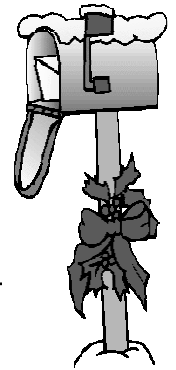


# TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

December 2006 Volume 181

TOOFAR Inc  
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Phone 352-726-5004  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Office Hours**  
Tues, Weds, Thurs  
10 am— 3 pm

### Meeting Notices

TOOFAR General Meeting  
Thursday, December 21  
at 7pm  
East Citrus Community Center  
Hwy 44, East of Inverness  
Speaker  
Mr. Gary Maidhof, Director  
Developmental Services  
Citrus County

TOOFAR Board Meeting  
Thursday January 4 at 6pm  
TOOFAR office

Citrus County Tsala Apopka  
Chain of Lakes Task Force  
TBA

Withlacoochee Basin Board  
December 14 at 9am

SWFWMD Governing Board  
January 30  
at 9 am  
Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners  
County Courthouse  
December 12, January 9  
at 1pm

Sumter County Commissioners  
December 12  
at the Courthouse, Bushnell  
December 19 at Laurel Manor  
in the Villages

Hello fellow TOOFAR members:

Wow! What a great Pig Roast, thank you everybody.

I just got back from an Editorial Board Meeting at the Citrus County Chronicle and it went pretty good. The topic was focused on what TOOFAR has been doing since the Wysong-Coogler non-restrictive structure was put in place. Additionally, it was to educate the public that TOOFAR was not a bunch of bad or radical guys despite what they might think.

Here's what we talked about:

1) Adopt a Shore, 2) Point Lonesome Restoration, 3) Parsons Point Restoration, 4) Halls River Preservation, 5) Stopping Fish & Wildlife from leasing Potts & Flying Eagle, 6) Chiefland Meeting, Council of 100, 7) Lake Panasoffkee, 8) Removal of Hernando Pool Tussocks, 9) Citrus County Lake Council, 10) Pristine Point RV Park, 11) E. Citrus Hurricane Preparedness, 12) Fishing Education Program, 13) U.S. Army Corps Study, and 14) Two-Mile Prairie. Just to name a few.

I stressed TOOFARs most important role in community education. Staff was very nice and said they would work with us to produce a good Sunday article soon. Much more happening but that will be Al's letter next month (Ha). Have a safe holiday and a Happy New Year — it's been a real slice.

Marco



TOOFAR wishes you and your family a joyous Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Save some trees. Request your newsletter via email. Call the office at 726-5004 to subscribe as an "e user"  
TOOFAR collects cans and newspapers, so please make a deposit to our recycle bins.

## **HILITES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING**

By Pat Brady

Thanks to Bob & Marilyn Adamic for great goodies in coffee room tonight.

Mark Wilson opened the meeting with the Pledge, an Invocation and a welcome for all our guests. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read. Mark commented on the passing of life member, Ken Chadwick, who will be deeply missed by our organization and our continuing fight for water resources.

Mark introduced our speaker, Mr. Robert Knight, Director of Utility Regulation for Citrus County. Mr. Knight discussed the Water Resources Department status and functions that included the first storm water collection process co-funded with Swiftmud. Two major topics: Swiftmud's revised regional supply plan and the possible draft of WR/WA plan. He invited comments and shared his contact information.

A publication you can download at the SWFWMD's website entitled, Florida Waters claims if we can seasonally capture up to 5% of the run off water we can double the supply of water in Florida. Another document that can be downloaded covers the plans of other areas that indicate there are no water transfer plans in anyone's plan. Water transfer can't complete financially with desalinization.

