

TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

April 2010 Volume 221



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Help again! We need a needle in a haystack!

Last Saturday Jan and I went to the Floral City Spring 2010 Art Show at Pam Bellman's Forgotten Treasures and Gifts (you might have seen the flyer in our February issue). We met a talented stained glass artist and teacher talking with TOO FAR member Pat Aguanno. As we got to know each other it turned out that the artist is a neighbor of Frank and Sally Heath on Lake Bradley. She and they share the dream of restoring Lake Bradley.

We all would like to see all our lakes restored and de-mucked but it would cost a fortune, millions. But Lake Bradley is different. The muck there is fibrous and saleable. It could be cleaned out for free by companies that would sell it. Imagine a 600 acre lake which is down to 3 small pools, restored to open water at no cost to the residents or the government. Every Lake Bradley resident that I spoke to loves the idea even though it would take a long time and a lot of work.

Appeals were made to SWFWMD, Citrus Restoration Task Force and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The ball came to rest at FDEP and an expert arrived. Would FDEP support the project and provide the requisite permits? The answer turned out to be NO. The reason was that Lake Bradley was never, or not in recent history, open.

The last time that we attended one of Pam's shows we spoke to Anita Larkin (another Lake Bradley resident) who was trying to recover from the FDEP rejection by searching for old aerial photographs to prove that Lake Bradley was open in the past. She apparently has not succeeded.

Lake Bradley's 600 acres are only a small corner of the gigantic 22,000 acre Tsala Apopka Lakes. But restoring it would be a bright spot and one we can afford in spite of our lack of funds.

Can you help? Would you help? Was Lake Bradley ever open as the residents believe? Do you have knowledge? Do you have evidence? Please help.

AI

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Nancy Argenziano will be there! Don't Miss TOO FAR's April 22, 2010 Meeting

Long time water advocate and TOO FAR member Nancy Argenziano is our speaker. Nancy is the Chairperson of the Florida PSC. All of us at TOO FAR know Nancy and her commitment to public service and our water. She has demonstrated this commitment by serving as a State Representative, State Senator, member of the FL PSC, and in her current position as Chairperson of FL PSC. Nancy's name is synonymous with Local Sources First!

Come and show your support for Nancy and the preservation of our most valuable resources.

NOTE FROM AL

Charlie Strange's tie-back Berm at S-353, another long-lasting discussion; SWFWMD accepted responsibility for the long term security of a wall at this location to hold in the Hernando Pool. The proposed solution is a new structure that also connects to other district property. Proposals for a boat launch and boat slide and included. The board approved the money. Update: I hear that Charlie has objected – I have not seen the details. I hope that whatever the final resolution, the long term security of the Hernando Pool is not delayed or jeopardized.

Happy Spring,

Al

**Calling All Members!
Note From Pat Brady**

TOOFAR is considering starting our popular pontoon boat trips up again now that the water has come back up considerably. If you have a pontoon and would be willing to carry passengers for our next trip, please let Pat Brady know by email at psbrady@tampabay.rr.com or by calling her at 352-228-7251.

Also please advise if you can trailer your pontoon to lakes other than your own. This will help determine where our next trip should start. Right now we are thinking of a Fall trip but would like to know what boats and people we can count on before real planning can begin. If you would like to help with the project as well let us know.

**Thanks,
Pat**

April is Water Conservation Month

Did you know that April is traditionally our driest month and typically marks a time of peak demand. SWFWMD has designated April Water Conservation Month. It is a good time to reflect on our water consumption habits and to renew our efforts at conservation.

Practicing Florida-Friendly Landscaping techniques can help reduce water consumption. Some of these techniques include the following:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Right plant, right place | 2) Water efficiently | 3) Fertilize appropriately | 4) Mulch |
| 5) Attract wildlife | 6) Manage yard pests | 7) Recycle | |
| 8) Reduce stormwater runoff | 9) Protect the waterfront | | |

**For more information on water conservation visit the SWFWMD website
WaterMatters.org/conservation**

Love your Mother

Celebrate Mother Earth this year on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day

Earth Day Celebration Sunday April 18, 10 am—4 pm

at the Crystal River Preserve State Park

Do your part to conserve and protect Mother Earth.

