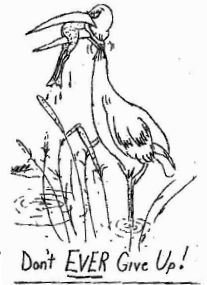


TOOFAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

June 2007 Volume 187

Our website: www.toofarinc.com

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Office Hours
Tues, Weds, Thurs 10-3

Meeting Notices

TOOFAR General Meeting
Thursday June 28 at 7pm
East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Philip Rhinesmith
Environmental Scientist
SWFWMD

TOOFAR Board Meeting
Thursday July 5 at 6pm
TOOFAR office

Citrus County Task Force
June 11 at 2pm—Lecanto

Withlacoochee Basin Board
June 28, 2007 at 9 am
Brooksville

SWFWMD Governing Board
June 26 at 9 am— Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners
County Courthouse
June 12 & 26
at 1pm

Sumter County Commissioners
Bushnell Courthouse
June 12 at 5:30 pm
Public Hearing Land Use—
Comp. Plan Amendments
Regular Meeting at Villages
Laurel Manor- June 19 at 5 pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pray for rain! Lots of rain! No change from last month's message but we are more frustrated as we see the lakes continue to shrink. They seem to be falling faster and faster. They probably are falling faster. Evaporation is increased with warm weather and the receding aquifer provides drains where small springs used to help the lakes. The last of the boat ramps are being locked and chained.

Being positive or looking at the bright side does not help much. I would probably be run out of town if I told you to fish from a kayak and save gas doing it.

SWFWMD is not doing all that we want but they are pursuing ten 2 foot by 3 foot culverts with risers through the Flying Eagle Dike. Work is expected to start in June and be done by the end of summer. It will provide information for complete destruction of the dikes or another approach.

Citrus County Commissioner Joyce Valentino and Director Mark Edwards went to FDOT to clear under the Route 44 Bridge. FDOT's Jim Hubbard, Dick Clarke and their crews went to work. Now, if you can get your boat into the Inverness Pool, you may, with a little more rain, go from Lake Henderson to Lake Spivey or vice versa. Citrus County Commissioner John Thrumston has also tried to help and has certainly called attention to our plight.

The main concern is not fishing or the lakes. We must understand that full lakes recharge the aquifer and supply fresh water all the way to the coast. Cleaning out muck in the lakes not only helps fish spawning but increases the capacity of water for recharging and eases the way for lake water to soak through the sand and limestone to recharge the aquifer.

Conservation of water is important because water is a precious resource. It is not important in order to allow for more over-pumping or rampant building beyond sustainable levels.

RAIN! RAIN! RAIN!

Al

TOOFAR is a grassroots organization dedicated to the best management and conservation of natural resources for present and future generations through public education and interaction with all entities charged with these responsibilities.

HILITES OF THE MAY MEETING

By Pat Brady

Thanks to Mary Agius for baking the goodies and to Jan Ethier for helping in the coffee room. Al Grubman called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge followed by the Invocation. Minutes of previous meetings as well as Board Meeting minutes are available in the TOOFAR office. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read subject to an audit.

Guest Speaker – Joyce Valentino, Citrus County Commissioner. Joyce talked about how information is gathered and turned into action. She expressed great appreciation for the County staff who work very hard under great pressure. With the growth of the county we are under pressure to provide more and more services while holding a budget level and without knowing how much funding is available. We will know how much revenue we will have in the county after the legislature meets in special session. Citrus County is very attractive because people are being taxed out of their homes in other Florida counties. As we move on we will reach a consensus about the right things to do for our citizens. We are lobbying Swiftmud to get dollars for our projects. We will do as much as we can while we can and the battles will still be going on 20 years from now.

A Q&A session followed and many issues were discussed including the following: unfunded mandates, capital improvements, green ideas, dike removal, Florida friendly landscaping, muck removal and grey water reuse.

The Break was followed by the second reading of the proposed changes to the By-laws. Call for a vote. Motion was made and 2nd. Motion passed.

President's Report – Thank you to Bob & Marilyn Adamic, Avis Washington & Betty Martin who manned our booth at the Lake Panasoffkee festival and did well for us.

Members attended the water summit and Al encouraged members to wear their TF shirts when they attend meetings especially ones other than our general meetings. Al and Jan Grubman will contribute \$5 towards the purchase price of a TF shirt for every member who promises to wear it to meetings other than our general meeting. This offer is good until the end of July. The membership drive is being continued. So sign up some folks. The Flying Eagle dike culvert project is expected to complete permitting, to start in June and be completed by September.

Dr. Dan Canfield is raising money for a Lake Watch building by selling bricks for donations which the State will match dollar for dollar. Information printed below.

