

TOO FAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

January 2010 Volume 218

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 2010: The New Year

By the time you read this it will be 2010. By now some of us will have broken some resolutions and I know I will regret eating too much during the holidays. But I am excited and I am looking forward to the New Year.

We made some progress in 2009 capping off the year with an e-mail from Bruce Wirth of Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD or Swiftmud). Bruce confirmed that the new operational approach to bringing river water into the Tsala Apopka Lakes that we saw this summer will be continued or extended. Bruce's e-mail said "... we intend to do all that is reasonable to get more water into the system..." This will not mean "at all costs" or "the hell with Lake Panasoffkee" or "ignore the river flow requirements." It means intelligent and contentious judgment will be used in managing the structures to feed water from the river into the lakes the most productive way when water is available in the river.

This will not eliminate the need for rain. Rain is the major source of water for the lakes, about 80% but the river supply is important. The improved approach will help only a little in some years and more in others. In the really wet years we may not even notice, but I do not believe that we will ever have less water because of the new approach and some years it will be a big help.

Our improving relationship with SWFWMD is working and is pleasant. They do not always agree with us or we with them but each side listens, tries to understand and tries to help. Reactionary negatives are disappearing.

December 5th we had our annual Pig Roast. It was cold and rainy. By the time it cleared up a little, most people had decided not to go out. As usual it was hard work but worse because of the cold. But also as usual our people showed up and worked hard. Even many that could not work for medical reasons showed up for moral support. It was the worst weather for a Pig Roast that any of us could remember. We were afraid we would lose a lot of money. There weren't many people at Heritage Day but I think that everyone there ate at the Pig Roast. Good decisions were made early to sell off the likely leftovers, so we had no wasted food and ended in the black. We didn't make much but we did not lose. Again, I am proud of our people.

Continued on page 2

Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation

TOO FAR

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Email: toofarinc@earthlink.net

Check out our website: www.toofarinc.com

Some of our goals for the New Year:

- 1. Continue improving our relationship with SWFWMD.**
- 2. Get more water into the lakes and aquifer.**
- 3. Thwart threats to our water.**
- 4. Increase membership.**
- 5. Implement a good, close and streamlined system of working together with our TOO FAR Air and Water Foundation.**

May the New Year bring you the best of health, happiness and accomplishment.

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COMING UP - DON'T MISS IT!

BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. on FEBRUARY 25, 2010

BAR-B-QUE PORK SANDWICH DINNER

\$6 includes DESSERT & DRINK

FANTASTIC CHINESE AUCTION — RAFFLE WINNER WILL BE DRAWN

EXCELLENT SPEAKER

GREAT FOOD & FUN FOR ALL

IF YOU ATTEND ONLY ONE MEETING A YEAR, THIS IS THE ONE IT SHOULD BE!

SEE YOU THERE!

TOO FAR OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

Officers

**Al Grubman, President
Greg Schmukal, Vice President**

**June Schmukal, Treasurer
Pat Brady, Secretary**

Directors

**Bob Hoover
Frank Health**

**Joyce Valentino
Norm Provencal**

**Bob Adamic
Duane Brooks**

Alternate Directors

Bud Rust

Carmen Stone

FISHING –N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING

Before beginning this “new” fishing report, we wish to thank Jerry Schneider for all the great and informative articles he contributed to past newsletters and sincerely hope his good health returns quickly. As this is our first attempt at writing this type of article, I don't think Jerry has anything to worry about as far as 'loosing' his job of reporting, or being replaced by us. We are only temporary fill-ins.

Three individuals of TOO FAR are members of the Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail (FOMNTT). Greg (Big Bass) Schmukal, Ron (I'll catch-em) Zarn and June Schmukal (substitute). We participate monthly in bass tournaments held in both the North and Central Florida Div. of FOMNTT. The Central Division's first tournament was held on Jan. 9 at the Harris Chain of Lakes in Leesburg. Ron and Greg were all set to participate until one day in December, when Greg and June were pre-fishing (practicing) for this tournament, Greg fell in the boat and broke a rib. That ended Greg and Ron's tournament hopes for Jan. 9, however, we do have a report on this event.

SNOW and SLEET in Central Florida on Harris Chain of Lakes on January 9th. Blast off temp was 29; water temp 49 and temp at weigh in 36. Talk about COLD. (Big Bass and I'll catch-em were glad to be all warm and snuggly under the covers in their beds.) 49 teams entered; 23 teams did not weigh in any fish. Winning team weighed in 3 fish for 11.64 lbs., biggest was 5.35 lbs. Fish were caught in depths 4-8 ft over eelgrass in Haines Creek. 3 bites =- 3 fish. Big fish of the day was 6.16 lbs. caught on a rattle trap in 6 ft. of water.

The next scheduled tournament for FOMNTT is going to be on Jan 16th on the St. John's River in Palatka. Big Bass and I'll Catch-em are entered for this tournament so look for their report in next months newsletter.

CLOSER TO HOME:

Hello Mates!

Captain Mike of Molly McGees here with a small fishing report.