Information: www.crystalriverstatepark.org

FISHING –N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING

ON THE TOURNAMENT TRAIL:

Well March 24th. finally arrived. Our team left for Orange Lake at 4:45 a.m. They wanted to be there early as they pulled a starting position of #6. During practice Greg (Big Bass) Schmulka caught a 7 lb. bass. (NOTE: I said during practice). They were excited and raring to go. Blast off was at 7 a.m. on a clear cool morning. Their first legal bass was caught between 10 – 11 a.m. (Now one in the box – things are looking up). Second legal bass was caught at 1 p.m. (Now two in the box – we are on our way to great things). As Greg caught both these bass, you maybe are wondering what Ron (I'll catch-em)Zarn was doing. Well believe it or not he was catching-em, but ALAS he was catching pickerel not bass (They don't go in the box). He did catch one bass, but it was not legal size – had to be put back in the water to 'grow up". Time quickly passed and our team had to head back to the launch to weigh in their catch. This was the first time this tournament season that there were fish to be taken to the scales, that privilege went to I'll catch-em. He happily took their two fish from the box to the scales. Several teams had already weighed in and the top weight at that time was 24#. Our team was just a little short of that weight. Our 2 fish weighed 1.78# (total). OH WELL – better luck next time. They did place 19th out of 26 boats.

First place 24.77# Second Place 19.36# Big Bass 10.84#.

Third Place 15.49# (team from the University of Florida) Fourth Place 14.40# (male/female team).

Oh yes, there was one other incident that took place this day. When our team was returning to the launch site a "vicious" bird flew right into the path of the boat. The little coot could not flap its wings fast enough to get out of the way of the fast bass boat. There is now one less coot in Orange Lake and blood splattered on the carpet in the boat. The coot did not make the box either.

Better luck next time guys, as you go Way Down Upon the Suwannee River on April 24th.

CLOSER TO HOME:

HELLO MATES:

Just a few fishing notes from Captain Mike from Molly McGee's

Many are using "BETS" green jigs, or black and yellow and minnows and shiners. This past week many pro-fisherman have been bass fishing on Lake Henderson, practicing or getting ready for the Citrus County Bass challenge on April 24th. on the Withlacoochee River in Dunnellon – sponsored by The Key Training Center in partnership with Citrus County Chronicle. You can get entry forms at Molly McGee's if needed.

Also local fishermen have reported to me that in Lake Henderson and Lake Panasoffkee they catching lots of slabs (2 lb. or up Specs) and a few small bass. With the water still being a bit cold the fishing is still a bit sporadic. But in the next few weeks while the water warms up the fish should start staging, getting ready to spawn. Then HAPPY DAYS!! Fishing will be in full bloom.

Captain Mike - OUT

TRUTH or FICTION STORY

Our President, Al Grubman told this story. Last week he fished in Lake Henderson and in two hours he had 5 bass (two of which weighed at least 3-4 each). Is this truth or fiction???

Lake Levels as of March 30, 2010

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level
Floral City	40.47	Wysong Main Gate raised to 34.08 ft.
Inverness	39.41	Low Flow Gate at 34.03 ft.
Hernando	37.71	1140 USGS cfs total flow
Panasoffkee	39.54	Leslie Heifner open
Wysong Up	38.15	Floral City open, Golf Course open
Wysong Down	38.16	Moccasin Slough open, Brogden Bridge closed
Leslie Heifner Up	41.11	Brogden culvert closed, Bryant Slough closed
Leslie Heifner Down	40.99	Van Ness closed, S353 gate closed

TOO FAR MISSION

A grassroots organization dedicated to the best management and conservation of natural resources for present and future generations through public education and interaction with all entities charged with these responsibilities.

