

# TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving our water

MAY 2006 Volume 174

## TOOFAR Inc

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Summer Office Hours**  
**Mon—Thurs 10-3**

## Meeting Notices

### **TOOFAR General Meeting** **Thurs. May 25**

East Citrus Community Center  
Hwy 44, East of Inverness  
Speaker: Mike Bartlett  
from SWFWMD  
Topic: **The WYSONG**

**A spaghetti dinner will precede the meeting. Chef Marco is in charge.**



Hello from Marco:

The following information has been taken *from SWFWMD's reports* on minimum flows and levels. It is a summary of a larger report and is not the end of the story. Within the next few months the district will be presenting the final report to the powers that be for approval. Understanding that there are three (3) different types of lakes and they are categorized as: lakes that are land locked with no control structures, lakes that have control structures but no surrounding wetlands, and lakes that have both wetlands and control structures.

The glue that binds them all together is that they must all meet what is known as compliance. Not enough time to explain all that this entails, but until the compliance issue is set we will be no closer to our goal. We must be able to detach ourselves from the land locked lakes so that we can get our minimum flows and levels set.

Please read on.

*Marco*

*(editors note: "MFL" stands for Minimum Flows and Levels This information comes from SWFWMD)*

### **TOOFAR Board Meeting**

Thurs June 1st 6pm  
TOOFAR office

### **Withlacoochee Basin Board**

June 15 9am  
Brooksville

### **SWFWMD Governing Board**

May 30 & 31 9am  
Brooksville

### **Citrus County Commissioners**

May 9 & 23  
County Courthouse

### **Sumter County Commissioners**

May 9 Courthouse  
May 16 The Villages  
May 23 W C Ag Center  
May 30 Courthouse

"I would summarize the SWFWMD staff position this way:

1. Implementation of this rule change would result in a loss of fringing wetland area.
2. It would result in significant harm to fringing wetlands.
3. Lake Miona and Black Lake are stressed lakes, it does not seem appropriate to allow minimum levels to be lowered even further without criteria to determine if the marsh would be significantly harmed.
4. Under the 40D-3 performance standards, regulatory actions are bound to protect fringing wetlands from harm.

**Continued on page 4**

## HI LITES OF APRIL MEETING

This meeting at the East Citrus Community Center was attended by over 80 people.

The speaker was **Dr. Joan Bradshaw**, U of F, IFAS, speaking mostly on wetlands, what they are and how we can help preserve them. She discussed problems caused by population growth and nitrogen use. She gave out lots of handouts.

Questions asked about mitigation monies. (We aren't getting any in Citrus County) Also questions about condos being built on Turner Camp Road. (News to this editor)

SHORT BREAK (Thanks to **Gene & Karen Musselman** who provided goodies and labor in the coffee room tonight.

**Jim Stevenson** will be coming to Sumter County to speak Wednesday, May 24th, 7pm at the Oxford Community Center. Jim speaks about the Florida Springs initiative.

**Chester Bradshaw** (no relation to Joan) spoke to us about the dike structure in Hernando, which some people think may fail causing flooding in Arrowhead, and draining much of the Hernando pool. He would like to see TOOFAR get involved in bringing all the necessary agencies together to discuss what to do, and what could happen to the lake if the dike breaks.

DPA now says there are no sovereign lands in Potts Preserve (after trying to lease them to SWFWMD).

**Wayne Sawyer** Our Board member who is also on the Citrus Hernando Task Force, spoke on the history of the berms and the lakes over the past 40 years. The Task Force would like to do something about the trees now growing in the Flying Eagle.

**Joyce Valentino** The villages are indeed stalling the minimum flow levels. We are running out of water. If you think the price of gas is bad, wait till you see what we'll be paying for water someday.

**Rol Steinhauser** Boat trip for April was cancelled due to Lack of interest. Next trip is on Floral City pool May 26th.

**Jim Bitter** just won an award for being a great guy in Homosassa. He brought us some copies of the newsletters from Homosassa River Alliance.

**Al Grubman** brought us some give-aways from SWFWMD. Bracelets for those taking the pledge to conserve water.

**Frank Heath** won the bullfrog drawing of \$53.00

## 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.



## LAKE LEVELS As of April 4, 2006

Structure:	Scheduled	Current
Floral City	41.53	40.01
Inverness	39.71	38.58
Hernando	38.30	37.27
Panasoffkee		38.62
Wysong Up Stream		38.47
Wysong Down Stream		35.98
Leslie Hefner Outside		38.77
Leslie Hefner Inside		40.03

Levels are in ft above sea level.  
The Wysong structure is up. \*

See note on page 3 regarding Wysong. Attend the May meeting to learn more about the operation of the Wysong.