Minimum flows: Doug Leiper, made most of the scientific presentation. For our lake, we can draw down 1.8 ft. without detriment. It appears we are not as water rich as we thought. These minimum levels don't require any minimum flows. The Withlacoochee River flows will be completed within a couple of years and should be coordinated with the lakes levels. TF needs to watch these developments. Southern Hernando County's draw on the aquifer affects as far north as Inverness. Hernando County can no longer have any well fields. There is a proposal for new well fields (in center of county and south of Inverness) and talk of developing a joint well field. Primary new water resources: reclaim, water capture, and skimming. Mr. Knight welcomed comments by email or phone before 12/11. After revision, the plan will go to SWFWMD. A Q&A session was followed by a short break.

Pat Brady presented the Nominating Committee's candidates. Bullfrog Drawing \$38 won by Marvin Manes. Auction: 2 Tickets for Admission to Heritage Days Tour of Historic Homes (value \$10 ea) Sold \$7 each. 2 Free Grouper dinner - \$15 sold 1, \$12 sold 1, Electric Knife - \$10

Mark is meeting with the editorial board of the Chronicle about the reputation of TOOFAR. We were appalled at the last meeting of Withlacoochee board members when TOOFAR's name was not mentioned in a list of organization's dealing with water issues. We need more recognition and better press. Mark read a letter inviting us to a meeting on Thurs. Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 am in the County Commissioners' chamber where issues concerning us all will be discussed. Property taxes, insurance, water, etc. Our legislative organization will be there.

Joyce Valentino spoke to us about changes in our county government and that it often seems that for every idea she presents the board comes up with reasons why it can't be done. We have postponed raising taxes and are now paying the price with upcoming costs in services and infrastructure. More tax dollars brought more bills and costs shifted from the state. We can't continue subsidizing what the state isn't doing. Get to this meeting and let the reps know our concerns. Many things that need to be done will require constitutional amendments that won't occur until the 2008 elections.

Board Member Comments: Duane Brooks – Power meeting at Lake Rousseau about the locks. Can't let them close these locks completely, but wondered if 100 people can cause them to keep the locks. Pointed out what TOOFAR has accomplished. Bob Adamic read the Beaver Dam story. Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> passed.

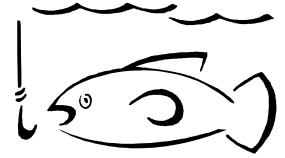
### **IN MEMORIAM**

Our friend, Ken Chadwick, passed away last month. Mr. Chadwick was one of the moving forces early in the development of TOOFAR and among other positions, he served as Chairman of the Board for several years. In recent years Ken assisted TOOFAR in establishing the TOOFAR Water and Natural Resources Foundation and obtaining its 501 c3 status.

Mr. Chadwick was deeply involved in planning the future of the Foundation and established his own specialized consulting business to help the organization raise the funds he knew we would need to carry out ambitious plans. His vision inspired all the Foundation Board to see what he saw in our future and to dream big. He was a wise and true friend and we will miss him.

# THE CATCHING REPORT

by Jerry Schneider



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

## On the Salt:

Our seasonal weather fronts with their cool temps and blustery winds are with us again, and the trout and reds will be moving around because of them. The shallow flats will cool quickly, moving fish into the deeper holes and warmer creeks and rivers. Fear not, a few calm sunny days between fronts will put these fish back on the warming flats where they are easier to target. The wind is definitely making it unsafe and unwise to venture out to the rocks looking for grouper.

Closer to shore, the trout and reds are being boated in good numbers. Nice catches were reported around the barge canal, spoilbanks, and flats around Yankeetown, along with a few tasty flounder. Anglers in the Crystal River area are doing well with trout and reds, especially around the Gomez rocks. Further south in the Homosassa/Ozello area extremely clear water is making the trout and reds much easier to sight fish.

If you are an angler with the holiday blues you can chase your blues away by chasing blue fish. This seasonal species has made its appearance with a vengeance all along our nature coast. Pods of blues will locate at the mouth of rivers and creeks on a falling tide. A BURKLEY GULP IN A PORGY shape and a pod of blue fish will chase your blues away, guaranteed.

