter finds everyone well, and hope the weather suits you. The weatherman says it could be dry till June, and then *hold on to your hats* cause the rain will come.

On the Citrus side, the County Commissioners have been busy. First, they said no to Realti Corp. on a plan to put a lot of the planning of Wal-Mart on Hwy 19 behind closed doors. Second, the decision was made to let the County Administrator go. Not a bad idea?

On the Sumter side, The Villages are really getting greedy as they look to expand to phase two. Mr. John Parker of SWFWMD said (Quote) "The impact issue is a major issue." The modification of an existing permit would nearly DOUBLE the MAXIMUM water use allowed. I'm sorry, but what don't they understand about the word MAXIMUM??? Duh!!! It is once again time for TOOFAR to start questioning the whole process of development versus sustainability of our water resources. Please try to make every public meeting to speak out against issues that are just so obvious it hurts.

Thanks again, and *never give up*

Marco

The membership voted and agreed to raise dues to help cover costs of increased postage etc.. Dues will be raised to **\$20.00 per year per family beginning May 1st.** Yes, you may pay early. LIFE membership remains at \$200.00 (FYI we have over 100 LIFE members.)

Do you ever look at the ads inside this newsletter? Please do. And please patronize those businesses who help support us. We will be looking for someone to work on the "**ads committee**" this summer, to get old advertisers to renew, and to find more advertisers. Is this something **you** could do? Call the office for more info.

HILITES OF THE MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting was attended by approximately 80 people including several guests.

Marco thanked everyone who showed up at meetings to oppose the RV park, and praised the County Commissioners for their 5-0 vote.

Our speaker was Phillip Rhinesmith, senior environmental scientist from SWFWMD. Jimmy Brooks was also present to assist with the Q & A.

Mr Rhinesmith was invited to speak to us about the Army Corps study of our river basin which is incomplete. Federal funds have been diverted elsewhere. SWFWMD is trying to complete the study.

An important project to our group is the needed removal of berms. Modeling of the basin must be completed first, so they can find out what the effects would be of berm removal. The comment was made that storms in 06 may give them the information about the berms without a study. Berms may be overtopped by storm water.

There was discussion of SWFWMD's lack of monitoring of permitted water users. Many are supposed to be monitoring themselves and they cheat. Enforcement has been declining since the last democratic administration.

Minimum flows have not been completed. It appears that the Villages is stalling the levels for their own purposes.

A lakewatch volunteer is needed for Lake Tussock.

Rol Steinhauser is now in charge of boat trips. There will be one each month April, May & June.

Rol will also be running a fishing program for children this summer. This has been set up with the Park system. He will need help. Call for more info.

Bullfrog drawing was won by Sally Heath; \$46.00.

Our cake auction brought in \$187.00. Thanks to everyone who donated cakes for this event!!

Thanks also to Heaths for providing the goodies for the coffee room at this meeting.

HELP WANTED: We will be losing our office manager in a few months. Do you know someone who would be interested in this paid, part time job (15 hours per week) ? If so, please have them contact the TOOFAR office for more information. 352-726-5004

CONTACT INFORMATION TOOFAR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President 05-06 Marco Wilson
Vice Pres.06-07 Larry Hartman
Secretary 05-06 Pat Brady
Treasurer 06-07 Greg Schmukal
Directors:
06-07 Bob Adamic
Al Grubman
Jerry Schneider
Rol Steinhauser
Directors
05-06 Duane Brooks
Frank Heath
Wayne Sawyer

Alternate Board Members:
Bud Rust
Howard Stuckman

TOOFAR Office: phone: 726-5004
fax: 726-1716
toofarinc@earthlink.net
website: toofarinc.com

Hours Mon—Fri 10—3
Closed Fridays during Summer

County Commissioners:

	Citrus County	Sumter County
	341-6560	793-0200
Dist. 1	Dennis Damato	Rich Haufmann
Dist. 2	Gary Bartell	Joey Chandler
Dist. 3	Vicki Phillips	Mike Francis
Dist. 4	Jim Fowler	Jim Roberts
Dist. 5	Joyce Valentino	Randy Mask
Senator Nancy Argenziano	1120 N Suncoast Blvd Crystal River, Fl. 34429 argenziano.nancy.web@flsenate.gov	local# 860-5175 Toll # 850-487-5017

Rep. Charles Dean	101 Zephyr St Inverness, Fl. 34450 dean.charles@myfloridahouse.com	local# 860-5160 Toll # 850-488-0805
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Please save this list; it is only printed quarterly!

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

Did you know you can have people from the Citrus County Sheriffs Department check your house regularly while you are away?

