

TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving our water

August 2006 Volume 177

TOOFAR Inc

PO Box 2709
Inverness Fl. 34451
Ph 726-5004
Fax 726-1716
Email address:
toofarinc@earthlink.net

Our website: toofarinc.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer Office Hours
Mon—Thurs 10-3

Meeting Notices

TOOFAR General Meeting
Thursday August 24 at 7pm
East Citrus Community Center
Hwy 44, East of Inverness

Our speaker will be Dave Moore,
Executive Director of SWFWMD

TOOFAR Board Meeting
Thursday September 7 at 6pm
TOOFAR office

Citrus County Tsala Apopka
Chain of Lakes Task Force
No Date Set
Lecanto Government Offices

Withlacoochee Basin Board
August 24 at 9 am

SWFWMD Governing Board
Sept. 26 & 27
Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners
County Courthouse
August 8 & 22 at 1pm
September 12 & 26 at 1 pm

Sumter County Commissioners
August 15 & 29
at the Courthouse, Bushnell
August 22 at Laurel Manor
In the Villages

Hello Fellow TOOFAR members,

We hope this month's newsletter finds you in a cool place. (It is HOTTT) It would seem by the turn out, that last month's general meeting shows that TOOFAR's concern about our water resources is echoed by many private organizations as well as Citrus County Government, the water management district, the news media and, of course, our citizens. Our speaker, Mr Sullivan, chairman of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Authority gave a nice presentation, although it was apparent that most of the specific questions from the general public seemed beyond his expertise. It was mentioned that the name (Water Authority) might have added to the confusion.

Responding to a question concerning a possible conflict of interest due to the fact that Mr. Sullivan is a legal planning advisor to the Villages and s also the chairman of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Authority, Mr. Sullivan replied that there was none. What do you think? We leave you to draw your own conclusion.

Next month our speaker will be Mr. Dave Moore, executive director of SWFWMD. The topic will be future water needs and supply in our district. Also the possible time line on the setting of minimum flows and levels on the Tsala Apopka lake chain. And I am sure that the topic of water transfer will come up also.

Finally: our organization is quickly running out of funds to continue our goals and objectives. As you well know the prices of everything are going up, and the board is trying to come up with some fund raising ideas, but it will take our entire organization to put us back over the top. All of us in this world have a special purpose, and if your expertise is in making money, we need you. Please call the office, or me, if you can help.

Be safe; be happy, Life is short
Marco

P.S. We will never forget the best office manager I've ever seen (Ms Mary) But I would like to say that Ms Jerri is trying hard to fill those shoes. If you haven't met her yet, come on in and get acquainted.

If you know anyone who would like to advertise in the 06-07 ads section of the newsletter Contact the office 726-5004.

You can receive your newsletter by email or you can read it on our website, Contact the office for details. 726-5004

HILITES OF JULY MEETING

We started the evening with refreshments provided by Jan and Lolly. Thank you for the wonderful goodies!

Marc opened the meeting with the Pledge and a prayer. He thanked all those in attendance for "packing the room." We were pleased to have in attendance: members of the Citrus County Council, Kings Bay Association, Homosassa River Alliance and the Airboat Alliance.

Marc introduced our guest speaker Mr. Jack Sullivan, Executive Director of the Withlachoche Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA). Mr. Sullivan presented the history, trials and tribulations of the water authority. Founded in 1977, the WRWSA was a response to the threats of water transfers and water wars around Tampa. Early concerns of WRWSA were to determine the water resources in the region and the long term needs of the region.

Members had numerous questions for Mr. Sullivan and a summary of the discussion follows:

1. Given current drought, what is being done to protect our water and what role do minimum flows play? WRWSA has no regulatory role.
2. We were told that minimum flows were put off until the issues raised by the Villages were resolved. Demand for water by the Villages is estimated as between 3 million to 28 million gallons per day. What is the status? Two of the three Village water plants are in operation. There is consensus regarding the method for determining the Villages water demand along with the data analysis. Estimates of water demand are being increased upward.
3. Will water pumped from the district be returned to the district? Mr. Sullivan couldn't answer this; he doesn't know the final plan. He said he will continue to fight for this.

Several questions were raised regarding the severity of pollution in King's Bay, Crystal River and the aquifers. Mr. Sullivan said his organization wasn't responsible for this area and directed our questions to other agencies. He mentioned local government as being a responsible entity.

Mr. Sullivan stated that while WRWSA had the statutory authority to move water from one county to another, he doubted his board would take that action. Attendees still felt uncomfortable with this power resting with the WRWSA. Mr. Sullivan said this provision was put in the statute to cover the county –spanning nature of Tampa.