## Getting Fresh:

Water! Where is it? Where did it go? If we don't get some rain soon, water will be as scarce as chicken lips. If Mr. Mike Bartlett from SWFWMD is true to his word and holds lake levels higher next year maybe this situation won't repeat itself.

On to more pleasant things. Rol Steinhauser reported Hernando lakes are giving up some nice crappie. Rob Schmidt has been boating a few small bass and big crappie when he hits the water. Greg "Big Fish" Schmulak seems to have a handle on the Hernando waters. He reports fish weighing eight and five pounds this month. On Lake Henderson, Al Grubman has a nice four pound bass to his credit. Marco Wilson, armed with his favorite purple worm, has been doing well with bank runners behind his home.

Well, that's all the news that's fit to print. If we don't get some rain soon this space may turn into a hunting report. I wish you blue skies, tight lines, and a Merry Christmas. Jerry's gone fishin'.

Fish Camp Philosophy: "Lord, suffer me to catch a fish so large that even I in talking of it afterward shall have no reason to lie." Suggested motto: Herbert Hoover's Fishing Lodge

### Ballot for Acclamation

#### December 21st General Meeting

**President: Al Grubman, Secretary: TBA**

**Directors: Frank Heath, Duane Brooks, and Mark Wilson**

**AJ Hendrix**  
BUILDERS, INC.



**Andy Hendrix**

State Certified Building Contractor  
CBC 042328

293 N. Cherry Pop Dr.  
Inverness, FL 34453



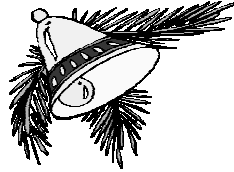
(352) 726-2401

### "Water's Journey, The Hidden Rivers of Florida"

Over eight billion gallons of water a day bursts forth from Florida's springs - the most unique concentration of springs on the planet. At one time, it was thought to be an endless supply, but now the demands of man are starting to exceed availability. We join a team on a daring journey into the Floridian Aquifer - to find out what's going wrong. As the team follows the connective path of water through the landscape, their discoveries lead viewers on a thrilling adventure about the miraculous course that water takes, and the places we don't want to believe it goes.

Is it too late for the Floridian Aquifer? Find out by visiting the Museum of Arts and Science, Daytona Beach, Florida. This enlightening film is being shown at 1 and 3 daily. Call the Museum at 352-255-0285 for more information.

**TOOFAR INC  
PO BOX 2709  
INVERNESS, FL  
34451**



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Elections  
Lake Levels  
Pig Roast**



**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - DECEMBER 21, 2006  
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center  
SPEAKER: MR. GARY MAIDHOF  
Director of Developmental Services, Citrus County**

**LAKE LEVELS as of DECEMBER 5, 2006**

<b>Structure:</b>	<b>Scheduled</b>	<b>Current</b>
Floral City	42.25	37.29
Inverness	40.25	36.62
Hernando	38.75	35.56
Panasoffkee		37.34
Wysong Up Stream		34.99
Wysong Down Stream		34.99
Leslie Hefner Outside		38.09
Leslie Hefner Inside		37.26

**Levels are in ft. above sea level. The Wysong Main Gate is fully open. Low Flow Gate is fully open. 19cfs total flow**

**Please call Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD, at 800-423-1476 ext. 4515 for more information on the lake levels and structures.**

**PIG ROAST UPDATE**

**Tune in next month for pictures and a detailed report on our 15th Annual Pig Roast. This newsletter went to press before we had a chance to prepare a report. Our Co-chairs Pat Brady and Greg & June Schmukal and all our volunteers did an outstanding job! An unofficial tally indicated we served over 400 people.**

**Many members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal and the Floral City exhibits. Thanks to all.**

**Join us at our January 25, 2007 General Meeting for a menu of pork sandwiches, apple sauce and a beverage. All this for only \$4. We'll start serving at 6 pm. See you there!**

**Attention Snowbirds! Call the office at 352-726-5004 and let us know you're back. Thanks.**