

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

July 2009 Volume 212



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Small but Significant Victories

We know the bad news. Developers, lobbyists, miners, overseas turtle eaters and others are or have been raping our environment. They have bought laws, changes to laws, commissioners, legislators and big chunks of our money. Representative Sansom (former Speaker of the Florida House) is still on the public payroll.

But there are some bright spots. Sansom has not been accused of any new airport frauds lately. The FFWCC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) at the meeting in Crystal River on June 17 instituted rules to end the wipe-out of our freshwater turtles. And happily we still have some turtles left.

The latest bright spot occurred with an old and festering issue. For at least a decade there have been disagreements between SWFWMD and the rest of us about a berm bordering the Hernando Pool close to the 353 structure. The disagreements included many issues like safety, berm condition, access, easements, maintenance, repair and security. My conviction has been that SWFWMD had the responsibility to protect the lakes and that was the most basic and primary issue. We joined the discussions with that focus. Many details remain to be decided but the primary issue has been decided. SWFWMD has confirmed their responsibility for securing Hernando Lake levels and is proceeding to examine alternative approaches for repair or replacement of the berm. SWFWMD will be making a recommendation for action to the Withlacoochee Basin Board this year.

Charlie Strange and Chester Bradshaw have been working on this for many years. Charlie owns this berm. I thank them for inviting us to join the issue and wish them well on the remaining and related issues.

Charlie Strange is a major property owner on the Hernando Pool. He has been the protector of public access to sovereign lands in Potts and Flying Eagle for many years. Charlie and Chester have also been friends of TOO FAR in many ways for many years.

The drought is not over until the lake levels AND the ground water recovers. Keep up your conservation and rain dances.

AI

**NORM NEEDS YOU!
YES YOU!**

**Needed: A few good men and women Veterans to join us at the
Allen-Rawls American Legion Post #77—Inverness
For more information call Norm Provencal, Post Commander
at 726-4257**

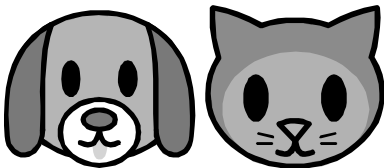
Important Email Information

**Letters to the Chronicle: letters@chronicleonline.com
Governor Charles Crist: charlie.crist@myflorida.com
Senator Charles Dean: dean.charles.web@flsenate.gov
Senator Mike Fasano: fasano.mike@flsenate.gov
Representative Ron Schultz: ron.schultz@myfloridahouse.gov**

Lake Levels as of June 29, 2009

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level.
Floral City	38.53	Leslie Heifner open
Inverness	35.45	Floral City open at 7.40 feet
Hernando	33.80	All other structures are closed
Panasoffkee	38.50	
Wysong Upstream	38.42	Main gate raised to 39 ft. Low flow gate
Wysong Downstream	35.47	at 36.59 ft. 51 USGS total cfs flow
Leslie Heifner Upstream	38.98	Gate fully open to 9 ft.
Leslie Heifner Downstream	37.67	

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



**TOO FAR members are great.
That's what all the cats and dogs are saying.
Thanks for all the food you donate.
Thanks for remembering to bring cat and dog
food to your meetings for us! We love you!
From Bingo and Felix (Spokesanimals)**

**Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation
TOO FAR
PO Box 2709
Inverness, FL 34451
352-726-5004
Email: toofarinc@earthlink.net
Check out our website: www.toofarinc.com**

HILITES JUNE MEETING

By Pat Brady

Call to Order - Greg (acting chair) Al is with visiting grandchildren.

Pledge & Invocation by Greg

Secretary's minutes are available from Jerri or Pat by email request

Treasurer's Report - Motion to accept Treasurer's report, 2nd motion passed.

Guest speaker – Rivard Reding who talked on a variety of topics including permeable concrete, LID, and rain water management.

None of our water in this area comes from GA or AL as there is a divide that drains it to the ocean before it comes this far. As much as 70% of water that comes from rain evaporates. 15% runs off and 15% soaks in. We have reduced the recharge area. Where is the definition of rain water or stormwater? We can get 4 inches or more in an afternoon without flooding, but if it runs off there are problems.

Rivard lived most of his life in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Once driving in Detroit in a storm he found the water rising and had to evade the rising water that the storm drains couldn't handle.

Wyandotte was a small community south of Detroit which was an early community with its own water system, sewer system and storm drains which are conjoined and no big pumps. But they have a gate which lets them shut off the sewage plant and dumps the excess right into the Detroit River.

If you have a home you have a storm water system: a roof, a driveway, ditches leading from house, gutters, etc. Catching this water can be used by the household in food, plant watering, etc.

Rivard distributed a pamphlet about storm water systems in our neighborhoods along with reports on *Stormwater Management* and other related topics.

Detention and retention - detention retains the water for a shorter amount of time and retention keeps the water longer like a pond. Retention will filter the water as it heads towards the aquifer. Many issues arise with water run off like nitrogen and phosphorus. The state has laws to prevent the purchase of high nitrogen and phosphorus but you can still but these at places like Lowe's because the laws only apply to not selling for lawns. There is no way to police this.

Covered some of the contents of the *Stormwater Systems in Your Neighborhood*. Huddle House didn't do a retention area and had to shut down until they did this properly.

