

# TOO FAR NEWS

Protecting & Conserving Our Water

May 2010 Volume 222



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Miscellaneous

For those of you who missed our last meeting, our speaker was Nancy Argenziano. Her talk was forceful, colorful and very thought provoking. Check our web-site, [www.toofarinc.com](http://www.toofarinc.com) for the Citrus County Chronicle article.

Many of you know but I have never made an announcement. I have applied for the Governor's appointment to the SWFWMD Withlacoochee River Basin Board. TOO FAR's board approved. Since joining TOO FAR's board, I have tried to work with SWFWMD. My initial trials were met with pleasantness and cooperation. We and SWFWMD can now meet and discuss situations professionally. We listen to each other's position and perspective. Results have been good. We are not close buddies, and we still disagree about some things but we communicate and understand each other better. Things have changed over the years. They have people that are willing and able to work with us, including top management. We have gained or helped gain several items that fighting would not have gotten for us.

By being appointed to the Basin Board, I hope to use what I have learned about our systems and needs. I believe I can also help SWFWMD spend a reasonable share of our taxes for us and usefully. SWFWMD is there. They have the power and money. Working with them will be productive for both of us.

Although I have received a lot of support from some very well placed people and some very nice messages have been sent to the Governor, there is no telling what the decision will be. I know of no deadline or schedule. I am just hanging and I will let you know when I hear.

Charlie Strange's tie-back Berm at S-353 continues under discussion. Our position has been to just support the long term security of this wall of the Hernando Pool to which SWFWMD has agreed. If anyone cares, I am happy to help reach an agreement or even mediate the solution if both parties want to solve the problem.

Lake Bradley seems to have hope even though the battle has been lost a few times in the past. They did not have the "Never Give Up" bullfrog on their side. As a result of my plea in last month's newsletter, three contacts were made. George Schimpf was first to call with the number of a Floral City submariner even older than George. I called him and had a pleasant conversation but not what we needed. Duanne Laughlin, a new member, told me at the meeting that he may be able to help. I went to visit him and learned a lot about the lake and got to see some 40 year old family photos that may help prove our point. Pat Brady found an online UF mapping system that also may help. Our frog is working!

Structures Procedures update has not been forgotten and will correct some things that concerned us in the first issue.

## Remember Freedom Isn't Free

Memorial Day May 31, 2010 is more than a holiday marking the start of summer. It is a day to remember all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and given up their lives in service to our great county keeping us free.

### Calling All Members!

Volunteers needed. TOOFAR is considering starting our popular pontoon boat trips up again this Fall. If you have a pontoon and would be willing to carry passengers for our next trip, consider this outing. If you would like to help with the project let us know by contacting Pat Brady by email at [psbrady@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:psbrady@tampabay.rr.com) or by calling her at 352-228-7251. Thank you.

### Lake Levels as of May 4, 2010

Structure	Current Level	All levels are in ft. above sea level
Floral City	40.27	Wysong Main Gate at 37 ft.
Inverness	39.64	Low Flow Gate at 34.03 ft.
Hernando	38.15	583 USGS total cfs flow
Panasoffkee	38.89	Leslie Heifner open
Wysong Up	37.42	Floral City open, Golf Course open
Wysong Down	37.44	Moccasin Slough open, Brogden Bridge closed
Leslie Heifner Up	40.34	Brogden culvert closed, Bryant Slough closed
Leslie Heifner Down	40.36	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

## **HILITES OF THE APRIL MEETING**

By Pat Brady

**Call to Order – Al Grubman, president**

**Invocation – Larry Hartman (Please remember Joyce Valentino's daughter who is very ill in your prayers.)**

**Minutes available at office or from Secretary, Pat Brady**

**Treasurer's Report – June Schmukal – gave bank balances as of today.**

**President's Announcements:**

**May 27<sup>th</sup> Mark Edwards, CC Director of Aquatics will be our next speaker**

**June 24<sup>th</sup> – Philip Rhinesmith, Senior Environmental Scientist, SWFWMD, will speak another that we can trust.**