For more information just call 746-3484
This is a **FREE** service.



BOAT TRIPS

In spite of cool and windy conditions, the boat trip March 24th proved to be enjoyable for those who Participated on Lakes Hernando, Croft and Van Ness. Thanks to all who volunteered to help out: **Greg & June Schumkal, Mary Agius, Bud Rust and Peg Steinhauer** for food preparation. Without volunteers this and future outings would not be possible.

Our next water experience will take place on Lake Spivey, Little Lake Spivey, Big Lake Henderson and Tsala Apopka on **Friday, April 28th**. We will be leaving the boat ramp on Little Lake Spivey (Eden Dr) at 10:00am Lunch will be at Wallace Brooks Park. Don't be left out! Reserve your place as soon as possible by calling **Rol Steinhauser** or the TOOFAR office (352-726-5004)

We also need boat owners/operators to facilitate these trips.

Additional boat trips will be held in Floral City on **Friday May 26**, and then in Lake Panasofkee on **Friday June 23**.

Again, we need boats to carry people, as well as people to ride the boats. Volunteers are also needed to help with lunch.

Call the TOOFAR office 726-5004 or **Roland Steinhauser**

PLEASE STOP THE BURNING

This letter to the Chronicle, by Herman Mau, Life member of TOOFAR is reprinted here with the authors permission.

Dear Mr. Brennan;

Awareness of our responsibility for our environment and the creatures it supports, has been amply stated by the Chronicle.

From turtles to wildcat to Manatee, and more, you have been pleading for them.

Now, perhaps it is time to plead for our seniors. Yes, another endangered species, and this is because of the air we breathe.

Many of us already have heart and lung deficiencies. Clean air and sufficient oxygen are necessary to survival.

Citrus County comes in last in air quality, and monitoring is inadequate.

We can help ourselves and one another by not burning. The air quality in our neighborhood, and those around us can be improved.

Seniors need not suffer pain, or be held hostage by air purifiers and artificially supplied oxygen. **PLEASE STOP THE BURNING.**

Herman J Mau Floral City

Lakewatch news

A sampler is needed for **Lake Tussock**.

Can you sample the water once a month (training and equipment are provided) and bring the samples to the TOOFAR office to be picked up by the University of Florida IFAS?



Where's the picture?

If you take pictures at TOOFAR events, please email us a copy to put in the newsletter

THANK YOU to **Bob Adamic** and **Bud Rust** for doing maintenance work at the office this month. Also to **Tom Gallagher** for keeping up our yard. And to the many members who work in the office so we can remain open full time. Your work is greatly appreciated!!!

THANK YOU -THANK YOU - THANK YOU

AQUA FAIR 2006

Aqua Fair is an Earth Day ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO" focusing on water. National, state, and local agencies and businesses volunteer to operate information stations.

Last year TOOFAR participated in this event which was held outdoors. We were rained out. This year it is being held at the Citrus County Auditorium. It will be Saturday, April 22.

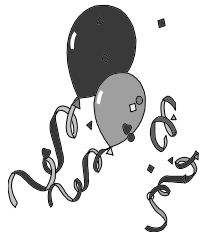
In conjunction with the fair there will be bird and nature walks at Fort Cooper State Park located one mile east of the auditorium.

TOOFAR plans to have a booth again this year. We will need people to man the booth from 9am till 3pm. (9-12, 12-3) Can you help? Contact the office to volunteer. 726-5004

Coffee Room Help Needed

Please sign up for your turn in the coffee room. We need volunteers for Sept. 28 Nov. 16 and Dec. 21

LAKE PANASOFFKEE RESTORATION CELEBRATION



Saturday May 13th
9:30AM To 3:30PM
At the
Outlet River Park

"Be A Lake Pan Pal" is the theme for the day.

There will be a presentation to the winners of a poster contest with the same name.

An important part of the schedule will be the introduction of elected officials and staff from the involved agencies.

There will be educational materials and displays regarding the preservation of the restoration.

There will also be entertainment and food vendors.

We will have a booth selling our cookbooks, handing out information and doing a fishing program. Would you like to help? Call the office 726-5004

LAKE LEVELS As of April 5, 2006

Structure:	Scheduled	Current
Floral City	41.53	40.54
Inverness	39.71	39.96
Hernando	38.30	37.74
Panasoffkee		39.40
Wysong Up Stream		39.50
Wysong Down Stream		36.61
Leslie Hefner Outside		39.55
Leslie Hefner Inside		40.58

Levels are in ft above sea level.
The Wysong structure is up. All gates are closed.

PET FOOD PROGRAM

THANKS TO THE MANY MEMBERS WHO ARE PROVIDING PET FOOD TO BE SENT OUT WITH THE MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM..