TOOFAR asked Mr. Sullivan if his position as consultant to the Villages in any way compromised his position as the Executive Director of the WRWSA. His response to the membership was that he provides consultant services to The Villages on land usage, not water usage.

LAKE LEVELS

As of July 31, 2006

Structure:	Scheduled	Current
Floral City	40.71	39.23
Inverness	39.09	37.66
Hernando	37.78	36.49
Panasoffkee		38.40
Wysong Up Stream		35.59
Wysong Down Stream		35.60
Leslie Hefner Outside		38.16
Leslie Hefner Inside		39.20

Levels are in ft above sea level. The Wysong Main Gate is fully open. Low Flow Gate is fully open.

Please call Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD, at 800-423-1476 ext. 4515 if you have any questions about the lake levels or structures.

ADOPT A SHORE

On Saturday, September 16th, we will be having our annual clean-up of our lakes. If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the following:

Inverness Pool: Al Grubman 726-2201
Floral City Pool: Tom Gallagher 860-1629

Please advise them also if you have a boat available for use.

There will be a volunteer appreciation picnic lunch held at the Hernando Beach Park at 12:30 pm on Sept. 16th sponsored by Link Properties. There is no charge, but we would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend.

Thank You

Greg Schmukal

HILITES of July Meeting, con't.

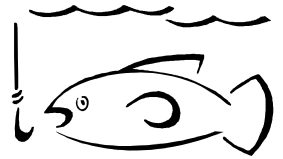
Mr. Sullivan stated that he did not believe there was a conflict of interest or that his position on the WRWSA was compromised.

Please remember to take a look at Chester Bradshaw's proposal requesting the FL legislature to clarify the mandate and intent of Senate Bill No. 1109. Return signed petitions to the TOOFAR office.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

THE CATCHING REPORT

By Jerry Schneider



Hello Fellow Fishermen, I hope these words find you healthy and happy.

On the Salt:

The dog days of summer are here with afternoon temps of 90+ degrees. This has put many of the fishing guides on half day charters to get away from the heat.

The spoil banks on the barge canal are giving some nice reds and trout. Just north of there the grass flats are producing some fine flounder. Tarpon are becoming more numerous in the Crystal River area. They sure took their time getting here.

In the Homosassa area deep trolling the rocks will net you some fine gag grouper. Sight fishing for reds is also paying off with good numbers of keepers. For some reason the mackerel bite seems to be a hit or miss situation.

Getting Fresh:

On July 19, Rol Steinhauser put on his second kids fishing seminar. He did an excellent job keeping the kids' interest high as he went through his lesson plan. It was obvious when they reached the fishing pier because almost all the kids knew what to do with their rods and reels. Kudos to Rol and all his volunteer helpers.

We are not finished with Rol yet. He and Al Grubman had a fine day on the Hernando lakes. Throwing top water plugs they boated seven nice bass. Al's 8 pounder was the big fish of the day. Greg and June Schmukal haven't been asleep at the wheel either. Just after the last newsletter went to print they landed two big bass on Lake Spivey. They hit the scales at 9 and 11 and ½ lbs. Wow.

Rob Schmidt has the right idea. He's fishing the cool clear waters of Wisconsin for small mouth bass. During a call to Greg he boasted about a 5 lb smallie. That is a good fish anywhere small mouth bass are found.

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

Fish Camp Philosophy: "No life is so happy and so pleasant as the life of the well-govern'd angler".

Izaak Walton

GOT SHIRTS? WE DO. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF TOOFAR BY WEARING YOUR TOOFAR SHIRT.
We now have shirts available in more sizes. Lots of large and Xtra large. Both Tees and Polos.
Get them at the office or the next general meeting.

TOOFAR INC
PO BOX 2709
INVERNESS, FL 34451

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 31
INV. FL

IN THIS ISSUE

Meeting Notices
President's Message
"Catching Report" by Jerry Schneider
Hilites of July Meeting
Speaker: Mr. Jack Sullivan



NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - AUGUST 24, 2006

**7pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Dave Moore, Executive Director
Southwest Florida Water Management District**

TOOFAR needs your help!

Volunteers are needed for the Coffee Room on September 28,
November 16 and December 21 Planning will start soon for the Pig Roast.
The Ads Committee needs volunteers. Call the office at 726-5004 to volunteer.

The second fishing program was a great success! Over 30 children attended. Thanks to Rol and all of our dedicated volunteers. Special thanks to our corporate sponsors: Ace Hardware, Wal-Mart, FFWCC, and SWFWMD for their many contributions. Fun was had by all! Time to plan for next time. Call Rol to volunteer.