

# TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

August 2009 Volume 213



## IN MEMORY

As a tribute to L.C. Alexander who passed away July 1, 2009, the President's Message is devoted to reproducing one of L. C.'s articles. L.C. was instrumental in founding TOO FAR and served TOO FAR and his community for many years. He was a wise and dear friend who will be missed.

### **"LOCAL SOURCES FIRST" - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO AVERAGE PEOPLE?**

By L. C. Alexander

Simple. It means everybody, no matter where they reside, should live by a good neighbor policy. A good neighbor does not destroy other residents' property and life quality to feed their own voracity, whether it's next door or miles away.

There is just so much potable water in the entire world. The human race, for no matter what the reasons, lives everywhere in that same world, from its driest to its wettest places. In the mix, some people must get along with a whole lot less water than others. Fact of life no amount of screaming is going to change. That's Point 1.

In Florida, a great many people live along its coastlines. You've got to assume either that is due to their own proclivities, or they have been lured there via the many commercial reasons all of us know are legion. No matter, for adults it was a conscious, individual decision. Even though we now live in a world where all sorts of reasons are used to deny responsibility, in this case you'd have to be unbelievably dense to argue otherwise. That's Point 2.

Coastal Florida owns the least potable water resources compared to any others, yet they are presently using a lion's share of further supplies from inland. And, due to their superior voter numbers, state law currently says that they have a right to demand even more - no matter whether their demand destroys the surroundings where they secure it. Lakes, rivers, wetlands, underground aquifer, you name it.

This is already happening around every major inland well-field feeding the coast, far worse in some than in others. Billions of dollars in environmental and economic damages are the results. Average people, just like you and me, are being ruined by the thousands. Still, greedy coastal development forces push ever harder toward their Almighty Buck in coastal areas whose quality of life proclaims they're already far overbuilt, to Hell with anyone's environment.

The scary part is that even with a reduction in well-field pumping brought on by lawsuits, the damage is increasing with time, not decreasing as was planned. Have we already pushed nature over the environmental brink predicted by some authorities, already on our way to total collapse of the only drinking water source we have? Are we so stupid that we'll continue beyond the point of no return? That's Point 3.

Local Sources First is probably the only answer to that question. One of its provisions is that coastal areas must develop potable supplies from the almost inexhaustible supply they border, saltwater. Why do supposedly intelligent officials there refuse to adopt such a course? The few cents more per gallon involved in the changeover, they claim it can't be afforded.

That must be answered by a far more important question. Can all Florida afford its alternative, coastal business as usual? Point 4 answers itself --NO, no!

Editor: L. C. Alexander

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Lake Levels as of August 3, 2009

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level.
Floral City	40.47	Leslie Heifner open, Floral City open at 7.4'
Inverness	36.32	Golf Course all gates fully open
Hernando	34.97	Moccasin Slough fully open
Panasoffkee	39.94	Brogden Bridge & Bryant Slough closed
		Van Ness & S-352 closed
Wysong Upstream	39.59	Main gate raised to 39 ft. Low flow gate
Wysong Downstream	37.5	at 36.59 ft. 412 USGS total cfs flow
Leslie Heifner Upstream	40.84	Gate fully open to 9 ft.
Leslie Heifner Downstream	40.77	

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

Important Email Information

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

Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation

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Norm Provencal, Post Commander  
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October , 2009  
TOO FAR Chinese Auction  
Call Norm to donate 724-4257  
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## **HILITES JULY MEETING**

By Pat Brady

**Call to Order, Pledge & Invocation - Al**

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

**Treasurer's Report - Greg gave the report.**

**Announcements: Thanks to Jan Grubman for the goodies.**

**Jimmy Brooks (retiring) is being replaced by Kara Martin who is here tonight. Kara works out of the Brooksville Office.**

**SOWW: Greg will be head of the east side lake clean up so start thinking about who wants to work where. Dinner at the Key Center on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Tickets are \$35 each.**

**Adopt A Shore needs volunteers. We'll have Jeopardy game and Al will be representing Citrus County Council**

**Guest speaker – Lon Frye, Citrus County Transportation Director**

**Point to point transportation has been available for a long time. But now a different route system is going to be adopted.**

**The existing is a successful door-to-door system for people who don't have transportation or mobility. But it is available to anyone for a small fee. Takes people to the doctor, shopping where ever they need to go. Rides are \$1 each regardless of where you go if you qualify by income. Operate 30 units a day. Even go out of the county to Gainesville and Orlando.**

**If you call for service we require two days notice but try to give same day service. For the emergency operation center, this department is responsible for getting disabled people to the shelters. They have an existing list of special needs people and how to get them. They call them ahead of time to make arrangements and find if they need help. Even the pet situation is handled as many people will not evacuate without their pets. Have volunteers that help with these evacuations and calls.**

**Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) affiliated. John Thrumston represents Citrus County on the TBARTA board. Planning a transportation system that could eventually take people from here to Raymond James stadium. May involve light rail. Want to find if there is a need. Want to create a no reservation system to come to Inverness on a route with stops where people want to go.**

**Started the pilot program in April with existing money. Results have been sporadic with only 100 riders per week and some weeks only 60. Cost is really low. June was free and the number of riders was slightly higher but this didn't continue in July. Wanted to see if there was a steady demand from any particular group like workers for an 8 hour day M-F. Publicized through Key TV and Chronicle, Pioneer, but don't have a big ad budget.**

**We have urban sprawl and decided to pick just one area to test this type of service.**

**President's Report - Al Grubman**

**National stimulus program has brought one project to our area. The Withlacoochee is going to be snagged. An area 3 deep by 25 wide will be cleared of stumps, etc. from Croom to the Ocean. It's free money and we take it though where this project came from we don't know.**

**Shinn Ditch project was a way to get water off the land in Flying Eagle. Ditch is now closed and the marshes are getting re-watered.**

**The airboat slides at the Wysong, Turner Camp and Moccasin Slough are in and wonderful. Very good job by Swiftmud.**

continued on next page

## **HILITES JULY MEETING** continued

There have been questions for many years about a dike on Charlie Strange's land. There are still disagreements about this dike but Swiftmud has taken responsibility for securing the Hernando Pool from dangers and overflows at that point. This dike's failure could empty a large part of the Hernando Pool.