YES, I'll join the fight to protect, preserve and conserve our most precious water resources and to preserve our way of life for future generations.

TOO FAR Membership Application

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone 1 : _____ Telephone 2: _____
Email: _____ Family Size: _____
Snowbird Address: _____
Snowbird Months in Florida: _____
What are you willing to do to help? _____
Special Skills: _____

Dues are \$20 a year for Family Membership and \$200 for a Lifetime Membership

Mail to: TOO FAR, Inc.
PO Box 2709
Inverness, Florida 34451

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>

HILITES OF THE MARCH MEETING

Minutes by Pat Brady

Call to Order & Pledge - President, Al Grubman

Invocation - Larry Hartman

Secretary's Report: Minutes available. Treasurer's Report by June Schmukal

Introduction of Guests: Karen Martin, Swiftmud, Mike Bartlett, Swiftmud

Speaker: Will Miller SWFWMD Land Manager, Lands and Recreation

SWFWMD, Lands and Recreation has a new program called "Get Outside!" and a new book "Last Child in the Wilderness" about kids not being allowed to run free outside any more. The District has a lot of property open to the public so they see an opportunity to expose a new generation to the out of doors as they will have the say in the future of these lands..

The District has more than 343,000 acres of land for recreation, more than 50 properties, over 500 miles of multi-use trails, 64 campgrounds and 5 environmental education centers. Also partner with other groups to provide use. Don't buy land for recreation, just to protect the resources so allow only low density recreation. Hiking, birding, in-line skating, bicycling, equestrian, picnicking, nature watching. Take only memories and leave only footprints.

Day-use application for pavilion use, horse-drawn buggy access, horse back riding on some properties, camping application to know who is on the property. Can be done by phone, fax or on-line. Easy and free! Allow tents, pop-ups and small campers or horse trailers. Don't allow big motor homes, no electricity, no potable water, no paved roads, there are portable potties. Some of the lands have back-country camping with only picnic table and fire ring. In other places there are regular campgrounds suitable for larger vehicles. Pets are allowed on leash in most places. Apply for reservations at <http://www.watermatters.org/recreation>. Allow up to 10 days for processing.

Volunteer opportunities available.

Upcoming Community Event: Deep Creek Preserve, Desoto County, April 10, 2010, 9:30 - 2 p.m Vendors, hikes Check these out on line, also on radio, organizations, papers, etc. usually within 20 miles of the site. Most people get notice by word of mouth. Potts Islands are now out of the management district but don't allow camping yet, but setting some new rules.

Frank: Nancy is under attack - write letters on her behalf. They are trying to make a college degree mandatory when it isn't even a requirement for the governor. She needs our support to stay in this position. Talked about how Nancy has fought for stopping outrageous rate hikes.

Email your representatives. Nancy also came up with local sources first. Prime mover behind our trip to Tallahassee to show what a 6 ft pipe was. Most legislators' senior staff do not have degrees. She will be up for reappointment. If it passes she can't get reappointed.

Motion to adjourn, passed.

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>

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Snowbirds, let us know if you're heading for points north.
Don't miss one exciting issue of the TOO FAR Newsletter!
Call the office at 352-726-5004

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**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - April 22, 2010
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center
Speaker: Nancy Argenziano
Chairperson Florida PSC
Board Meeting at 5 pm**

SPEAKERS COMING UP

**May 27—Mark Edwards, Director Aquatics, Citrus Co.
Water, Weeds, Attractors**

**June 24—Philip Rhinesmith, SWFWMD
Sr. Environmental Scientist
Restoration and other projects**

Pet Food Needed! Help!

Please bring cat and dog food to our meetings as a donation to the Pet Meals on Wheels. Keep our best friends fed. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of both the pets and their owners. Thanks!