

TOO FAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

September 2008 Volume 202

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Save Our Waters Week Guest Commentary by Al Grubman

Again this year, we of TOO FAR (Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation) salute Citrus 20/20 on Save Our Waters Week – the 13th annual. We are proud to support the purpose of promoting public awareness, public education and public consensus to save Citrus County's treasured waters. As we focus on water - we must clean our water, we must cherish our water and we must protect our water. During Save Our Waters Week you can join us in the Adopt-A-Shore Coastal Clean-up. We will be working to clean our lakes, rivers, bays and coastlines. We pull up hazards like logs and broken dock pieces. We collect every kind of trash you can imagine including cans, plastic bags and medical paraphernalia. We walk the shores and use our boats. When we finish the morning, we will see the improvement. Then we will get together for the appreciation cookout. Even better, develop the habit of doing some pick-up every time you are on or near the water.

Cleaning our water includes keeping our water clean. In Citrus County any contaminant falling on the ground is likely to end up in our surface water, springs and in the aquifer. One of the worst examples is nitrogen from fertilizers. Fertilizers soaking into the ground continue to fertilize our lakes and springs. More and more weeds are fouling our lakes and algae are degrading our springs.

Cherish our water by conservation. Repair leaks. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving. Do not water your lawn when the rain has already done the job. Use Florida friendly landscaping and let it be dormant in the dry season. Use the water you need but do not waste or use water that you do not need. Like seatbelts, we had to learn new habits. Then seatbelts became the standard way for our kids and grandkids. Let's do the same for water conservation habits. Remember that the recent rains are only a start; the drought is not over until the ground water has recovered. Conservation is a continuing need.

Protect our water from rampant development. Keep development at sustainable levels. We are entering a period of potential water wars. Neighboring counties with water shortages are circling to ambush our low cost waters. The rapidly expanding Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority is aiding the water grab and is studying taking water from four places on the Withlacoochee including two places upstream of Citrus County. When taken, the water will be for outside Citrus County.

In this election year, use your vote wisely. Listen to the candidates, study and understand the issues, look up the sources of candidates' money and understand what the candidate has done in the past that will benefit us. They may talk big but the candidates are not always dedicated, knowledgeable, intelligent or honest. But the ones elected make major decisions that affect our cost of living, our quality of life and the future value of our property. I was at a county commission meeting where a commissioner explained that soaking into the ground would remove nitrogen from water. This was untrue as were many other false and misleading statements. We must beware of electing more of this type of commissioner.

We must work now to keep this beautiful corner of the world beautiful for our children, grandchildren and beyond. In a more selfish way, keeping Citrus County beautiful and preserving our resources will assure the value recovery and the future value of our properties.

TOO FAR, Inc.
Al Grubman, President

HILITES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

Minutes by Jan Grubman and Hilites by Jerri Regan

Thanks to Mary Agius for the baked goodies and to Jan Ethier and Nancy Sutherland (Bud Rust's daughter) for helping Mary set-up and serve.

AI called the meeting to order and led the Pledge. Jerry delivered the Invocation. Minutes of previous meetings as well as Board Meeting minutes are available. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read subject to an audit.

AI introduced the Guest speaker – Anthony Schembri, Citrus County Administrator
Anthony J. Schembri, (Citrus) County Administrator was accompanied by Eber Brown, Deputy County Administrator and Robert Knight, Director of Water Resources for the county. He explained his approach to leadership and described some of his experiences over his career. Anthony Schembri and Robert Knight answered several questions from the group. Areas of concern to TOO FAR members included the following: SWFWMD, number of different agencies involved with water and the county's budget.

Norm Provencal, Chairman of Fundraising, told the group of future projects:

- 1) Bon Worth Fashion Show on 9/27, 1-4pm, at the East Citrus Community Center. Tickets are \$8 and include light refreshments.
- 2) Spaghetti and meatball dinner – October, date to be decided
- 3) "No Bake" bake sale before the end of the year. Details to be announced.

Suzanne Franks, candidate for State Senator, gave a 5 minute speech.

AI reminded the group to continue to bring dog and cat food to our meetings so that we can continue to help feed the furry friends of the members of our community who receive Meals on Wheels.

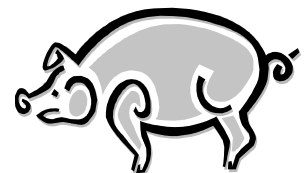
AI noted that Carmen Stone was instrumental in getting TOO FAR involved in the Pet Meal Program. Members applauded Carmen's and the TOO FAR donors.

Bullfrog drawing was won by Jerry Robinson who donated the pot back to TOOFAR.
Motion to adjourn, 2nd and passed,

Advertising Committee at Work

The Advertising Committee has been formed and Jan Grubman and Ginny Brower are on the Committee. The new advertising year will run November 2008 through October 2009. If you know any businesses that would like to advertise give Jan (352-726-2201) or Ginny (352-344-3990) a call.

**Yes, It's Coming Up
Help Us Get Ready for the Pig Roast**



Help make our Pig Roast the best ever! Next Pig Roast Planning Meeting on September 25, 2008 at 6 PM at the East Citrus Community Center. The meeting is right before our General Meeting. The Pig Roast is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Remember TOO FAR needs you so please help.

Meeting Notices

TOO FAR Board Meeting
Thursday September 25 at 5 pm
East Citrus Community Center

TOO FAR General Meeting
Thursday September 25 at 7 pm
East Citrus Community Center

Citrus County Task Force
TBA

SWFWMD Governing Board
September 30 at 9 am

Withlacoochee River Basin Board
September 16 at 9 am Brooksville

Citrus County Commissioners
September 9 & 23
at 1 pm Courthouse

Sumter County Commissioners
September 23 at 5 pm
Colony Cottage

Lake Levels as of August 25, 2008

Structure:	Current
Floral City	39.94
Inverness	37.65
Hernando	35.56
Panasoffkee	40.49
Wysong Upstream	39.70
Wysong Downstream	37.88
Leslie Heifner Outside	40.06
Leslie Heifner Inside	40.04

All levels are in ft. above sea level.

