

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

July 2007 Volume 188



Our website: www.toofarinc.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We still need lots of rain! That is not news but the weather patterns seem to be slowly changing to summer patterns. Hopefully we will start getting more frequent and heavier rains. Hopefully we will get rains in areas that drain into our lakes, will fill up our lakes, will recharge the aquifer and will keep ahead of development in supplying clean ground water all the way to the coast and preventing salt water intrusion.

On a macro basis, it is a simple system; our lakes and marshes are a big reservoir for rain draining directly into the lake or by way of the Withlacoochee River. The water soaks through the lake and marsh bottoms to be purified and recharge the aquifer. Bacteria and suspended matter is effectively filtered. Nitrogen in solution encourages plant growth and is somewhat reduced by creating excessive aquatic weed growth. Dissolved nitrogen does not filter out but remains in the ground water and is increasing in our springs.

As stewards of our environment we must limit growth to sustainable levels that allow our aquifer to recharge faster than development depletes it. Excess chemicals like nitrogen must be reduced by laws and/or better management practices in landscaping. The other main source of nitrogen is sewage. Advanced performance septic systems, and better yet, sewers must be the direction we go. The Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council; Citrus County Task Force has been the best potential vehicle for improvements to our waterways. It has been working on the Tsala Apopka Lakes for three years and the rest of Citrus County was added this year. At the June 11, 2007 meeting, Chairman Mike Moberley, challenged the Technical Advisory Group to prepare in 60 days a coordinated, consolidated draft proposal for lake projects drawing on the three years of work. The proposal should consider: fisheries habitat, marsh habitat, restoration of historic lake/river connections, water quality, muck removal, hardwood removal, flow and boat travel between the three pools. Mike was too nice to refer to the "do nothing," "study" and "fight progress" record of most of the Technical Advisory Group. He did make clear that it was time to produce. We as the customers that should be served by the Task Force and the Technical Advisory Group must watch closely for results. We must be ready to heap praise upon the Technical Advisory Group when they produce. If they do not, our censure and derision should be loud and public. If they do not, maybe we should demand return of the salaries some of them collected but did not earn in the years of meetings.

Rain! Rain! Rain!

AI

TOO FAR 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.

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Email address: toofarinc@earthlink.net Office Hours Tues, Weds, Thurs 10-3**

HILITES OF THE JUNE MEETING

By Jan Grubman

Thanks to Jan Ethier for the goodies and to Mary Agius for helping in the coffee room.

Al Grubman called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge. Larry Hartman gave 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 – Philip Rhinesmith, Senior Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD who talked about the quality of water in the Tsala Apopka Lake Chain. He has worked as an environmental scientist for 20 years and is the project leader for SWFWMD's wetland restoration program. He also is the District's environmental technical advisor on the Citrus Waterways Restoration Council.

Mr. Rhinesmith presented an overview of the Tsala Apopka Water Quality Monitoring Program, including its background and timeline, and status report. Key elements of the program include the following:

10-17-2005: The Citrus County Task Force of the Citrus/Hernando Waterways Restoration Council requested \$50,000 from the Legislature for a Lake Tsala Apopka Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Initiative.

5-5-2006: Task Force request was approved by the Governor (effective date July, 2006).

8-24-2006: SWFWMD Withlacoochee River Basin Board approved a \$50,000 match.

9-26-2006: SWFWMD Governing Board requested funds from Fiscal Year 2006-2007 General Appropriation Act.

10-1-2006: Fiscal Year funding became available.

10-9-2006: SWFWMD initiated monthly sampling at 19 lakes.

5-19-2007: SWFWMD presented results of the initial six-month testing at the First Annual Citrus County Task Force Stakeholders Conference in Citrus Springs. Substances sampled included Chlorophyll a, dissolved oxygen, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, Secchi depth (water clarity), and Trophic State Index. Provisional data indicated that the Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes compared well with other Florida lakes. The water quality in the Tsala Apopka Lake Chain is good. Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Q - How were lakes picked to be part of the study? A – Access and availability.

Q - When water returns it will have low oxygen which can cause fish kills. A – Too much water too fast will have low oxygen levels and there really isn't much we can do.

Q – Did the samplings show any heavy metals, mercury or foreign matter? What about bacteria? A – Very little metals were found since we're not an industrial area. Bacteria seems to be coming from natural sources.

Q – Did you have any data on Cooter Pond prior to aeration (to assess effect of aeration)? A – We haven't studied it but it's a good idea.

Al Grubman reviewed a complaint that tank trucks can apparently load water directly out of our lakes repeatedly when citizens can only water once a week. It is an obvious absurdity. Al asked if any government representatives or other members had any advice on how it could be stopped. None did. Al suggested SWFWMD cover the point in their drought regulations.