This cold weather has brought the specs into shallow water. Many of our bait customers have reported that they caught their limit of 25 quickly, most using minnows. Also reported, during the cold snap many of the fishermen are catching Tilapia in the rivers and lakes from Leesburg to Inverness. Most use snatch hooks, which are hard to find at this time. Tilapia is a fish not common to this area but since the cold weather, they are on the move trying to stay warm and alive. They are a dark color fish, looks like a cross between a spec and brim. Also a good eating fish.

**Good Fishing Mates,
Capt. Mike ----- out**

Thank you Capt. Mike for this exciting info, we appreciate your helping us out with this fishing report. If anyone has any fishing info, or stories (real or fictional) they would like to share, please give us a call and we will be pleased to include it in our fishing report. (Greg's Phone: 352-860-2762).

WELL THERE YOU HAVE IT FOLKS!! Let us know how we did.

RAFFLE TIME

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets.

Great Christmas gifts!

Get them at our meetings or call

TOO FAR at 353-726-5004

Raffle Prizes

First Prize \$250 Cash

Second Prize \$100 Publix Gift Card

Third Prize \$45 Outback Certificate

Fourth Prize \$25 Enrico's Certificate

Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 for 3 tickets

Drawing Thursday, February 25, 2010

at the TOO FAR General Meeting

You need not be present to win.

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TAKING BIDS ON FLY FISHING OUTFIT

St. Croix— 4 piece Fly Fishing Rod with case

Orvis Fly Reel with case

Approximate retail value \$240

Donated by

Nature Coast Fly Shop, Crystal River

Phone bids: Call 860-2762 before 8 pm

Floor bids: Taken during TOO FAR meetings

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CANCELLED

Lake Levels as of January 11, 2010

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level.
Floral City	39.08	Wysong Main Gate raised to 39 ft.
Inverness	37.64	Low Flow Gate at 35.59 ft.
Hernando	35.98	179 USGS cfs total flow
Panasoffkee	38.80	Leslie Heifner closed
Wysong Upstream	38.42	Floral City and Golf Course closed
Wysong Downstream	35.50	Moccasin Slough open
Leslie Heifner Upstream	38.81	Inverness structures closed
Leslie Heifner Downstream	39.10	Hernando structures closed

HILITES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

Minutes by Pat Brady

Call to Order, Pledge & Invocation — Al Grubman, President

Secretary's Report – available on request from Pat Brady or call the office

Treasurer's Report – Greg Schmukal

Pig Roast was the worst scenario ever. Events were being cancelled all over the area. But the help we got was outstanding. The event was more a pleasure this year. Everyone worked so hard. We didn't do very well but probably the best of Heritage Days. Sold most of the pork and chicken through extra sales. Don't have end results yet.

Al thanked all of the Pig Roast workers who came out in miserable weather. In spite of any financial returns we did well as a group.

Speaker: - Allen Martin, FWC - Allen is new in the area and starting out with a bang.

Grew up on Kentucky Lake in western Kentucky. Masters in Fisheries. With FWC since 2001 Lives in Lake City but works in our region.

He discussed the fish population in the lakes their size and survival rates, sediment analysis, heavy metal problems (there aren't any), vegetation mapping. Data is available re: muck heavy metal and vegetation mapping. FWC ranks projects for funding based on support from various professional interest government groups. 22 potential projects, burning, scraping, etc. List has been presented to the Task Force and other groups in Citrus County. Current projects include: fish attractors in each pool, SWFWMD hydrology study regarding water flow, elevations, invasive plant management, Withlacoochee River Marsh Restoration Project, Lake Spivey Project, and berm removal.

Parting Shots— more water faster isn't good for fish (showed fish kill). Cause of kills is no oxygen in rapid water from Green Swamp. Dark water shades out plants and kills fish. Needs to sheet flow through marshes. If the lakes worked as they did 500 years ago droughts would completely dry lakes and burn off and then refill. The hydrology study will provide answers to removing berms.

Q & As followed the presentation and included the following: slot limits, different limits in different lakes, spending money to clean passages and also dumping trees in for fish habitat, too much habitat being removed, tussocks, and stocking lakes.

What about stocking? Doesn't work in established habitat. Little fish just get eaten by bigger ones. Seeing really low number in Spivey and may jump start there by stocking.

President's Report – Al Grubman

Mentioned good speakers coming up, welcome ideas for speakers as well

Directors' Reports—none tonight

Bullfrog Drawing won by Tony A. Adjourn

Board of County Commissioners' Meetings

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners' Meetings are found at
http://www.citruscountyfl.org/commissioners/agenda/agenda_deadlines.htm

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners' Meetings are found at
<http://sumtercountyfl.gov/CurrentEvents.aspx#CID26>

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**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - January 28, 2010
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Dave Moore, Executive Director
SWFWMD**

Board Meeting at 5 pm

Meetings

The SWFWMD Basin Board and Governing Board schedules, agendas and minutes are in alphabetical order on web site <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us> under boards.

The two of most interest in Citrus County are Withlacoochee Basin Board and the Coastal Basin Board.

Citrus-Hernando Waterways Restoration Council, Citrus County Task Force meetings are at <http://swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/waterways/citrus.php>