Wysong Main Gate raised to 39 ft.
Low Flow Gate at 36.8 ft.
708 cfs total flow

Floral City Pool: Leslie Heifner open
Floral City and Golf Course open
Moccasin Slough open

Inverness and Hernando Pools structures are closed.

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

2008 Water Congress: Planning for Florida's Water Future September 25 - September 26, 2008

The Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida will host the 2008 Water Congress: Planning for Florida's Water Future in Orlando, Sept. 25 and 26 at the Orlando World Center Marriott, 8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, Florida 32821. The two day event will be held at the Orlando World Center Marriott and is open to the public. Information and details can be found at www.centurycommission.org.

For registration information or questions, contact Holly Banks, McRae and Company, at (850) 906-0099.

SAVE OUR WATERS WEEK

Don't forget the date. September 19th starts Save Our Waters week. Greg is coordinator for East Citrus County. Al is coordinator for Floral City. There will be a picnic for those that work. Sept. 19th is the Dinner & Jeopardy Game. Tickets are \$35. Call Greg at 860-2762 for tickets or more information.

The following is a SWFWMD News Release published on August 26, 2008 regarding the drought and recent rains from Tropical Storm Fay

Water resources still impacted by two-year drought despite Tropical Storm Fay

The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board heard today from District hydrologic data staff that the region's water resources are recovering, but are still impacted from two years of drought.

"We're seeing improvements overall in hydrologic conditions but we are approaching the end of the rainy season in September," said Granville Kinsman, District Hydrologic Data manager. "We still have much more room for the water resources to recover."

According to Kinsman, rainfall distribution has continued to improve in 2008, following two years of drought. Tropical Storm Fay skirted the Tampa Bay area, bringing drier air and less than an inch of rain. However, portions of Highlands and Citrus counties received as much as 10 inches of rain as the tropical storm circled the region.

As a result of the return to normal rainfall in 2008, groundwater levels have improved and are in the normal ranges throughout the District. However, lakes remain heavily impacted from the two years of drought. Lake levels throughout the District remain one to four feet below normal. River levels have also improved but the Withlacoochee and Hillsborough rivers still remain at the bottom of normal seasonal levels.

Governing Board secretary Jennifer Closshey expressed concerns that rainfall from Tropical Storm Fay may lead the public to believe that all of the impacts from the two-year drought have been erased.

"As today's presentation illustrates, even as we approach the end of the rainy season, we're still not where we need to be and it's sobering," said Closshey. "I just hope that the public doesn't think that we're out of the woods, but instead it's still a serious situation and we still need to be diligent about it."

The District remains on one-day-per-week watering restrictions, which are scheduled to expire September 30. The Governing Board will vote on the restrictions at its regularly scheduled September 30 board meeting.

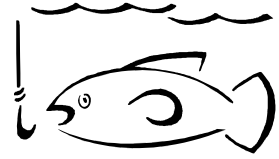
**TOO FAR Fashion Show
September 27, 2008
1 pm—4 pm
at
East Citrus Community Center
Tickets \$8
Door Prizes
Light Refreshments—Finger Foods
Plan to Join the Fun!**

**Call Norm Provencal at 352-726-4257
For information or tickets**



THE CATCHING REPORT

by Jerry Schneider



Hello fellow fishermen, as always I hope these words find you healthy and happy.

ON THE SALT

With the Gulf water temp hanging around the 90 degree mark we are in a summer fishing pattern. Small schools of Red Fish are being found all along the Nature Coast. You can pull some nice keeper fish from these schools using live shrimp or D.O.A. artificial shrimp. Yankeetown and the Barge Canal are giving up some nice Black Drum. Dead shrimp seems to be working there. If you don't mind the trip, Black Drum in the 20 pound range are being landed in the Waccasassa Bay area. Crab is the preferred bait here. The high water temp has made the larger Trout harder to find. Look for them in the deeper holes like those in the Salt River. Red Grouper are being taken from deeper water where you have a rocky bottom. These fish seem to be on a squid diet. If you just want some exercise, there are still plenty of small Sharks out there.

GETTING FRESH

Tropical Storm FAY dropped some much needed rain on our area and it did bring our lakes up some. I can't imagine getting the 30+ inches of rain they received around the Melbourne area. The hot weather has slowed the Bass bite. The high water temps have moved the Bass into deep water or deep shade. The best time for Bass is early morning or late evening. The hot weather doesn't seem to bother the pan fish. Nice catches of Bluegill, Crappie, and Shell Cracker are being reported. Crickets and red worms are the ticket for these tasty fish. Well, that's all for now. I wish you blue skies and tight lines.

Jerry's gone fishing

FISH CAMP PHILOSOPHY

Once the bait is on the hook and the boat is anchored, there's nothing to interfere with thinking except an occasional bite. Robert Ruark, *The Old Man And The Boy*

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TOO FAR Mission Statement

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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IN THIS ISSUE

**President's Message
Highlights August Meeting
Meeting Notices
Lake Levels
Catching Report**



**NEXT GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 25, 2008
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: TBA**

Find out about meetings and other important happenings!

Check out SWFWMD's (Swiftmud) website:

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/calendar/view/2008/9/>

Find out about the Citrus County Task Force by calling

Josie Guillen at (352) 796-7211 x4227 or email josie.guillen@swfwd.state.fl.us

Let SWFWMD know you are concerned about our water. Get involved!