

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

April 2009 Volume 209



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following letter was written by Al and sent to Florida Senators, Florida Representatives and Nancy Argenziano. Please contact them and let them know how you feel.

Senator Charles Dean
Senator Mike Fasano
Senator Charlie Justice
Representative Ronald Schultz
Representative Trudi Williams
Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Energy, Environment, and Land Use
cc: Nancy Argenziano

Ref: 2009 S 2424/H 1111 Relating to Water Supply

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Most of our thousand members could tell you about TOO FAR (and others) going to Tallahassee on buses trailing our "big pipe" to fight against water transfers. Many would show you their photos. We remain proud of our part leading to "local sources first." We continue to honor Nancy Argenziano's accomplishment. Some of you certainly remember and were a big help.

You may well understand how we react when we read in the referenced 105 page bill "...the Legislature realizes that, under certain circumstances, the need to transport water from distant sources may be necessary for environmental, technical, or economic reasons." Numerous citations of the nebulous hurdle "reasonable-beneficial" to legitimize future water needs and potentially turn on "transport water from distant sources," extend our discomfort.

We see the anxiety caused by the current drought. Temporary help for those in need is part of our heritage but is not an appropriate reason or excuse for the state to usurp local control of water resources.

We will fight again if necessary but with your help it should not be necessary. Please reject this bill - S 2424/H 1111 Relating to Water Supply.

Thank You.
Al Grubman
President
TOO FAR, Inc.
352-726-2201

The following is a list of members sitting on the Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Energy, Environment, and Land Use:

Chair: Senator James E. "Jim" King, Jr. King.james.web@flsenate.gov
Vice Chair: Senator Nan H. Rich rich.nan.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Thad Altman altman.thad.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Dave Aronberg aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Michael S. "Mike" Bennett bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Larcenia J. Bullard bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Lee Constantine constantine.lee.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Charles S. "Charlie" Dean, Sr. dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Paula Dockery dockery.paula.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Mike Haridopolos haridopolos.mike.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Gary Siplin siplin.gary.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Eleanor Sobel sobel.eleanor.web@flsenate.gov
Senator J. Alex Villalobos villalobos.alex.web@flsenate.gov

Lake Levels as of April 6, 2009

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level.
Floral City	37.47	Wysong Main Gate raised to 39 ft.
Inverness	35.16	Low Flow Gate at 37.34 ft.
Hernando	33.43	59 cfs total flow
Panasoffkee	37.92	Floral City Pool: Leslie Heifner open
Wysong Upstream	36.65	Floral City and Golf Course closed
Wysong Downstream	36.24	Moccasin Slough closed
Leslie Heifner Outside	37.48	Inverness structures closed
Leslie Heifner Inside	37.48	Hernando structures closed

Meeting Notices

TOO FAR Board Meeting at 5 pm and TOO FAR General Meeting at 7 pm
East Citrus Community Center April 23, 2009

Citrus County Commissioners
April 17, May 1 & 15 at 1 pm
Courthouse

Sumter County Commissioners
April 28 and May 12 at 5 pm
Colony Cottage

SWFWMD Governing Board
April 28, 2009 at 9 am
Brooksville

HILITES MARCH MEETING

by Pat Brady

Call to order, Pledge and Invocation - Al Grubman

Secretary's minutes are available on request.

Treasurer's report - Greg Schmukal, gave balances in accounts. Net profit was \$368.

Thanks to Norm Provencal for his special fund raising ability. Raffle was \$283.

Introduction of our speaker— Rivard Redding - Moved audience closer together and had everyone say: You are the One! to each other. You are the one because you are. It is you and me, we, who can make a big difference. Told Sea Star story about saving this one. You can make a difference and you may not know when your efforts have an effect.

Background is with the extension service and then moved to the District with an education program about storm water runoff, septic systems, fertilizers and pesticides. We are living on a water plant but on the land. Rivard used a drawing palette to demonstrate soil composition for this area. 50% is a combination of air & water. 43% is composition making up sand. Organics make up about 1-3%. CHONS - Carbon 50%, Hydrogen 40% Oxygen 5% Nitrogen 4% Sulfur 1% + P - Phosphates. Rivard described soil characteristics in depth.

