

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

March 2009 Volume 208



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What Do We Want?

As I see it our main over-arching want, no make that demand, is:
Protection of the Withlacoochee River in its historic roll of overflowing into the Tsala Apopka Lakes and Wetlands for recreation and charging the aquifer to supply water all the way to the coast.

There are many parts and interrelationships to this:

- The Withlacoochee River with the Wysong dam affects the level and flow of Lake Panasoffkee including weed and algae growth.
- The Withlacoochee River historically provides twenty percent of the water supply to the Tsala Apopka Lakes and Wetlands. The river's indirect support of the aquifer helps to fight salt water incursion which we see increasingly with Sea Turtles and Barnacles seen further upstream in our coastal rivers. That is in addition to augmenting recreation and fishing on the lakes.
- The Withlacoochee River augmented by the Rainbow River dilutes the near shore estuaries in the Gulf to provide the nursery for salt water fisheries.

We demand cleaning, clearing, and dredging of the lakes, dikes, channels and wetlands by SWFWMD, FFWCC and/or the Restoration Task Force.

We demand that SWFWMD implement ways to convey more water and good water from the river to the lakes when the river is high enough.

We demand that the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority abandon their investigations of taking water from all of the four places that they are looking at on the Withlacoochee River.

We will continue to work to help them and show them the way.
Your comments are welcome and wanted.

AI

Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation

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HILITES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Minutes by Pat Brady and Hilites by Jerri Regan

Al called the meeting to order, led the Pledge and 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.

Al introduced Ida Brecker. Ida was one of the original TOO FAR founders. Cynthia Barnett's talk and book signing was a resounding success with standing room only. This was a joint effort with the Homosassa River Alliance, Kings Bay Association, Citrus County Council, Citrus 20/20 and TOO FAR.

Speaker: Dave Moore, Executive Director, South West Florida Water Management District

Over the years SWFWMD and TOO FAR have developed an excellent working relationship with open lines of communication and inquiry benefiting both organizations. Both Dave and Al commented on how much they appreciated this relationship.

Several topics were presented and discussed. These included the following: the drought that started in the summer 2005, water restrictions, conservation, and code enforcement. Aquifer and lake systems that were rising during storms are now retreating. Some areas south of Citrus County are in worse shape. Pinellas County is using less potable water now than they were 20 years ago through conservation efforts. They are targeting the high end users and want a surcharge during the drought for over 20,000 gal per month. There is a 50% additional surcharge for these people. Lake Panasoffkee restoration is done. Also the Morrison Pool sink hole, though had planned not to do it are now going ahead with it in the next month or two. Additional work includes installing airboat slides.

President of the Airboat Alliance thanked SWFWMD for carrying through with the plans for the airboat slide.

Q&A topics included: surcharge on bottled water, Brogdon Bridge slide, sequence of filling lake pools, landowner removal of dikes at Potts Preserve, sustainable growth, and weather cycles. Al and the membership thanked Dave.

Greg and Al led the silent auction, bidding auction and the raffle. Motion to adjourn, 2nd, passed.

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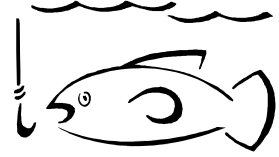


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THE CATCHING REPORT

by Jerry Schneider



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

On the Salt

I think the fish are getting accustomed to the winter weather because the bite has not slowed even during the passing of the sub-freezing fronts. Maybe they got tired of going hungry every time a front went through. It seemed we had one every other day. The fish have not moved much. Big Grouper are still in 60 to 70 feet of water. Smaller Grouper have stayed on rocks and ledges close in and in the Barge Canal. Sea Bass, Mangrove Snapper and Sheepshead can also be taken from these same hard structures. The Red Fish bite is on the rise. The flats around the Chassahowitzki Preserve continues to be an ideal spot to boat big Reds on a sunny day. If you don't want to risk losing your engines lower unit around the preserve, look for Reds in the area between the Progress Energy canal and the Yankeetown ramp. If you want to tangle with some real tackle testers, big Amber Jack are congregating over wrecks in 50 to 70 feet of water. Snook and Tarpon, fish that usually refuse to bite during cold weather, are being caught. They are falling prey to bass fishermen throwing shiners for Largemouth up near the spring heads.

Getting Fresh

I think the fish in our lakes are getting tired of going hungry too. The cold weather has stopped the spawning activity but the Bass are still biting. The Bass beds in my canal are still vacant. The females are full of roe, all they are waiting on is the right moon phase and water temp. Try a slow lure presentation because the Bass are lethargic. Mike Steele of Molly McGee's Deli and Bait shop said he has been selling shiners and minnows as fast as he can get them. The Crappie bite is still good in the Floral City and Inverness pools and is improving in the Hernando pool according to his customers. That's all for now. May all your fish be big old good'uns or good old big'uns.....

Jerry's gone fishing

Fishcamp Philosophy: (for our northern members) Ice Fishing is a winter fishing method in which anglers use a variety of specialized equipment to catch pneumonia.

Jerry Schneider

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Meeting Notices

TOO FAR Board Meeting at 5 pm and TOO FAR General Meeting at 7 pm
East Citrus Community Center March 26, 2009

Citrus County Commissioners
March 10 & 24 at 1 pm
Courthouse

Sumter County Commissioners
March 24 at 5 pm
Colony Cottage

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING—THURSDAY—MARCH 26, 2009
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Rivard Reding
Water Resources Educator**

Lake Levels as of March 9, 2009

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level.
Floral City	38.27	Wysong Main Gate raised to 39 ft.
Inverness	35.68	Low Flow Gate at 37.34 ft.
Hernando	34.00	59 cfs total flow
Panasoffkee	38.61	Floral City Pool: Leslie Heifner open
Wysong Upstream	38.36	Floral City and Golf Course closed
Wysong Downstream	35.58	Moccasin Slough closed
Leslie Heifner Outside	38.38	Inverness structures closed
Leslie Heifner Inside	38.38	Hernando structures closed