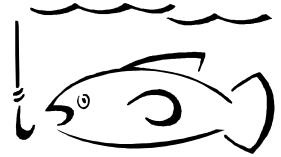
President's report: Duval Island muck removal site has been surveyed and hopefully removal will start soon. Fish and the lakes show signs of extreme stress. Flying Eagle dike culverts: requisitions have been completed, orders are about to be issued, and completion is still expected this summer. Board member Sophie Diaz-Fonseca donated \$200 of excess campaign funds.

Bullfrog drawing was won by Frank Heath - \$23.

Meeting adjourned.

THE CATCHING REPORT

by Jerry Schneider



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

On the Salt:

The summer pattern continues to hold sway over our finny friends with a few changes here and there. The higher water temps have moved the larger trout into cooler, deeper water. Smaller trout are being caught around Porpoise Point north of Yankeetown. Due to the drought no fresh water is breaching the Rousseau dam, and reds are being taken all the way up the river to there. St. Martins key, near Ozello, is also holding nice reds. Big tarpon are also moving into the Ozello area. If you get bored, and need a good workout, chum up some black tip sharks. There are plenty around.

Getting Fresh:

Our president Al Grubman has been landing quite a few bass on top water chuggers. They looked badly stressed by the drought says Al, with large heads and small bodies. Richard "Cooky" Cooke is having some luck here in East Cove. Using a small man-portable boat he has been landing some nice 3 – 5lb bass. Well here it is the end of June and the drought is still with us. Not one tropical storm or hurricane in sight. T.S. Barry brought just enough rain to make my lawn weeds happy and the afternoon showers always seem to fall on some other point of the compass. Big Lake Okeechobee is getting smaller every day. The lower Kissimmee river and the Green swamp are dry. Our boat ramps are useless. There has to be a silver lining somewhere but I would rather see clouds heavy with rain.

Well it's time to end this. I wish you a gentle rain and tight lines. Jerry's gone fishin'.

Fish Camp Philosophy: "Fishing keeps us – part of us anyway – boys forever."
Geoffrey Norman

Meeting Notices	
<p>TOO FAR General Meeting Thursday July 26 at 7pm East Citrus Community Center</p> <p>TOOFAR Board Meeting Thursday August 2 at 6pm TOO FAR office</p> <p>Citrus County Task Force TBA</p> <p>Withlacoochee Basin Board July 24 at 9 am Brooksville</p>	<p>SWFWMD Governing Board July 31 at 9 am— Brooksville</p> <p>Citrus County Commissioners County Courthouse July 10 & 24 at 1pm</p> <p>Sumter County Commissioners Bushnell Courthouse July 10 & 17 at 5:30 pm July 24 at 5:30 pm Colony Cottage</p>

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.
Show your support and wear your TOO FAR shirt!
Twelfth Annual
SAVE OUR WATERS WEEK
September 14-22, 2007
Schedule of Events

Friday, September 14, Save Our Waters Week's Fundraiser sponsored by Citrus 20/20 Inc. to be held at the West Citrus Elk Lodge. Doors open at 6pm, dinner at 7pm followed by "Know Where It Flows" play created by Mac Harris and vocal & dance music provided by Debi-G. Cost - \$35 pp. For ticket purchase and more information call 527-0800 or 344-5955.

Saturday, September 15, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon, Countywide Adopt-A-Shore and Professional Association of Diving Instructors Clean Up. Call Paul Klement at 527-7620 for information.

Saturday, September 15 post-clean up. Appreciation Cookouts for Volunteers: East side Lake Hernando Beach Park, Sponsored by Apopka Marine. West side – American Pro Diving Center, Sponsored by American Pro Diving Center

Saturday, September 15, 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm, Crystal River Preserve State Park - Redfish Theatre Revue Visitors Center. Films: SPRINGS ETERNAL...FLORIDA'S FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH and Wes Skiles' WATERS JOURNEY...THE ST. JOHNS RIVER. Both films deal with important Florida water issues. Call 563-0540 for information. Admission is free.

Sunday, September 16, 1:30-6pm, Nature Coast Volkspport Guided Hikes. 5/10km hikes. Starting point is Fort Cooper State Park. \$1pp/\$2 carload. Call 628-4543 for information.

Monday, September 17. Kayaking with Matt Clemons: County Boat Ramp at Pirates' Cove, Ozello. To register call 795-5650 or online visit floridakayakcompany.com/eregistration.html \$10pp.

Tuesday, September 18, 9:00am – 12:00 noon Homosassa River Springs Tour. Start Point: River Safaris; 10823 W. Yulee Dr. Homosassa Springs. Call 628-5222 for reservations. Capacity: 30 persons. Free.

