

TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

October 2006 Volume 179

TOOFAR Inc

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow TOOFAR members:

So did you ever say to yourself: You know if "I" were running TOOFAR I'd do it this way! Well - elections for 3 directors, secretary and president are coming up in December so here's your chance. Now, not to take away from your present directors, and I must say that those directors are doing a wonderful job. And that Pat Brady has volunteered as secretary for the last two years and certainly could use a break. And finally, I will not be able to re-up this go round due to personal reasons. It has been a great ride and many thanks to those who took the time to educate me. But the time has come for some new thinking and vision and I have always felt the President's position should have a full time person on the job. I will still stay very involved with TOOFAR and plan to be a pain in the butt to this organization and especially the powers to be until I am no longer able.

I plan to gather all of TOOFAR's achievements in the past and take the Citrus Chronicle's editorial board by storm. For too long this organization has educated the public on all sorts of water related issues with very little positive press.

I have in my possession a report entitled Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes Stormwater Runoff Project prepared by Jones Edmonds & Associates, Inc. This report was prepared for Citrus County. The priority list has identified 39 sites; the top 5 are the Citrus County Sheriff's office, North Apopka Boat Ramp, Highway 200 runoff, Sandpiper runoff and LockShire Park Boat Ramp. The good news is we now have a report; the bad news is we don't know what will be done about it? We will keep the heat on our County to Get-R-Done.

Thanks for everything
Marco

Office Hours

Mon—Thurs 10-3

After November 1, 2006

Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday 10-3

Meeting Notices

TOOFAR General Meeting

Thursday October 26 at 7pm

East Citrus Community Center

Hwy 44, East of Inverness

Speaker

Senator Nancy Argenziano

TOOFAR Board Meeting

Thursday November 2 at 6pm

TOOFAR office

Citrus Waterways Restoration Council

October 23 at 3pm

Lecanto

Withlacoochee Basin Board

October 19 at 9am

SWFWMD Governing Board

October 24 & 25 at 9 am

Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners

County Courthouse

October 10 & 24 at 1pm

Sumter County Commissioners

October 24 & 31

at the Courthouse, Bushnell

October 26th at Laurel Manor

SWFWMD ALERT

Minimum Flows and Levels for Tsala Apopka will be discussed Tuesday October 17 at 6:30 pm at the Citrus County Auditorium.

Please recycle your cans and newspapers. TOOFAR collects them, so come on down and make a deposit in our recycle bins.

Save some trees. Request your newsletter via email. Call the office at 726-5004 to subscribe as an "e user" Thank you.

HILITES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Pat Brady

We started the meeting with delicious “eats” provided by Ann & Norman Provencal. Many thanks!

Mark Wilson, President, opened the meeting with the Pledge and a prayer. Minutes of past meetings are on-line and in the office for review at any time. Greg Schmukal, Treasurer presented his report.

Mark welcomed first time visitors and apologized for Nancy Argenziano who couldn't make tonight's meeting as planned. She has rescheduled for our next meeting on October 26, 2006.

Homosassa Sea Food Festival – TOOFAR is supporting the festival by selling raffle tickets. The festival is Nov. 11 & 12th – Raffle drawing is Nov. 12th at 5 p.m. You do not have to be present to win. We get 50% of all the tickets we sell. Descriptions of the prize packages were circulated. Tickets are for sale at our next meeting and at the TOOFAR office.

Speaker lineup:

October 26 Senator Nancy Argenziano
November 16 Richard Knight, Director, Utilities Reg.
December 21 Gary Maidhof, Director, Develop. Serv.

The Ads Committee has been very busy. Thanks to Mary, Jan and Jan. Lots of support from current sponsors and we've got some new faces as well. Please remember them when you shop.

Speaker - Janet Masoy, Chairman of Citizens Opposed to the Sun Coast Parkway (COST). Janet provided members with a description of the toll road and stated that she believed it was a water issue as well as a toll road issue. She stated that she hasn't gotten a clear answer from SWFWMD regarding their take on the pipelines (linear well fields) that run parallel to the Sun Coast Parkway.

Larry Hartman asked that we remember L.C. and his wife Betty in our prayers. L.C. did the scientific research that helped make TOOFAR effective.

Larry received a check for \$5,000 to make a film to educate the public on our issues starting at the Green Swamp and coming into the Citrus County aquifer.

LAKE LEVELS As of October 2, 2007

Structure:	Scheduled	Current
Floral City	41.73	38.51
Inverness	39.86	37.54
Hernando	38.42	36.35
Panasoffkee		38.40
Wysong Up Stream		35.19
Wysong Down Stream		35.23
Leslie Hefner Outside		38.66
Leslie Hefner Inside		38.51

Levels are in ft above sea level. The Wysong Main Gate is fully open. Low Flow Gate is fully open. 43 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.

Distribution of the film will be widespread and include schools, citizen groups, politicians and government officials. The film will be aired on TV to reach an even larger audience. The same “angel” donated a pig for our pig roast. Many thanks.