Discussed the concept of Best Management Practices to protect us and the environment. How do you improve the situation at your own house? You could use a rain barrel or redirect the run off. Let it run off your roof rather than using gutters.

LID is Low Impact Design, in other words use things or create things that have less impact on the environment.

BMP treatment trains, one thing building on the next - a series of things that can be done to improve the environment right in your own yard. Our pharmaceuticals are so molecularly small they aren't filtered out of public water supplies.

Concrete properties were discussed along with the concrete that allows water to drain. This type of concrete can be used to drain water through it into the ground rather than running off. Permeable concrete has larger pebbles in it which allows more air space. Water goes through it easier. It takes up more water than grass, but is it installed the way it should be. Laying a foundation is important. Install in layers. Also suggest curbing with real cement to contain the water rather than running off too quickly. Can use for parking but not highways. Also has to be cleaned at least once a year. Vacuumed with

continued next page

HILITES JUNE MEETING continued

commercial cleaner. Set time is about 20 minutes. Very labor intensive. Needs a certified installer with about 1000 hours internship. Also it is about 2x as expensive as regular concrete but lasts 2x longer. Good videos on utube about this subject. It is being done in Northern climates too.

Last article about storm water runoff is by Rivard and gives suggestions of how to prevent water runoff from your own property. Also if you see a retention pond that is not perking, report it and the county will clean it out.

Rivard presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

President's Report - Greg

Hometown Democracy will be on the ballot this fall. It is important. The opposition is going to be out in force to defeat this and is already working.

Director's Reports

Frank reminded us that the next County Commissioners meeting is July 7th where they will be voting on the Rt. 19 development project. Everyone should turn out to express an opinion on this. It is a health and safety issue. The 5 mile radius for the power plant is very important and should be maintained.

Bullfrog drawing of \$18.50 was won by Jerry Schneiderman.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, motion passed.

Meeting Notices

Citrus County Commissioners

July 14 and July 28 at 1 pm Courthouse

June 23 and July 14 at 1 pm Courthouse

More info at:

http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commissioners/agenda/agenda_deadlines.htm

Sumter County Commissioners

July 14 at 5 pm Sumter Co. Gov't. Office

July 28 at 5 pm Colony Cottage

More info: [http://sumtercountyfl.gov/](http://sumtercountyfl.gov/CurrentEvents.aspx#CID26)

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Withlacoochee River Basin Board

August 13, 2009 at 9 am

Brooksville

SWFWMD Governing Board

July 28, 2009 at 9 am

Brooksville

WHAT ARE ALL THESE?

A Guide to Florida-Friendly Landscaping

Exploring Our Wonderful Wetlands

Florida Waters

Living in Florida's Watershed

Micro-Irrigation, A Guide to the Basics

They are all free publications available by order or download from SWFWMD

Get your copy at the SWFWMD website: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/type/all>

Help protect and conserve our water

IN MEMORY

**Long time member and supporter L. C. Alexander passed away.
He will be missed by all who knew him.
Please join us in our prayers for L.C. and his family.
May he rest in peace.**

THE CATCHING REPORT by Jerry Schneider



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

On the Salt

The weather is hot. The Gulf is hot, and everything with fins is biting. The heat has made catching Trout an early morning or late evening endeavor. Bird Island near the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Preserve is producing some big Trout. The preserve is also giving up plenty of Reds. They are very shallow and holding on rocky points. Try a gold or silver spoon for these Reds. The rocks and ledges in 10 to 14 feet of water are loaded with fish. They are holding nice Mangrove Snapper and good size Gag Grouper. Sea Bass have also moved into the rocks. Try trolling deep diving Mann's or Rapalas around this structure. For Red Snapper go off shore. Some very big Red Snapper are being caught in 60 feet of water. The Cobia seem to like the deeper channels. Many are being caught around the channel markers. If you want to test your tackle, bigger Tarpon are moving into our area. Bait up with Blue Claw Crabs and hang on to your rod.

Getting Fresh

The rain has resulted in a small rise in lake levels. Lets hope this continues. The Crappie bite is steady with good catches through out our lakes. The Bluegill and Shellcracker bite is improving because of their spawning. Try crickets and red wigglers for these tasty fish. When you fish these spawning areas keep a Bass rod rigged with a shallow running crank bait in a Bluegill pattern. Big Bass love to feed on these spawning fish. The Bass bite is good in all the lakes in our area. The bigger Bass are being fooled by big shiners. Beware of the heat. Fish early or late, stay hydrated and don't forget your sun screen. 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; "Fishing keeps us – part of us anyway – boys forever."
Geoffrey Norman**

Get Well Wishes from all of TOO FAR to an active and supportive TOO FAR member, Alive O'Neal. Please keep Alice in your prayers. Get well soon!

**TOOFAR INC
PO BOX 2709
INVERNESS, FL
34451**

**PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
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INVERNESS, FL**

IN THIS ISSUE

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



**NEXT BOARD MEETING—JULY 23, 2009
5 pm at the East Citrus Community Center**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY— JULY 23, 2009
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Lon Frye, Transportation Director Citrus County**

**Needed: A few good men and women Veterans to join us at the
Allen-Rawls American Legion Post #77—Inverness
For more information call Norm Provencal, Post Commander
at 726-4257**

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Hours of Operation

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