**Speaker, Nancy Argenziano, Chairman Florida PSC, commented on our long relationship. Nancy is now in the public service commission. 1<sup>st</sup> Committee in the legislature was Public Utilities where she actually read the telecom bill and it was terrible. Asked a colleague about the bill and he said he didn't read them but just did what the chairman said to. By asking questions was able to inform the media and then the public stopped the bill. It kept coming up. One time it passed but the governor vetoed it. The next time it came up again after the governor's reelection and it passed. He let it go through because it went through the public service commission rather than by-passing it as the first bill did.**

**Policy is made in the legislature but when they put mandates on it they stop the public service commission from doing their job of oversight.**

**Discussed the energy bill process, most didn't know what ended up in the bill. The pre-construction cost was mandated into the bill. Nancy discussed the complex process involved in the bill for the new power plan and how charging the public for construction was passed.**

**The meeting of the commission was not getting the media attention because they held their meetings at the same time as the cabinet. The governor suggested Nancy go on the commission because there were problems there. However, it is very serious business with a lot of money involved. It doesn't require a college education to be fair but some don't want fair.**

**Three major organizations are thinking about separating the Public Service Commission from the Legislature. Even the Supreme Court does not have qualifications being suggested for the Commission.**

**If campaign finance reform doesn't take place it is the end of America. The latest ruling by the Supreme Court is appalling. You can actually take millions now rather than the \$500 supposed to be the limit.**

**Right now the PSC works for the legislature. Remember you don't give someone millions of dollars for nothing. PSC also has their problems even though there are good people there. There shouldn't be close relations with people they regulate.**

**One of her first committees in the house focused on nursing homes but the homes were below the national standard where tax dollars were being spent. The biggest battle came about trying to make them better. Nancy was invited to come to a meeting to pick committee members. Rather than the group discussing the candidates she found the leadership calling the special interest groups to see who should get the position on the committees.**

**Jim Bitter thinks Jeb Bush is still running Tallahassee who will turn developers loose in the state. Nancy reviewed state contracts and found the contracts were appalling. There were no protections for taxpayers that are customary in most contracts like performance, etc. Some state agencies are pushed to fail so they can be privatized.**

Continued on the next page

## Q&A Comments

Wayne asked if we were able to separate the PSC from the legislature who would appoint the board? It can be figured out but the nominating has to change that's where the power is. Can't answer specific questions about the power plant future. Can't endorse anyone as chair of PSC but only speak only her personal opinions.

Recommended reading - Family and What's the Matter with Kansas? required reading before running for governor.

T Boone Pickens has a lot of wind generators to give away. Member suggested this to Progress Energy that they could put these in the shallow gulf and feed the electricity to the existing power plant. This wasn't received well. Nancy said any new power source is a long process tied up in politics.

As a rate payer, heard an interview with President of Progress Energy that they would collect the money even if plans to build don't come through. Nancy said the bill was written so that they could collect and keep the money even if they don't build.

Thinks governor won't pass a bill with the education requirement. But still don't think she will be reappointed. Even if she leaves she's accomplished quite a bit and raised the level of recognition for the organization.

She will always stay involved in representative government. People died for this form of government but we have to stand up. Not just go along.

Frank is a firm believer of writing letters to individuals. Do they matter? Some don't care about anything. But some care about the ones who are voters in their areas. They don't want the people involved. Always send letters to the governor too! Help them understand even when they don't care. Chiefland caused them to act but it will come back again. Keep fighting. Read up on the redistricting amendment too.

President's Report: Volunteers for next few months for coffee room. Appointment is stalled. Doesn't know if it will happen.

Lake Bradley – opportunity to restore the lake. Any one who has information about the lake open, photos, memories. We can get that lake cleaned out at no cost but DEP said the lake was never open and wouldn't permit it. We are looking for info to educate them. Talk to the old people who would know ask for photos. Historical society might be a good place to start. Lake Spivey RV Park – came up again and was called off maybe to wait until after the election. Will be back in January with a thorough plan again. Don't know why he gets to keep coming back.

Jim Bitter pointed out that the Homosassa Spring is pumping 2 mill gal where it used to pump 6 mil. The river will be a salt marsh in 10 years. The whole state is being pumped dry by the Villages.

