

# TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving our water

September 2006 Volume 178

## TOOFAR Inc

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

Our website: [toofarinc.com](http://toofarinc.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow TOOFAR members,

It was nice having Dave Moore from SWFWMD at our last meeting, as always he does a good job of explaining things in a non-bureaucratic way. We have been trying to get as many educational speakers on water issues as possible and hope you tell your friends and neighbors. So in keeping with that venue, we are glad to announce that Senator Nancy Argenziano will be our keynote speaker at our September meeting.

At our last meeting, I brought up the subject of the Flying Eagle berms to Mr. Moore and the possibility of doing something with them before the study and modeling were completed some two years off. It is my understanding that staff from Florida Fish and Wildlife may be talking to the Citrus Hernando Task Force about removing the berms at Flying Eagle and Moccasin Slew. My suggestion is to put in controlled culverts all along the North-South dyke road, which is about a quarter mile long. Now follow me on this, if the district installs culverts along the berm, it would allow more water into the system and the district could still control it – for example if the water got higher on the lakeside or if bad water was coming in from the Withlacoochee. We discussed this issue at our board meeting and there may be other alternatives including a more direct route through deep slash. We are making plans to meet with officials to discuss these alternatives before the modeling is completed.

Remember tell a friend.  
Marco

## Office Hours

Mon—Thurs 10-3

## Meeting Notices

### TOOFAR General Meeting Thursday September 28 at 7pm

East Citrus Community Center  
Hwy 44, East of Inverness  
Our speaker will be  
Senator Nancy Argenziano

### TOOFAR Board Meeting

Thursday October 5 at 6pm  
TOOFAR office

### Citrus Waterways Restoration Task Force

September 18 at 3pm

Lecanto Government Offices

### Withlacoochee Basin Board

October 19 at 9am

### SWFWMD Governing Board

Sept. 26 & 27 at 9am  
October 24 & 25 at 9 am  
Brooksville

### Citrus County Commissioners

County Courthouse  
September 12 & 26 at 1pm

### Sumter County Commissioners

September 11 & 26  
at the Courthouse, Bushnell  
September 26 at Laurel Manor  
In the Villages

## Memorial Gift

Longtime TOOFAR member Gordon "Sam" Hustin passed away on June 30, 2006. Our condolences are extended to his family in this sad time. Eileen has made a generous donation to TOOFAR in memory of Sam and his love for our lakes. Please offer your prayers on behalf of Sam and his family.

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

By Pat Brady

We started the meeting with delicious goodies provided by Carmen and Barbara. Many thanks!

Mark Wilson, President, opened the meeting with the Pledge and a prayer. He welcomed our members and guests and noted we had approximately 100 people in attendance. Minutes of past meetings are on-line and in the office for review at any time.

Treasurer Greg Schmukal presented his report. Our CD was rolled over. The checking account balance is low and we will call on our savings if needed to keep up.

Mark introduced our guest speaker, **Mr. Dave Moore, Executive Director, Southwest Florida Water Management District**. Mr. Moore gave an overview of the District's responsibilities noting that much of the focus has been on Tampa and southward. The number one thing heard from our area has been the objection to transferring water to other areas. Mr. Moore feels there is more than enough to meet the needs for the next 20-25 years. TOOFAR was influential in changing the District's relationship to the public. Dave Moore made the recommendation to put the dam in to his predecessor. When the 1997-98 rains came he watched the Hernando pool come up to 39 ft. Records showed lowest house at 40 ft. but some new ones were found under that level. SWFWMD opened the dike at Potts and opened Two Mile Prairie. The Army Corps has not finished with their study so SWFWMD is picking it up. SWFWMD doesn't want to do more harm. Mark suggested culverts may be a solution.

Mr. Moore noted that the Tampa water wars were stopped by creating a regional authority. There is no need to move water now, but, we do see that this is a rapidly growing area pumping a lot of ground water. Plans are being discussed about creating an off stream reservoir to help supply water.

Mr. Moore commented on the Villages pumping more water than their permit and that they are applying for more. What do you do when they violate the permits and ask for more? We can fine when they over pump. We use fines when called for. When dealing with political pressure we follow science and try to make them understand the problem. When more and more people understand the issue there is more compliance. Groups are being formed to go speak to the area.

Lots of questions followed and are summarized as follows: we have an off-stream storage area here and have pleaded with the District to give the area the opportunity to function; it seems to be considered a drainage retention area

## LAKE LEVELS As of September 1, 2006

Structure:	Scheduled	Current
Floral City	41.23	38.79
Inverness	39.48	37.72
Hernando	38.11	36.49
Panasoffkee		38.40
Wysong Up Stream		35.47
Wysong Down Stream		35.48
Leslie Hefner Outside		38.50
Leslie Hefner Inside		38.80

Levels are in ft above sea level. The Wysong Main Gate is fully open. Low Flow Gate is fully open. 25 cfs total flow  
Please call Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD, at 800-423-1476 ext. 4515 if you have any questions on lake levels or structures.