Mike Moberly is the new chair of the Citrus Water Task Force.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Mark expressed special appreciation and recognition for Mr. Jim Bitter that was echoed in a large round of member applause. Jim has devoted many years of service to this county's environmental issues. He fills an important role and may be counted on to frame sensitive and political issues. At our September General Meeting Jim said: “We, the people, are the spotlight that shines into the dark corners of government.” Jim, thanks for your eloquent statement of our purpose.



IT'S PIG ROAST TIME!

December is not far away, and we are planning for our 15th Annual Pig Roast in conjunction with the Floral City Heritage Days

We have been asked to plan for 600 to 650 this year, rather than the 500 we usually plan for.

Last year we served about 475 people and brought over \$2,000 into the TOOFAR coffers! That's after all expenses. We could make over \$2,500 if we keep our costs down. That means a lot of volunteer work and donations of supplies and baked goods. Can we count on our members to make 50 cakes and 50 dozen corn muffins? And to chop and sauté 35 lbs of onions, and six hams for the hoppin johns?

Many thanks to Pat Brady and Greg Schmukal for volunteering to Co-Chair our 15th Annual Pig Roast. Thanks to Mary for knowing exactly what has to happen. Mary will help with planning and serve as our resident expert. Thanks Mary! We need someone to be in charge of beverages, as we can sell beverages separately from our meal. More information at our next meeting.



HELP HELP HELP This is our biggest fundraiser. HELP HELP HELP



Our next Pig Roast Meeting will be 4:30 pm October 26th—before our General Meeting at the ECCC. Please join us. We'll have sign up sheets at our October 26th General Meeting and hope you'll help.

THE CATCHING REPORT

By Jerry Schneider



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

Getting Fresh:

As I take pen in hand it is Oct. 1st and it appears September's grip on the summer temps are loosening. Cooler mornings and afternoons in the 80s should bring an increase in the catch rate. The usual contributors to this report tell me their catch rate is about average with very few bragging size fish.

The big "O" is still a hot spot. Catches of fifteen to twenty five fish with a few 5 to 7 pounders on a half-day outing is quite common. All this could change soon. Water levels are up just over a foot since early Sep. and the bass will start to migrate back into the vast lily pad and grass flats. Low water on Lake Kissimmee has forced bass into deeper water bringing the catch rate way up. Low water also means higher risk to boaters, so be careful out there.

On the Salt:

Snook season opened Sep. 1st. This is one crafty fish. They are most plentiful from Boca Grande on the Gulf around the state to Cape Kennedy on the East Coast. They are being caught here in creeks and channels with moving water on Burkley Powerbait Mulletts. A lighted dock is a prime nighttime spot for these tackle wreckers.

Reds are on the spawn and are everywhere eating everything. Folks targeting reds on the spoil banks are doing quite well with some nice reds and a stray tarpon every now and then. Should you luck up on one of the tarpon pods try a crab with no weight. If Spanish mackerel is your target fish watch for diving birds over bait pods between Homosassa and the power plant.

Well friends, that's all I have for you this month. I wish you blue skies and tight lines; Jerry's gone fishin'.

Fish Camp Philosophy: "After all these years, I still feel like a boy when I'm on a lake or stream".
Jimmy Carter

KUDOS COLUMN



Thanks and kudos to all our Coffee Room volunteers. Folks who make our meetings more enjoyable with their delicious and generous goodies.
Kudos to Bob & Marilyn Adamic, Jan Ethier, Bill & Pat Johnson, Frank & Sally Heath, Gene & Karen Musselman, Betty Avis, Karen Getter, Paul & Mary Agius, Lolly Adkison, Carmen Stone, Barb Hyatt, Norman & Ann Provencal, Cindy Baldwin, June Schmukal, Alice O'Neal, Fanny Koon, Wayne Hilton, Betty Knieper, Betty Martin, Leslie Berard, Nancy Stuckman and Avis Washington. Please consider volunteering for the Coffee Room in 2007. Call 726-5004 to volunteer.
Thank you.



Homosassa Seafood Festival — Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Homosassa Seafood Festival Raffle. Tickets will be on sale at our October 26th General Meeting or pick them up at the TOOFAR office.

TOOFAR INC
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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - OCTOBER 26, 2006
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
SPEAKER: SENATOR NANCY ARGENZIANO**

At the TOOFAR Board Meeting on October 5, 2006, the Board passed a motion to change our Office Hours to:
Tuesday through Thursday
10 am to 3 pm
These new hours of operation are effective November 1, 2006

Citrus County Master Gardeners
Plant Sale
Saturday October 14, 2006 at 8 am
Citrus County Auditorium
Lines begin to form at 7am!

Notice Regarding Ads

We are changing our advertising year to run from
November 2006 through October 2007.

As a result of that change there are no ads in this newsletter. Next month (November) will be the first for our new ads cycle. Be on the lookout for many old friends as well as new sponsors. Please remember them when you shop and mention their TOOFAR ad. Thank You.

The Advertising Committee