Many of us are frustrated by the years of low water and the slow return. But Al is predicting that the Sandpiper Structure will be open. He guesses that Floral City will reach minimum in the next several days and then water will begin flowing into Inverness Pool.

Meeting with Dave Moore next week about the next step at Flying Eagle culverts. Al will be requesting a look at procedures to get more water into the lakes when it is available. Also following up on the questionable dike in Hernando and follow up on removing dikes in Potts Preserve. Discussing encroaching hardwoods in the marshes and encourage looking again at the clean up of the muck in Lake Bradley. There the muck is actually worth money and is marketable. Restoring that lake into open water will pay for itself by free enterprise with no taxpayer money. Still also working on other restoration ideas to be ready for next drought.

### **Director's Reports:**

Norm Provencal - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chinese Auction in October and would appreciate donations. Call 726-4257 to donate.

Frank Heath - We lost a battle with a new development off 19. We will have more of these because now developers don't have to provide transportation concurrency. Nothing will stop developers now unless we sit in county commission meetings and complain. Shine the light on them.

There was a 5 mile circle around the nuclear plant because of evacuation concerns which was taken off the map to allow development with 800 units. We will continue to get what we don't want unless we complain.

Duane Brooks - now we got what we wanted it's all builders on our commission. Does anyone want to buy a puppy?

Jan thanked everyone for the dog food and the support for the pet meals for the people who get meals on wheels.

Bullfrog Drawing of \$18 won by Al Grubman.

### **Meeting Notices**

**Citrus County Commissioners**  
August 25 & September 8  
at 1 pm Courthouse Room 100

More info at:

[http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commissioners/agenda/agenda\\_deadlines.htm](http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commissioners/agenda/agenda_deadlines.htm)

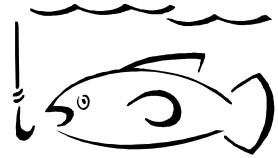
**Withlacoochee River Basin Board**  
August 13, 2009 at 9 am

**Sumter County Commissioners**  
August 25 at 5pm Colony Cottage  
September 8 at 5pm Gov't. Annex  
August 26 at 5 pm Colony Cottage  
More info: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov/CurrentEvents.aspx#CID26>

**SWFWMD Governing Board**  
August 25, 2009 at 9 am

## **THE CATCHING REPORT**

by Jerry Schneider



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

### **On the Salt**

The summer heat is affecting both the fishermen and the fish. For the sake of comfort, many fishermen have opted to fish early or late in the day. It is much cooler and the shallow fish are more active. Some Trout are still being caught very shallow while others are being hooked in five to seven feet of water. The Red Fish are still plentiful. They have remained very shallow like the Trout but the high water temps have made them lethargic. They won't chase a bait very far. Mangrove Snapper and Gag Grouper continue to be caught from rocks and ledges ten to fourteen feet deep. The big Red Snapper are still way off shore. Structure sixty feet deep is a good place to start looking for them. The Cobia are getting bigger and are being caught through out our area. The migrating Tarpon are also getting bigger as they pass through our waters. If you are going after these silver beauties bring the heavy tackle and bait up with either Blue Claw Crabs or a whole Lady Fish and hang on.

### **Getting Fresh**

The regular rains we have been experiencing are painting an encouraging picture for our lakes, rivers and ground water. With the rise in lake levels the Bass have more and more forage areas. These new shallow areas should be fished early in the morning with a top water hard bait or a buzz bait. In my opinion there is nothing more exciting than an explosive top water strike. Mike Steele at Molly McGee's said the Bass fishing is so good he is ordering more Shiners every week. The Blue Gill and Shellcracker bite is slowing to post spawn levels but plenty are still being caught. The rain and rising water has really helped the Crappie fishing. The catch is improving in all our lakes, especially Lake Henderson. That's all for now. Beware of the heat. Fish early or late, stay hydrated and don't forget your sun screen. May all your fish be good old big'uns or big old good'uns.

Jerry's gone fishing.

**Fishcamp Philosophy; "The angler forgets most of the fish he catches, but he does not forget the streams and lakes in which they were caught."**

**Charles K. Fox**

### **Advertise with TOO FAR**

**Want to advertise in the TOO FAR Newsletter? Know someone who does?  
Jan Grubman and Ginny Brower have kicked off the 2009-2010 Ad Drive.  
Help get the word out.**

**Call Jerri at 352-726-5004 for more information.**

**Thanks!**

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**NEXT BOARD MEETING—AUGUST 27, 2009  
5 pm at the East Citrus Community Center**

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY—  
AUG. 27, 2009**

**7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center  
Speaker: Bernadine Flood, SOWW  
SOWW September 20-26, 2009  
Help Save Our Water!**

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