Hilites, con't.

rather than a lake system; the policy to anticipate hurricanes but the hurricanes never seem to come; Two Mile Prairie and other areas can create large storage areas to help get flows back to capacity.

Mr. Moore stated that minimum flows for the northern districts will be set before 2010. He said that when setting minimum flow levels, SWFWMD takes climatic changes and cycles into consideration.

Mr. Moore stated that Florida Friendly landscaping is an alternative to St. Augustine's grass. Some developers and communities require this water intensive grass. He noted that Citrus County is facing many of the issues that other areas faced 15 years ago.

Mark thanked Mr. Moore.

**Jan Ethier** talked about the Water Extravaganza sponsored by the Garden Clubs Association and asked for volunteers to staff our booth at Fanning Springs State Park, Friday & Saturday - 2/2 and 2/3/07.

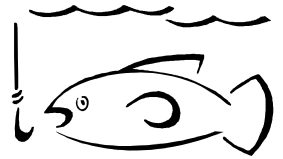
Motion to adjourn passed.



First Pig Roast meeting will be October 5 at 4:30 pm at the TOOFAR office. Come volunteer for this important fund raising event. Also, Pig Roast Chairperson needed.

# THE CATCHING REPORT

By Jerry Schneider



**Hello Fellow Fishermen,** I hope these words find you healthy and happy. As I pick up my pen to begin this report our first serious weather incident, tropical storm Ernesto, is taking aim at the south coast of Cuba with a projected path up the center of Florida. If it continues as predicted we could finally get the rain we so desperately need.

## **On the Salt:**

Capt. Rick Burns (Reel Burns Charter Service) was kind enough to share the following information with us. The heat has moved the trout deeper. They are being hooked in 8' to 12' of water. While you are that deep try chumming for Spanish mackerel.

On the bright side, reds should start spawning on the full moons from now until the water temp drops dramatically. This will make them much easier to catch as they move to the shallows. To improve your red fish catch keep an eye on the Chronicle for Capt. Rick's October red fish seminar. These classes are full of hot tips and useful info.

## **Getting Fresh:**

If you are up for a road trip, the west side of Lake Okeechobee is hotter than a firecracker. Low water has moved bass out of the huge lily pad and grass flats to the edges of open water. Fishing early and late in the day, anglers are landing thirty to fifty bass a day. Many of these fishes are in the 5 to 7lb range.

Rob Schmidt, back from his Wisconsin trip, reported landing about thirty small mouth during his stay. Since his return, Hernando has been giving up very few on top water bait.

In their perpetual pursuit of piscatorial proficiency, Rol Steinhauser and Al Grubman have been doing fair as they fish the chain of lakes. Working top bait Al lost a nice bass in the 5 – 8lb range, and Rol thought he had his wall mount when it rolled to the surface and turned into an 8lb. Mud fish. What a heartbreaker.

Greg "big fish" Schmukal's catch this month was a mere 8 pounder. The guy is slipping. My evening stroll to the east Cove boat ramp has resulted in one or two bank runner per trip. A pleasant way to end the day.

That's all for this month. I wish you blue skies and tight lines. Jerry's gone fishin'

**Fish Camp Philosophy:** "The fish do not rise to a bait in the cemetery, so you better do your fishing while you are still able." Sparse Gray Hakle

**DO YOU POWER WASH? Our building needs a good cleaning!**  
**Please call Jerri at 726-5004 if you can help.**

## **IS YOUR ELECTRIC BILL TOO HIGH?**

Call your power company to come and check your meter. High voltage coming into the house may cause the meter to run faster than it should resulting in a bigger bill for you. Contributed by Mel Desha who you can call at 341-1936 if you have any questions or concerns.

TOOFAR INC  
PO BOX 2709  
INVERNESS, FL 34451

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 28 , 2006**  
**7pm at the East Citrus Community Center**  
**SPEAKER: SENATOR NANCY ARGENZIANO**

**Our hats are off to you!**

**Many thanks to Lee Hedden for fixing our blinds, Bud Rust for the clear, cool water, Pat and Bill Johnson for assembling and mailing our newsletter, Tom Gallagher for cutting and grooming our lawn, Bob Danson for computer support and Pat Brady for collecting our tin cans.**

**Thanks to all for all you do! More kudos next month.....**

**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 at 726-2201 and the Floral City Pool: Tom Gallagher 860-1629**  
**Please let them know 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**