Bullfrog Drawing won by Mark Wilson

Meeting adjourned.

Ode to Lakewatch

Alas a lake did not get watched
As plows did till and bricks were laid

As time went by so it was
That no one cared how Nature died

Waves did dance but now no more
As condos stand where fish once bed

When all is dry and growth has won
Who will say we should have watched

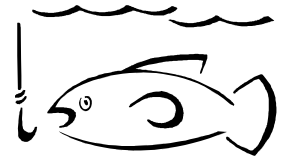
W Sawyer 5/07

The Ode to Lakewatch was written by long time member and past Board Director, Wayne Sawyer. The poem says a lot about the situation of our lakes and what can happen if we fall asleep on our watch. We have a responsibility to ourselves and future generations to respect and preserve our most precious resource—water.

The Lakewatch program (U of FL, IFAS, DFAS) has grown and needs our help. They have outgrown their building and are having a building drive. You can help by making a donation or by purchasing a brick paver that will be inscribed with your name or one you choose. The bricks will be displayed in a Hall of Honor. You can honor relatives, businesses or purchase a paver to honor friends and organizations. Proceeds will contribute directly to building the Florida Lakewatch Home. For information call Dan Canfield at 352-392-9617 or mail:decan@ufl.edu
Thank you.

THE CATCHING REPORT

by Jerry Schneider



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

On the Salt:

It's summer time and the fishing is easy. Warm water temps and the absence of the cold fronts have put the fish in their usual summer haunts, and they are hungry.

Spanish mackerel are being taken in both shallow and deep water. If you are chumming in deep water don't be surprised if you hook up a few nice kings also. There are plenty of trout being taken along the coast from Inglis to Ozello, but the biggest are coming from the Homosassa area.

Reds are also numerous throughout our area, with the largest coming from the spoil banks near the barge canal. If grouper is your target you have to go deep. Find some rocks 50 to 60 feet deep, bait up with sardines, and hang on.

Getting Fresh:

Recently, after doing some minor excavation to get his boat away from his dock and into deep water, our president Al Grubman had some good luck. In a couple of hours he and his friend boated seven bass with the largest weighing in at 3.5 pounds.

Greg and June Schmulak have scored a first while participating in a Fishers of Men tourney on the Suwannee river. They were the very first to throw in the very wet towel and head back to the ramp as tropical storm Barry brought huge rains to that area.

Our area lakes remain disastrously low. Barry dropped just enough rain here to bring my lawn weeds back to life. Early June saw Lake Okeechobee drop below its historic low of 8.97 feet above sea level while the metropolitan areas of southeast Florida and big sugar continue to draw water from it.

That's all I have for now. I wish you blue skies and tight lines, Jerry's gone fishin'.

Fish Camp Philosophy: "Next to prayer, fishing is the most personal relationship of man."
Herbert Hoover

Florida Facts

Florida is the only state that has two rivers with the same name. Yes, that's right. There are two Withlacoochee Rivers. One is in Madison and Hamilton Counties, way up north and the other is right here.

Eagles make Florida their home! Florida has the largest breeding population of bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

Poppy's Parkside Restaurant

Bill & Angela, owners

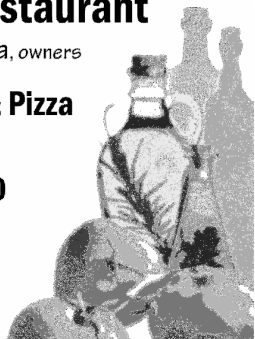
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Lake Levels



NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - JUNE 28, 2007
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Philip Rhinesmith
Senior Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD

Lake Levels as of June 4, 2007

Structure:	Current	<p>The Wysong Main Gate is fully open. Low Flow Gate is fully open. 0 cfs total flow. Floral City, Inverness and Hernando Pools— structures are closed. Leslie Heifner gate closed.</p> <p>Please call Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD, at 800-423-1476 ext. 4515 for more information on the lake levels/structures.</p>
Floral City	Sensor out of the water	
Inverness	34.17	
Hernando	Sensor out of the water	
Panasoffkee	37.01	
Wysong Up Stream	34.47	
Wysong Down Stream	34.45	
Leslie Heifner Outside	36.17	
Leslie Heifner Inside	36.17	
Levels are in ft. above sea level.		

Manual readings taken by SWFWMD on May 22, 2007 indicated that Floral City was at 33.57, Inverness was at 34.33 and Hernando was at 33.75.

Remember to recycle and deposit your cans and newspapers in our recycle bins. Newspapers in bin and cans in plastic bags on the porch. TOOFAR is located at 26 N Florida Avenue, Inverness. Thank you!