Pete Hubble has come up with a 400 page book on how to steal our water. Suggested telling the people about the plan but not with too many details – the view from 20,000 ft. Damato said carry the word and keep people informed from 20,000 ft. Al told them he would be telling the people the view on the ground. About the pipe and the direction the water would flow.

Al showed a device that can give your existing toilet a two level flush for \$20.

Please consider volunteering for the boat trips. No volunteers so far. We will take donations of boats as well.

Bullfrog Drawing – Ann Provencal won \$38.

Coffee room tonight hosted by Ginny Brower, June Schmukal, and Jan Grubman  
Meeting adjourned.

## **FISHING –N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING**

### **ON THE TOURNAMENT TRAIL:**

Well it's 4 in the morning (Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>) and our team is heading for the launch to fish "Down Upon the Suwannee River". If you've ever fished this River than you know that it can really be tough. This day was no different for the 17 teams that blasted off at safe daylight. Our guys blasted off 5<sup>th</sup>. Our team "had a dream" it was not only to catch a bass (which did not happen during 3 days of practice on the river), it was to catch a Suwannee bass. The Suwannee bass has a blue color, as opposed to the green color we normally see. It also has a much smaller mouth and no lateral lines. How do we know this?? – Because both, Greg (Big Bass) Schmulak and Ron (I'll catch-em) Zarn did indeed catch a Suwannee bass. Greg's was legal size and, therefore, went into the box for weigh-in. Ron's fish was just a little too short (less than 1/8" short). See dreams really do come true. Ron (I'll catch-em) Zarn caught 2 or 3 red bellies (like blue gills). They had to go back into the water, not bass so they could not be put in the box. The team did manage to catch a really large fish (5-6 lbs.) but it was a bowfin (mud fish). I'll catch-em did manage to kill a spider which fell into the boat while Big Bass was trying to untangle his lure and line from the trees. Now we have 1 fish in the livewell, 1 dead spider in the boat and blood (from the spider) splattered on the rug in the boat. When the scales opened at 1:30 there were several teams close or nearby the launch site which went to prove that the Suwannee had once again won the battle for the day. As the anglers arrived at the scales, it appeared that most of the stories were consistent, with anglers stating that fish were caught but could not stretch the fish enough to bring them to the scales. First Place Weight was 13.69 lbs., Second Place Weight 10.46 lbs., Third Place Weight 6.38 lbs. Our teams weight was 1.84 lbs. (they would not weigh in the dead spider). Next tournament is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. at the Rodman Reservoir.

### **ON THE HOME FRONT: Notes from Captain Mike of Molly McGee's & Capt. Mike's Bait Shop**

#### **HELLO FISHERMEN and FISHERLADIES:**

Reported to me this week is that in Lake Spivey at the Spillway, there is a lot of action. Many catching nice size crappie, bluegill and some bass.

Then on the river, some weekend vacationers staying at the RiverSide Lodge came in to buy some bait and told me they were having a lot of fun catching some nice channel cats, about 12-15 lbs.

Also this past week our friends from Leesburg were fishing Henderson and Lake Harris catching their limit of nice size crappie on both lakes. Making them a GREAT fish fry this weekend.

Don't forget that any one using our bait; bring me a photo of their catch. The one that has the best catch of the week can win a nice size sub and soda of your choice.

May you all have a great catch and a wonderful month and please use common sense and safety on the Lakes and River.

**CAPTIAN MIKE - OUT**

**Thanks for the Pet Food**

**Please keep it up. Lots of pets are given up because their owners cannot feed them. You can help folks keep their pets by making a donation to the Pet Meals on Wheels. Donations may be made at our meetings. Thank you.**

**Taxpayers Outraged Organization for Accountable Representation  
TOO FAR**

**TOO FAR INC  
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INVERNESS, FL  
34451**



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**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY - May 27, 2010  
7 pm at the East Citrus Community Center  
Speaker: Mark Edwards  
Director Aquatics, Citrus Co.  
Board Meeting at 5 pm**

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

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