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Wednesday, September 19, 6:00pm. "Our Water in Jeopardy" an interactive game with local high schools competing on water issues using the 'Jeopardy' game format. Jerome Multi-Purpose Room, Central Florida Community College, Citrus Campus, Lecanto. Public invited. Call 527-7648 for information.

Thursday, September 20, 8:00am – 12:00 noon Crystal River Springs Tour - start Point: Fort Island Trail Park. Call 795-4393 for reservations. Capacity: 36 persons. Free.

Thursday, September 20, 8:30 and 10:00 am Crystal River Eco Water Taxi Tour. Start Point: 3rd Street Pier (267 N W 3rd St., Crystal River). Call 564-9197 for reservations. Capacity limited to 40 persons per tour. Free.

Friday, September 21, Kayaking with Kayaks & Beyond. Launch from Hunter Springs at 8am. For more information and to register call 795-2255. Kayaks will be available to use for the cleanup.

Saturday, September 22, 9:00am – 11:00am and 12:00 noon – 2:00pm - Fort Cooper State Park and Florida Park Service – "Muck About" in cooperation with Academy of Environmental Science students. Open to the public. Start Point: Fort Cooper State Park, Inverness. Call 726-0315 for information.

Saturday, September 22, 4-9pm, Sunset Festival - Fort Island Trail Pier at Fort Island Trail Beach.

Getting Ready Already!

It's time to start planning our biggest fundraiser of the year — our Pig Roast. The TOO FAR 16th Annual Pig Roast will be held in conjunction with the Floral City Heritage Days Celebration in December.

Volunteers make this event successful and we need your help. Consider volunteering to solicit business contributions and support. Or, you can bake desserts, cook, set up, serve and/or clean up.

Join the fun and help us get started. Mark your calendars for our first 2007 Pig Roast meeting held at 6pm before our General Meeting on September 27, 2007 at the E.C.C.C. We appreciate your help and support and hope to see you at the meeting. Thanks.

Pets

Thanks to all our good hearted members who contribute pet food for the E.C.C.C. Pet Meals Program. Pets are wonderful, loving companions especially for the home-bound. This program is a huge success and your continued support is appreciated by pets and their owners. If you want to donate pet food, bring it with you to our general meetings at the E.C.C.C. and leave it in the back of the kitchen. Or, drop it off at the TOO Far office at 26 North Florida Avenue, Inverness. There are many happy pets thanks to you!

This Place We Call Home

The Florida coastline along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico was very different 12,000 years ago. The sea level was much lower than it is today. As a result, the Florida peninsula was more than twice as large as it is now. The people who inhabited Florida at that time were hunters and gatherers, who only rarely sought big game for food. Modern researchers think that their diet consisted of small animals, plants, nuts, and shellfish. These first Floridians settled in areas where a steady water supply, good stone resources for tool making, and firewood were available. Over the centuries, these native people developed complex cultures. During the period prior to contact with Europeans, native societies of the peninsula developed cultivated agriculture, traded with other groups in what is now the southeastern United States, and increased their social organization, reflected in large temple mounds and village complexes. Written records about life in Florida began with the arrival of the Spanish explorer and adventurer Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513. Sometime between April 2 and April 8, Ponce de Leon waded ashore on northeast coast of Florida. He called the area la Florida, in honor of Pascua florida (feast of the flowers), Spain's Eastertime celebration.

Taken from the following website
<http://www.flheritage.com/facts/history/summary/>
Go there for more information.

AJ Hendrix
BUILDERS, INC.



Andy Hendrix

State Certified Building Contractor
CBC 042328

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(352) 726-2401

Poppy's Parkside Restaurant

Bill & Angela, owners

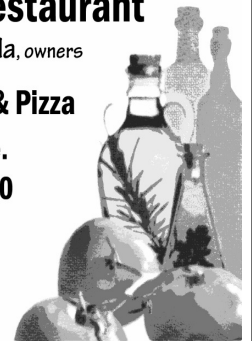
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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - JULY 26, 2007
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Jamie Adams
Outdoors with Adams
Chronicle Reporter and retired Sumter Co. Sheriff**

Lake Levels as of July 2, 2007

Structure:	Current	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. Please call Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD, at 800-423-1476 ext. 4515 for more infor- mation on the lake levels/structures.
Floral City	35.99	
Inverness	34.17	
Hernando	34.41	
Panasoffkee	36.99	
Wysong Up Stream	34.44	
Wysong Down Stream	34.37	
Leslie Heifner Outside	35.76	
Leslie Heifner Inside	35.76	
Levels are in ft. above sea level.		

Manual readings are taken by SWFWMD when the monitoring sensors are out of the water.

**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!**