

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

October 2009 Volume 215



President's Message Regionalization

We have water in Citrus County. We still have ground water, the least expensive kind of water supply. If we are left alone and Withlacoochee River seasonal high water levels supplement rainfall in our lakes, the aquifer will be recharged. With conservation we should be able to continue with good low cost water for many years even with a reasonable amount of growth. Eventually we will have to succumb to the Hi-Tech (too high for Tampa to handle) and very high cost desalinated water. All we need is control, or conservation and control.

When finally "desal" is necessary it will probably be too big a project for any rural county to handle alone. That is a reasonable entry point for a regional consortium of counties to get together. But they are here now planning, estimating and taxing.

Nancy Argenziano (then our State Senator) worked for "Local Sources First" and got it done. We felt safe and in control.

Now there is a regional approach (Florida Statutes: Chapter 373.1962) - blowing "Local Sources First" out of the water. The Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (WRWSA) with its \$100,000 Executive Director, high priced consultants and taxing authority has the power to take our water. The WRWSA includes Marion, Sumter, Hernando and Citrus Counties.

The WRWSA has divided their proposals into two groups: ground water and alternative water sources. Chronologically Citrus County is first donor in both. The first ground water proposal is a well field in south central Citrus County with half the output (7,500,000 gallons per day) going to Hernando County. The first alternative source is called Aquifer Recharge where the proposal is to take seasonally high flows of water out of the Withlacoochee before it gets to supplement and replenish our lakes and aquifer.

It is interesting to note that even though we are proposed to be the first donor, there seems to be a groundswell of concern in Marion County, WRWSA is scheduling a workshop to allay fears in Hernando County and similar concerns have been expressed in Sumter County. Maybe they realize that they may be next.

Citrus County has three Commissioners on the WRWSA Board. The Chairman is Dennis Damato with Winn Webb and Gary Bartell on the Board. With 18 or so board members they are not in a strong position. None of the Board members are directly elected to the Board by the public.

On September 22, 2009 the Board of Citrus County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution: "1. Citrus County supports the planning efforts of the Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority (AUTHORITY) to develop and implement a Regional Framework of Water Supply Facilities; and 2. Citrus County supports the continuing efforts of the AUTHORITY to refine
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the process to implement the Regional Framework Plan of Action.”

They made a mistake. Citrus County should either get out of the WRWSA (membership is not mandatory—Marion County opted out years ago and rejoined last year) or at least be very careful what is endorsed or agreed. Blank and blanket approvals are not appropriate—they are bad business. The Commissioners need your help. Show them we care. Whichever county you are from, attend WRWSA Board Meetings and tell them what you think. The meetings are normally the third Wednesday of each month 4:30 PM at SWFWMD, Brooksville or the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council in Ocala. Since meetings are sometimes cancelled or held elsewhere, check their website, call TOO FAR (726-5004) or call me (726-2201) If you are from the Inverness area you can ride with me, I rarely miss one.

AI

HILITES SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Jan Grubman

Thanks to Bill & Pat Johnson for manning the coffee room. Goodies provided by the Grubmans.

Call to Order, Pledge— AI Invocation - Larry

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

Treasurer's Report - by Greg

Announcements:

- Flyers on registration table with details for the 10/12 and 10/8 SWFWMD meetings on minimum flows and levels and the 10/12 public forum at the Rainbow Club on Springs Protection
- TOO FAR, Inc. Board of Directors agreed to have TOO FAR Air & Water Foundation re-associate with TOO FAR, Inc. Now AI is the Chairman and Greg is Vice Chairman. Contributions are now tax deductible.

Speaker: The evenings speaker was Mike Bartlett, SWFWMD Structure Operations Analyst who was accompanied by Danny Brooks, Assistant Structure Operations Analyst, and David Crane, Structure Operations Manager. There was a lively discussion about elevations, water levels, and the fact that we're still in a four-year drought. Even though we've had summer rains, we've only had 30" of rain between 1/1 and 9/25/09. Every structure that can be opened has been opened, but our lakes are not yet full and we still need to practice water conservation. Mike showed the members how to locate and use the USGS website to access real-time water data for Florida.

The Bullfrog drawing was won by Tony Aguanno—\$17. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

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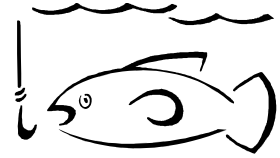
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THE CATCHING REPORT

by Jerry Schneider



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

On the Salt

The fishing is great and you can blame it in the moon and the big tides that it generates this time of the year. These tides bring with them large pods of bait fish such as scaled sardines and glass minnows. When you have plenty of bait you have plenty of predators. Large schools of Reds and Speckled Trout are crashing these bait pods and some of the Reds are monsters. Bonita and Spanish Mackerel are also following these bait pods. Some catches of 30 to 40 Spanish Mackerel have been reported. Watch for areas of “nervous” water or diving birds to locate these schools of bait. If you are after Grouper you are in luck. There is a good Gag and Red Grouper bite on almost any structure on 20 feet of water. The bite goes from good to great if you go to structure 50 feet deep. The fish are beginning to fatten up for the winter so this is a great time to go after them.

Getting Fresh

The hurricane season is rapidly coming to a close and luckily we have not been threatened. The ample rain we have been receiving is slowly bringing our drought stressed area back to normal. The new shallow areas opened up by the rising water are giving up some very nice Bass. These fish continue to hit top water hard baits and buzz baits. Early morning or late evening are the best time to go after them. The pan fish bite is still above average. The biggest Crappie are being caught in the Floral City Pool. All of our lakes are producing good catches of Blue Gill and Shellcracker. If cat fishing is your thing go to the river. Some big cats are being hooked at the Wysong Dam.

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; “Angling, with its seasonal rhythms, is somewhat like poetry”
Izaak Walton

Lake Levels as of October 13, 2009

	Current Level
Floral City	39.91
Inverness	37.96
Hernando	36.43
Panasoffkee	39.59
Wysong Upstream	39.34
Wysong Downstream	35.63
Leslie Heifner Upstream	39.85
Leslie Heifner Downstream	39.92

Lake structures closed except
Moccasin Slough
Wysong-Coogler main gate raised to 39'
Low flow gate at 36.47'

Discover what you need to know before you even CONSIDER buying hearing aids!

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**MEETINGS THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2009
At the East Citrus Community Center**

BOARD MEETING at 5 pm

PIG ROAST MEETING at 6 pm

**GENERAL MEETING at 7 pm
Speaker: Mark Edwards
Aquatic Services Director
Citrus County**

**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**

**Real-time lake level data available at SWFWMD site
<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/data/scada/>**

**NEW LOCATION
SKOORS MOVED
To
130 N Pine Ave
Formerly Helen's
Consignments**