Soil helps to collect pollutants when organics are present. Organics come from the death of living things like plants and animals over a period of time. People speed up the process by adding the organic part to the soil for green lawns and gardens. One of the things we add is nitrogen which can help and hurt. Another is Phosphorus which we already have in our soil in abundance. Last is K, Potassium (pot ash). There are also many other elements in small quantities. Before adding anything to your soil have it tested at the county extension office for PH which is one of the most significant parts for a few dollars. Or you can get the kit for a few more dollars and send it to the University and get back a detail report.

Fertilizers are used to enhance the growth and properties of the plants. We use up the nutrients in the soil or they wash out and have to be replaced. If we would grow native plants we can do it without 90% of the fertilizers.

Run off from landscapes has turned the water as green as the grass in some areas. There are rulings for the amount of fertilizers that can be put on the lawns. Recommendation is 15-0-15. Rule is 1lb for 1000 sq ft of slow release fertilizer, 15% or more is considered slow release, must read the labels to get real slow release. For other rule is ½ lb for 1000 sq ft. For the gardens, a more robust fertilizer is needed.

For insects first conduct regular inspection, identify and control. Insecticides reduce pests and don't necessarily kill all of them. A large percentage of insects are beneficial. Taking away one may hurt another. Aphids get on crepe myrtle when they are blooming but go away when flowers fall off or lady bugs get them.

If used improperly, these pesticides will show up in our water. Fruits & vegetables coming in from other countries may have exposure to chemicals that are no longer in use in the US. Now they are beginning to label these foods. Be careful of the frozen foods as well. Make sure composts are fully composted because they will get too hot for your plants if still decomposing.

HILITES MARCH MEETING Continued

by Pat Brady

Directors' Reports: Board meeting today we talked about the disposing of drugs by flushing. We plan to go through some ideas of what to with these drugs at next meeting. There are some companies dealing with this issue. Frank will be investigating for us and reporting.

Frank - Majority of plant life gets its water in the first 12 inches of soil. So 1 inch of water is more that sufficient.

Al talked about Dave Moore's Q&A where one person seemed to feel there was competition between the pools for water. Al wants us to realize we are all in the same condition regarding our lake levels.

Tampa is out of water and on total water restrictions except for reuse water meaning no car washing or lawn watering, etc. Businesses are going on restrictions but places like sod growers don't want to be put out of business. Swiftmud is doing a major reconsideration of the way water gets into the lakes.

Bob reported that the sandhill cranes are nesting on islands so watch with the airboats. All three boat slides for airboats are now open.

Norm we have a new catalog for logo shirts and larger sizes available.
Thank you to the Bridges for the coffee room tonight.
Motion to adjourn, passed

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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

If you are after Reds you should have no trouble locating them. Besides their usual haunts they are also being caught way back in the shallow creeks due to the rising water temps. Keep an eye on the tide. You don't want to have to do battle with the mosquitoes while waiting for it to return. That will really take the fun out of fishing. The number of anglers targeting Spotted Sea Trout is on the rise. Look for these fish in the Masons Creek and the St. Martins River area in six feet of water. Keeper size Mangrove Snapper are much easier to find now. The inshore rocks and ledges are holding good numbers of Snapper and big Sheephead. If your taste is for Flounder, look for them on the flats north of Yankeetown. The big ones are being taken on live shrimp. The #1 place this month is the Progress Energy and Barge Canal spoil banks. It's like ONE STOP SHOPPING. Reds, Trout, Snapper and Sheephead are all being caught there. If you throw a few more Grouper into the mix it would be PERFECT.

Getting Fresh

The Bass spawn in our area should be over. There may be a few stragglers here and there. The stress of spawning, guarding the nest, and not eating takes a heavy toll on these fish. They should start feeding again and start easing into their summer pattern of activity. Orange Lake, in the Gainesville area is producing some very heavy post spawn Bass. Might be worth a trip? Closer to home, Lake Panasoffkee is seeing an increase in schooling Bass. Large schools are being found over the new grass beds in the dredged areas. The Bass in our lakes seem to be lagging behind and are still lethargic. The Crappie bite is still going strong with Floral City being the top producer. 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: Solitude while fishing is the state of being closer to nature than the nearest flush toilet

Henry Beard

Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING—THURSDAY—
APRIL 23, 2009
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center**

**Speaker: Rainer Jakob
Code Enforcement Officer
Citrus County**

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