

# TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

May 2009 Volume 210



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### I AM AN ENGINEER

No, I do not run a train. I am a retired Registered Professional Engineer. The technical side of things is where I have always been most comfortable: Design, Quality Control, Planning, Manufacturing, Computing and other facets of the technical world.

But I am confused. Where were the Technical Disciplines when the Route 44 bridge in Inverness was being designed, planned and built? Why did the bridge fail in construction with concrete clogging the channel below? Why did the concrete lie in the channel for years until a local hero, Mark Edwards (Citrus County Director of Aquatics), finally convinced FDOT to have it cleaned out. Was this poor workmanship? Was this an incompetent contractor? I would really like to know.

Then there was the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Project. Making seawater potable has been around for decades. Navy ships and boats were doing it during World War II, more than 60 years ago. It may not have been reverse osmosis, but there have been 60 years to improve technology. There was also the lack of technical analysis and financial analysis that let contracts go to companies that were not technically competent or financially solid enough to do the job. Now in a drought more than 7 ½ years after construction began and cost overruns of more than \$50,000,000 they no longer talk about running at the design capacity of 25,000,000 gallons per day or more. They quote the capacity as "up to 25 mgd" and commonly get only 15 mgd or less.

Another water project, an even older and lower tech approach, is the C. W. Bill Young Reservoir. It was built to hold 15-billion gallons of water skimmed from the Tampa Bypass Canal and the Alafia and Hillsborough Rivers during rainy seasons to supply 25% of the Tampa Region's needs for more than 6 months of dry times. Filled to capacity in November of 2005, it was hailed as the most simple, cheapest and most reliable solution to water shortages. But alas, it could not hold water, or at most only half of the design capacity. It is now

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empty. From coast-to-coast for probably a hundred years a large part of the U.S. population and animals have depended on reservoirs and farm ponds. The last estimate I have heard was that fixing the C.W. Young Reservoir problem will take years.

Why do we in this area seem unable to do straight forward engineering jobs? Failure appears too common to attribute to chance. At least partly as a reaction to the drought and the engineering failures, the legislature is working on a bill (S2424/H1111) to eliminate "local sources first." The only two causes I have postulated are graft and poor education.

The disgraced President of the State Senate still has his Senate seat. Developers run the legislature and most County Commissions. Florida is consistently in the lowest tier of investment in education and educational results.

Do you disagree or have other ideas? Let me know. Al

## **HILITES APRIL MEETING**

by Jan Grubman

**Call to order, Pledge and Invocation - Al Grubman**

**Secretary's minutes are available on request.**

**Treasurer's report - Greg Schmukal gave balances in accounts.**

### **Announcements:**

- **The Floral City Public Library and Town Center will be dedicated with a ceremony and ribbon cutting on Friday, May 2 at 2 p.m. All are invited.**
- **"Operation Medicine Cabinet" – This program is sponsored by the Drug-free Coalition and the Citrus County Sheriff's Office and is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sheriff's office in Inverness. The goal of the program is to ensure safe disposal of medications and prevent these substances from getting into the aquifer. Residents must bring in their own medications in the original container so that the deputy can catalogue them and have the resident sign paperwork. At tonight's TOO FAR board meeting Frank Health raised the concern that many elderly residents do not have the ability to travel to Inverness. He plans to explore how it would be possible to assist residents get their medications to the Sheriff's Office. Al asked him to inquire what TOO FAR can do to help the program keep toxic substances out of our water.**
- **Withlacoochee Wilderness Canoe & Kayak Challenge will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Yankee-town and is hosted by Withlacoochee Area Residents, Inc. (WAR).**

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## **HILITES APRIL MEETING** continued from page 2

- Citrus County Council invites everyone to their next meeting to hear Eric Zamora, Nature Photojournalist – *Life on the Edge: The Story of Florida's Nature Coast*. The meeting will be held on Wed., May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. at the Beverly Hills Lions Club, 72 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills

### **Updates:**

- Morrison Pool – work has started on the sinkhole repair. An inflatable dam has been put up and as soon as the water level is low enough repair of the breach will begin.
- Dave Moore has been reconfirmed as executive director of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD).

### **Future speakers:**

- May - Phil Rhinesmith from Southwest Florida Water Management District. He was the project manager for Shinn Ditch - 1200 acres of restored wetlands.
- June - Lon Frey, Supervisor of Citrus County Fixed Bus Route

### **Fund Raisers:**

Norm Provencal has recommended a “Bake Sale Auction” at our July meeting and a Chinese Auction at our October meeting. Details will be presented at the May board meeting and will be announced in the newsletter.

### **Speaker**

Rainer Jakob, Code Enforcement Officer for Citrus County, spoke about the challenges encountered by code enforcement officers as they investigate complaints about noise, illegal dumping and illegal watering. Sometimes there are conflicts between rules of the county and areas with deed restrictions. This can become a problem when water restrictions are in place! The Code Enforcement Office is funded by the County and Southwest Florida Water Management District.