KID'S FISHING CLINICS By Rol Steinhauser

TOOFAR will host it's first kids fishing clinic at Lake Panasoffkee in conjunction with the Restoration Celebration on May 13th at the outlet river park.

I have secured additional fishing equipment for the kids use, and many members have stepped forward to help out with making teaching aids and components for instruction. The kids will receive instruction, and then using what they have learned, go fishing for a given part of the time.

Volunteers are also needed for this activity. For more details and information please call **Rol Steinhauser** Thanks, Rol.

Editors note: There will be a work day at the TOOFAR office to sew and paint the fish to be used for the classroom part of the program. For more info, call the office at 726-5004.

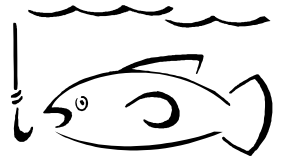
Rol Steinhauser, one of our newest board members taught fishing programs for many years in Illinois before retiring to Citrus County. We're pleased to have him on board.

THREE MORE KID'S FISHING CLINICS

Will be held this summer by Rol and other TOOFAR volunteers, for kids from Parks & Rec. We will need volunteers for this also.

THE CATCHING REPORT

By Jerry Schneider



Hello Fellow Fishermen,

I hope these words find you healthy and happy. In last month's report I said the bad weather could not last too much longer because March 20 would be the first day of spring. WRONG! The temp dropped into the low 30's twice that week. I think I'll stick to fishing and leave the weather alone.

On the Salt:

Water temp is nearing 70 degrees, and the fronts are having less effect on fishing other than the effect on the tides. Cobias are moving north into our area along with spanish and king mackerel. Trolling the rocks in 20' of water is producing gag grouper. The warmer water has brought trout and reds back to the flats. Keep an eye out for snook; their numbers are on the rise in creeks and rivers.

Getting Fresh:

Water levels in the lakes are dropping lower and lower. As far as I know, none of the outfall structures to the river are open. Evaporation, along with lack of rain, must be the cause. What we need is a good rain prayer. Oops, there I go messing with the weather again.

The Schmukals and Rob Schmidt told me at the last meeting that the bite on the Hernando waters is a little slow. Al Grubman, on Henderson, is having the same results. Smaller fish, no biguns'. Greg, Rob and Al are entered in the Key Center Bass Tourney. Come to the weigh-in and cheer them on.

During a stop at Panavista Lodge, I found that Lake Panasoffkee may turn into the sleeper big bass lake in our area. One angler had five bass between 4 and 8 pounds on artificial bait in a five day stretch. While I was writing this info down another angler pulled an eight pounder out of his live well at the dock for pictures before he released it. (Good man!) A trip to Lake Panasoffkee might be a good idea, I think it would.

Since my bass boat died I have been stuck bank fishing the canals around my East Cove home. I have been catching a few smaller fish but nothing to brag about. I'm still looking for a good used bass boat. If you know of one, give me a call.

Well, it is time to end this report and head for the canal. I wish you blue skies and tight lines. Jerry's gone fishin'.

Fish Camp Philosophy:

"A fish is only a fish, and when you make a lot of work out of catching him you lose the whole point of him."
Robert Ruark, The Old Man and the Boy.

Tee shirts & Polo shirts have been ordered in additional sizes and should be available at the next meeting. Cookbooks are now reduced to \$6.00. Buy some for your friends up north before you leave. River maps and lake maps are available at the office and at our general meetings. We also have a TODFAR video for sale. Other Videos are also available at the office to be watched there, or borrowed to watch at home at no cost.

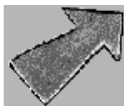
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Dues are going up in May.
Check your label to see
when yours are due.



NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - April 27th
7pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker — Dr Joan Bradshaw

Before our May 25th meeting will be having a Spaghetti dinner
Pasta, bread, salad, beverage and dessert for price to be announced.
Come early, come hungry.

BOAT TRIPS

The next boat trips are being planned for
Friday April 28 in Inverness
(See details on page three.)
Friday May 26 in Floral City
Friday June 23 in Panasoffkee

To sign up for the trip, or to volunteer your
boat for the trip call the TOOFAR office
(726-5004) or call the man in charge:
Rol Steinhauser

SNOWBIRDS:

The Post Office will not forward bulk mail! If you
want to receive your newsletter while you are
away, please contact the office with your change
of address and dates you will be away so we can
send it to you. Have a safe trip.

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

You can receive your newsletter by email or you
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to receive it by snailmail. Call or email the office
toofarinc@earthlink.net 352-726-5004
Summer hours Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm