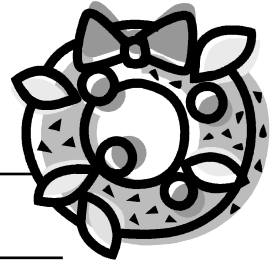


TOO FAR NEWS



Protecting & Conserving Our Water

December 2011 Volume 241

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Busy and Committed

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Here is a Thanksgiving wish for next year, sent to me by a friend and hard worker for our environment. "Maybe next Thanksgiving we'll be giving thanks that years of environmental restoration and protection have not been undone." Thanks Sam. I pray and will work for this wish to come true. I hope you will be there with me in spirit or better yet in person.

This is a tough time. We have lost and are losing many fine people at SWFWMD. However, it is time to regroup and rebuild. How will our old friends and associates take to the new management? Will the Governing Board make good decisions or keep looking to the Governor's "boy" for approval. Which if any Governing Board members will rise to lead? We had finally been welcomed to the table with greatly expanded communication. The changes are a loss that we will work to re-establish.

This is not the time to go back to throwing grenades over the wall. This is not the time to "pay them back" for real or imagined past actions. SWFWMD continues to be the best organization to manage and improve our waters and environment. They have skills, experts, knowledge, experience and money (even though their budget was butchered). The new Executive Director Blake Guillory did not do or participate in any of the past real or supposed wrongs. At the recent Homosassa Seafood Festival, my wife Jan and I encountered him and his wife Bonnie. He remembered me and could not have been more cordial and Bonnie could not have been nicer. The four of us talked for probably 15 minutes. He did not give a speech or a bunch of BS. We spoke like regular people with common interests. My "gut," an ancient measuring device, tells me he will be a straight shooter and a good person to work with. I hope so - time will tell.

Continued on next page

TOO FAR - Don't Ever Give Up!
Taxpayers Outraged Organization For Accountable Representation

TOO FAR wishes all good things for you and your family this holiday season.

Peace, joy, happiness and good health.



There are some major decisions that will be made in the near future:

- Chassahowitzka and Homosassa River MFL decisions and the precedent set for the other coastal rivers
- Surplus Land Assessment and Disposal
- Withlacoochee River MFL draft revisions and approval
- Revisions to water structures
- Restoration of River water access to the Tsala Apopka Lakes
- Confirm suitability of berm removal in Flying Eagle and removal
- Return of local input and control to replace or restore the Basin Boards

Some of these decisions will be above Blake's pay grade but in any case, these decisions will foretell a lot about the future.

As we come into this holiday season, there are many things to contemplate. I, for instance, feel very strongly about the environment, our waters, honesty and fairness. I tend, usually inside myself, to feel anger. Having passed my 72nd birthday this year, I should be more mellow. Since most of the people I deal with (and most of the people in the world) are younger than I, it is more appropriate at my age to teach and reason - not be angry. I am working to do better.

May this season bring you peace, joy and fulfillment.

AI

Lake Levels as of September 6, 2011

All levels are in feet above sea level

Current Level		Current Level	
Floral City	39.20	Inverness	37.29
Hernando	35.14	Panasoffkee	38.14
Wysong Upstream	37.14	Wysong Downstream	36.64
Leslie Heifner Upstream	39.21	Leslie Heifner Downstream Inside	39.20

Floral City: Floral City fully closed, Golf Course all gates closed, Moccasin Slough open

Inverness: Brogden Bridge 1 closed, Brogden Bridge 2 closed, Brogden Culvert closed, Bryant Slough gates closed

Hernando: Van Ness closed, S-353 gates closed

Leslie Heifner gate fully up

Wysong: Main Gate fully open. Low Flow Gate at 35.19 ft., 169 USGS total cfs flow

This and lots more information available on the SWFWMD web site:
<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/waterres/hydrographs/hydrographs.pdf>

FISHING -N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING

ON THE TOURNAMENT TRAIL:

It is early in the morning on Friday November 11 ; in fact it is very early in the morning. It is 3:30 a.m. and our team is off to the Rodman Reservoir for day one of a two day tournament. The weather was not as cold as they had predicted, but it sure was windy, but this was the Southeast Regional's giving our team the opportunity to fish against teams from Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina as well as Florida.

93 teams blasted out of the Kenwood Boat Launch unto the world famous Rodman Reservoir under cool, clear post frontal conditions thus causing productive patterns developed during practice to fail for many of the teams. There were 24 five fish limits caught on day one. At weigh in a team from Alabama-South brought in 5 fish weighing 22.20 lbs. This large bag of fish netted them first place. They fished vegetation in deeper water away from the shoreline. Second and third place teams were from Florida-Central. Our team did not fare as well as they had no fish to weigh in. They did have fish on, one was estimated at 4 lbs., and the other was really BIG estimated at 8 lbs. They, however, got free and therefore did not go to weigh in. Just think if they had not jumped off, we would have been excited and happy come weigh in time. Guys, that is how they got to be so big – they knew how to get loose and swim away. Our guys were hungry and tired but not discouraged.

It is now 3:30 a.m. on November 12 and our team is off for Day 2 of the tournament. The morning was very cold (30 some degrees) but not as windy as Day 1. Several of the teams (including the top 3) locked thru each day toward Lake George, St. Johns River and the Ocklawaha. At weigh in the final results were:

First Place 41.61 lbs. Team from Florida-Central

Second Place 36.35 lbs. Team from Alabama-South

Third Place 27.24 lbs. Team from Florida-Central

Fourth Place 23.95 lbs. Team from Alabama-Central

Fifth Place 23.82 lbs. Team from Alabama-Central

By late morning, early afternoon the weather was beautiful so it could not be used as an excuse for not having any fish to weigh in. Our team did catch fish on day 2 - 2 pickerel and 1 bass which when measured was too small. Let's just say, they paid the top 20 teams and our guys were not among them.

We are proud of you guys anyway and we'll get them next year.

Membership Drive

It's time.

Go round up your family and all your neighbors and let them know why it's a good idea to join TOO FAR.
Let them know we are fighting for them and for our water.

Help us protect and preserve our most precious resource—water

Call TOO FAR at 352-726-5004

Email us at toofarinc@earthlink.net

FISHING -N-HOPEFULLY CATCHING

ON THE HOMEFRONT:

Report from Captain Mike of Molly McGee's

The Holiday season has arrived here in sunny Florida. Even though its winter ever where else in the country, here in our own piece of paradise we have had warm 80 degree days and cool nights. This only can mean one thing. The fishing has been super hot here on the Tsala Apopka chain of lakes. The Crappie bite on our lakes has been very good. Fishermen have been filling their boats with the tasty Crappie. Little Lake Henderson has been the hot spot. Chuck suggests loading your boat with as many minnows as you can, then all you will need to do is fish about 10 feet deep with a slip bobber and a lively minnow on the other end. Using this method should fill your boat in no time. The same is true over in Big Lake Henderson as well.

With all the focus on crappie this time of year, it's easy to forget about the giant bass our chain of lakes has to offer.

I like to drift live Shiners on a popping cork; in the morning fish open water. As the sun gets higher, fish the weed line. We had one happy Customer of Molly McGee's reporting he had caught a 10 pound bass in the backwaters of Little Lake Henderson using larger shiners. WHAT A GREAT CATCH! We hope to have a picture added to our wall of fame soon.

For all the folks that winter in the many RV parks on the Withlacoochee River, the river is a great place to fill your dinner plate with your favorite fish. The Crappie and Shell Crackers, along with Stump Knockers, are offering an exciting bite on minnows and night crawlers. Buy twice as much bait as you think you need; THE FISHING IS JUST THAT GOOD RIGHT NOW.

If you are looking for the trophy bass to hang on your wall, now is the time to go fishing. Using live shiners will be your best bet to catch that trophy. Try drifting with a float and circle hooks. Don't forget the net!!

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and we wish you a Merry Christmas.

Captain Mike and Molly

Folks, Molly has not been feeling well lately, we at TOO FAR send her our best wishes and our prayers for a speedy recovery to good health.

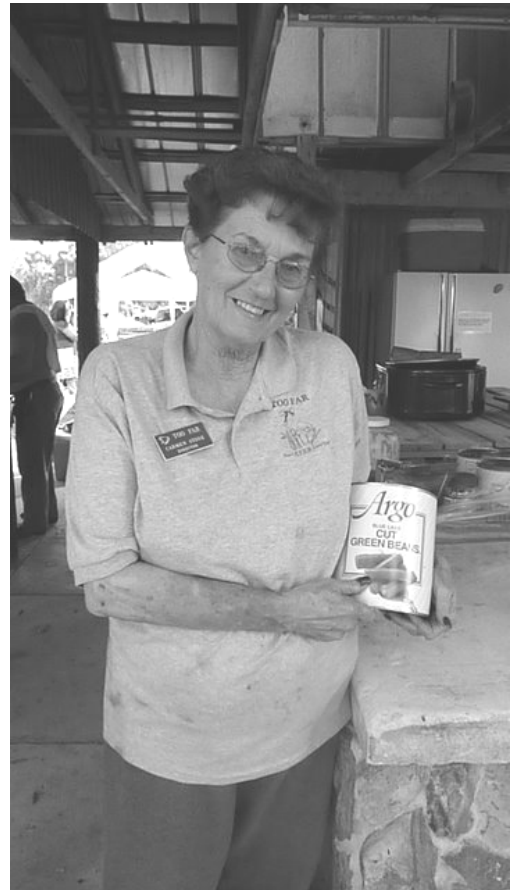


TOO FAR PIG Roast

Thanks to all who made our Annual Pig Roast a great success!
Here are some of them.



Bob Hoover—what a cook



Carmen Stone — we love those beans



Jolene & Ron Zarn—taking tickets

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To current resident or



BE THERE!

East Citrus Community Center

Thursday December 15, 2011

Board Meeting 5:30 pm

General Meeting 7 pm

Speakers:

Becky Ayech President of the Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida and Policy Consultant for Florida Water Coalition - Toxic Slime

Debra Burden, Citrus County Water Conservation Coordinator—Make it Last.