### **Coffee Room**

A big THANK YOU to Avis and Betty for great refreshments, including several kinds of cookies!

### **Bull Frog**

Ann Provencal was the lucky winner of \$23 – Congratulations Ann!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



**Memorial Day May 26, 2009**

**Please take a moment and remember all who have given their lives in service to our county.**

## Lake Levels as of May 4, 2009

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level.
Floral City	36.54	Leslie Heifner open Floral City, Inverness and Hernando structures are closed
Inverness	34.59	
Hernando	32.73	
Panasoffkee	37.35	Main gate raised to 39 ft. Low flow gate at 34.06 ft. 27 total cfs flow Gate fully open to 9 ft.
Wysong Upstream	35.78	
Wysong Downstream	35.76	
Leslie Heifner Upstream	36.69	
Leslie Heifner Downstream	36.65	

Additional information on lake levels and rain fall is available at the SWFWM website.  
Check it out: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/hydrology>

### Meeting Notices

**TOO FAR Board Meeting at 5 pm and TOO FAR General Meeting at 7 pm  
East Citrus Community Center May 28, 2009**

**Citrus County Commissioners**  
May 26 and June 9 at 1 pm  
Courthouse  
More info at:  
[http://www.citruscountyfl.org/  
commissioners/agenda/  
agenda\\_deadlines.htm](http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commissioners/agenda/agenda_deadlines.htm)

**Sumter County Commissioners**  
May 26 and June 9 at 5 pm  
Colony Cottage  
More info: [http://sumtercountyfl.gov/  
CurrentEvents.aspx#CID26](http://sumtercountyfl.gov/CurrentEvents.aspx#CID26)

**SWFWMD Governing Board**  
May 20 at 9 am  
Brooksville

**Withlacoochee River Basin Board**  
June 11 at 9am  
Brooksville

### Water Restrictions

Reprinted below is contact information in case you'd like to know what the water restrictions are for your area. The information was taken from the SWFWMS website.

	Restriction Info	Report Violations
Citrus County	(352) 527-5350	(352) 527-5350
Crystal River	(352) 795-4216 x313	(352) 726-4488
Inverness	(352) 726-2321	(352) 726-4488
Sumter County	(352) 793-0222	(352) 793-0222
Lake Panasoffkee	(352) 793-0222	(352) 793-0222
Bushnell	(352) 793-2591	(352) 793-6810
Center Hill	(352) 793-4431	(352) 793-4609

# **THE CATCHING REPORT**

by Jerry Schneider



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

## **On the Salt**

**Things are looking good for fishing in our area. With the cold fronts becoming a fading memory and the winds beginning to moderate, fishing will become much more enjoyable. Here we go. The Spotted Sea Trout bite is on the rise. They are being taken on shrimp and DOAs tipped with shrimp in 6' to 8' of water. Red Fish in the flats are hammering plugs with gusto. Reds in the shallow creeks are taking cut bait. The inshore rocks and ledges are still loaded with Mangrove Snapper and Sheepshead. The bigger the structure the bigger the fish. The ONE STOP SHOPPING I mentioned at the Progress Energy and Barge Canal last month is still true today. Reds, Trout, Sheepshead and some outstanding Snapper are being caught there. The flats north of Yankeetown continue to give up bigger and bigger Flounder to folks dragging shrimp. There are plenty of Gag Grouper on structure in 35' to 40' of water. As the wind and weather moderate, these fish will become a much more appealing target.**

## **Getting Fresh**

**I stand corrected. In last months report I stated that the Bass spawn was over. Shortly after it went to the printers I received information that the spawn was in high gear in every on every major lake system south of Gainesville. Large numbers of post spawn bass were being caught, some in the 12lb and 13lb range around Toho. The Harris and Winter Haven chains were also giving up some heavy weight Bass. The Bass beds I was watching cleared out and I assumed the spawn was over. SORRY..... Crappie are still biting well. They should spawn soon along with the Shell Crackers. You will be able to tell when they start by the smell.**

**That's all for now. May all your fish be good old big'uns or big old good'uns.**

**Jerry's gone Fishing**

**Fishcamp Philosophy; In it's deepest self, fishing is the most solitary sport, for at it's best it is all between you and the fish.**

## **Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation**

**TOO FAR, Inc  
PO Box 2709  
Inverness, FL 34451  
352-726-5004**

**Email: [toofarinc@earthlink.net](mailto:toofarinc@earthlink.net)**

**Check out our website: [www.toofarinc.com](http://www.toofarinc.com)**

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY— MAY 28, 2009**

**7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center**

**Speaker: Philip Rhinesmith  
SWFWMD**

**Project Shinn Ditch**

**SKOORS**  
Fresh Produce Market

**310 W Main St.  
(HWY 44 W)  
Inverness, FL 34450  
phone 341-2777  
fax 341-2888  
www.skoors.com  
email: fresh@skoors.com**

**Hours of Operation**  
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**Saturday**  
**9 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

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