## 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?



**DANGER** 80 people lost their

lives in 69 boating accidents in Florida in 2005, a 15 percent increase from 2004! Most victims were over 50, reportedly knew how to swim, and were in calm inland waters. None of them were wearing a life jacket! Please be careful! It doesn't always happen to some one else. **It could be you.**

## KIDS FISHING CLINIC UPDATE

After meeting with the Inverness Park District, a plan has been formulated for three (3) fishing "clinics."

They will take place in Wallace Brooks Park in the months of June, July and August. Each clinic will consist of one 2 1/2 hour session. They will involve day campers from the Citrus County Recreation Department. Each clinic will involve 30-40 children. The participating agencies will have their own staff and volunteers to assist. **However: We will still need the participation of TOOFAR members.**

Additional details and a sign-up sheet will be available at our May meeting.

Thanks to all the TOOFAR members who have already volunteered their time, materials, skills and expertise to help get this project off the ground.

Thanks to: **Duane** for making the bump boards, **Jan & Jerry** for painting them. To **Jan, Karen, Betty, Lolly, Leslie & Mary** for sewing and painting the stuffed fish needed for part of the program. To **Frank, Bud & Bob** for making the fish hooks. To the **Grubmans** for helping prepare the rods and reels etc...

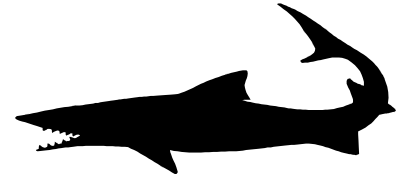
Also, special thanks to **Lolly Adkison** for the posters she is making. And also to **Ace Hardware in Hernando** for providing the yardsticks for the bump boards, **at no cost.**

**Rol Steinhauser**

**Editors note:** There is still work to be done on the fish. Call the office to volunteer for this, or to help with the fishing program.

## SHARK HOOK NEEDED

Do you have a shark hook we could have for our fishing program? If so, please call the office, or call Rol Steinhauser at 344-0618



## AIRBOAT MUFFLERS

FWC has sent letters and a brochure to all registered airboat owners in Florida explaining the new law enforcement protocol regarding mufflers. Airboats must have automotive style mufflers or a muffling system designed to abate exhaust sounds and gasses emitted from an internal combustion engine.

For a copy of the brochure call Brian Rehwinkel at 850-488-5600 or email him at [brian.rehwinkel@MyFWC.com](mailto:brian.rehwinkel@MyFWC.com)

The brochure also includes the "Airboaters Code of Ethics" as well as tips on courtesy and proper outdoor stewardship.

## ADS COMMITTEE 2006-07 BEING FORMED

The cost of our newsletter is covered in part by local businesses who advertise with us. Ads are taken out for a year at a time. It is time to form a committee to gather ads for the next year. They must go to the printer in September. Can you help? Please call the office for more information, or to volunteer. 726-5004

I SCREAM—YOU SCREAM—WE ALL  
SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!!!

Ice cream will be served prior to,  
and during the **June** meeting!

Root Beer Floats, Chocolate sundaes,  
etc... **No charge**, Donations Accepted!  
YUMMY YUMMY



## WYSONG

While the Wysong is technically "up" some water is being released through one of the gates. There is a criteria according to which some water must be allowed to go on towards the gulf. People down stream cannot be "cut off" For a better understanding of this issue, come to the May meeting.

**Continued from page 1:**

5. If method changes are in order, they should be more comprehensive to address all fringing wetland and to introduce some bridled elasticity into the methods for assessing compliance. SWFWMD's definition of "bridled elasticity is needed to completely understand it's impacts.

A little more detail:

Currently the MFL are historic "P50" levels; per the rules under NO circumstances can they be set lower than P50. The proposed change would set the MLL at the highest standard **below** P50. (the Species Richness Standard).

The current rules read:

"... the minimum lake level for category three lakes shall be established at the elevation corresponding to the most conservative, i.e. the highest standard, except where that result is an elevation above the historic P50, in which case the MLL shall be established at the historic P50 elevation.

What the change would be:

Delete the words "most conservative" and change the last part of the sentence.

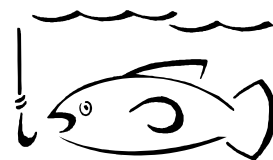
" the minimum lake level for category three lakes shall be established at the elevation corresponding to the highest standard, except where that result is an elevation above the historic P50, in which case the MLL shall be established at the historic P50 elevation for structurally altered lakes, or at the elevation corresponding to the highest P50 for Lakes that are not structurally altered.

SWFWMD Staff had the following to say:

1. **Implementation of this rule change would result in** the MLL for the Cat. 3 not structurally altered lakes being lowered 0.8 to 2.3 feet, resulting in a loss of inundated lake area, a change in lake basin area four feet or less in depth and a **loss of infringing wetland area**
2. The proposed rule DOES NOT provide criteria to determine if the lowered minimum levels **would result in significant harm to fringing wetland.**
3. If the alternative Cat 3 lakes methodology is applied for Lake Miona, the Species Richness Standard elevation, rather than the historic P50 elevation would be used to establish the MLL. This would allow the minimum levels to be lowered another 1.3 feet. The species Richness Standard elevation is 4.2' below the Normal Pool elevation. **Lake Miona and Black Lake are stressed lakes, it does not seem appropriate to allow the minimum levels to be lowered even further without criteria to determine if the marsh would be significantly harmed.**
4. **Under the 40D-3 performance standards, Regulatory actions are bound to protect fringing wetlands from harm.** If lake level methods are adopted that neglect the consideration of fringing wetlands, then a significant gap may result between the standard 40D-2 and the minimum levels.
5. **If method changes are in order, they should be more comprehensive to address all fringing wetland, and to introduce some bridled elasticity into the methods for assessing compliance.**

# THE CATCHING REPORT

By Jerry Schneider



## Hello Fellow Fishermen:

Well here we are at the end of April / first of May, and the March winds are still with us, much to the chagrin of those who are out trying to wet a line. The wind, combined with low humidity and little or no rain, has increased the evaporation, therefore bringing the water levels lower and lower. This situation lowers oxygen levels and could result in an algae bloom where the wind and wave action does not reach to replenish the oxygen.

## On the Salt:

Captain Richard Yant (nature Coast Charters) had nothing good to say about the wind. He remarked that the cobia are plentiful inshore. Warmer weather has scattered the trout but Richard said if he finds them he is catching them on a Cajun rig (popping cork) combined with a Burkley "Gulp" soft plastic bait.

Huge schools of king mackerel from 5 to 15 lbs. have been spotted just south of our area. They are in 35' to 70' of water and slowly moving north.

## Getting Fresh:

Al Grubman has been catching some small bass. When asked about the Key Center Bass Tourney, Al said he and his partner weighed in four small bass and one over 5 lbs. He commented that even though they finished out of the money, it was a very enjoyable experience. Rob Schmidt and Greg Schmulal did boat the six fish limit but no cash for them either. The big fish they found pre fishing were gone come tourney day.

The ideal bass boat has still not been found by yours truly, so I am still fishing from the bank. I have managed to land some good keeper fish here in East Cove.

Good numbers of big bass are still being reported at Panavista lodge. Many are being caught in the middle of the day. I also hear there is a bad algae bloom on the north end of the lake while the south end remains clear.

Well folks, that's about all the info I have for you this month. If there is anything you would like to know about fishing in general, or this monthly report in general, please call the TOOFAR office and leave a message in my box, which I just found out I have there! Duh! Keep your rod tip up, Jerry's gone fishin'

## Fish Camp Philosophy:

When asked at a tournament weigh-in where I caught my biggest fish I always reply "right in the corner of his mouth".

*Jerry*

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## HELP WANTED:

We will be losing our office manager soon. Do you know someone who would be interested in this PAID, PART TIME POSITION (approx. 15 hours per week)  
Please call the TOOFAR office for more information. 726-5004

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - MAY 25TH**

**7pm at the East Citrus Community Center**

**Our speaker will be Mike Bartlett from SWFWMD**

**Speaking about the Wysong Dam**

**Before our meeting will be having a Spaghetti dinner  
Pasta, bread, salad, beverage and dessert for ONLY: \$6.00  
Come early, come hungry.**

**BOAT TRIPS**

The next boat trips are being planned for  
**Friday May 26 in Floral City**  
**Friday June 23 in Panasoffkee**  
If you wish to sign up for the Floral City  
Boat Trip, **we must know by May 20**  
so we can plan accordingly. 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 (344-0618)**

**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  
can read it on our website, if you would prefer not  
to receive it by snailmail. Call or email the office  
toofarinc@earthlink.net 352-726-5004  
Summer hours Mon-Thurs 10am-3pm