

CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 21 - Issue 3

May/Jun 2014

Citizens For Florida's Waterways promotes the need for responsible use of Florida's waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistance among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, propery owners and the environment. Citizens For Florida's Waterways advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

President's Message

Well, it looks like the winter that would never end has taken it's last breath – finally. I think we can count on a lot of boating weather for the next several months. May always brings us Safe Boating Week. This year, it's officially the 17th through 23rd but as always safe boating is a year round focus for all of us lucky enough to live here in the Sunshine State.

CFFW has traditionally held its Annual Poker Run in conjunction with Safe Boating Week, but this year will be different. A few of our members have decided to found the East Coast Boat Club and chose the 17th for their inaugural event. You'll find more information here:https://www.facebook.com/Eastcoastboatclub. Rather than compete, we are supporting their activity.

The Thunder on Cocoa Beach powerboat races and festivities are May 14 through Sunday May 18th. CFFW will have a reserved spot on the beach for Sunday. Check this newsletter for information about watching the races from the beach.

We will keep or Annual Poker Run alive. Mark your calendars. The 19th annual CFFW Poker Run will be held on July 12.

Our annual CFFW Flea Market at Harbourtown (March 29/30) was a success in spite of the usual challenge of inclement

weather on one day of the two. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time and helped make this happen. In addition to the brisk sales by our invited vendors, CFFW had 19 family memberships renewed and 13 new member applications. Welcome back and welcome aboard.

This month I have the privilege of representing you and all the recreational boaters in Florida at two important meetings in Tallahassee. On May 14th, the Florida Governor's Boating Advisory Council will have its spring meeting. This council meets under the guidance of Florida Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement (FWCLE). One of the topics of interest to all of us will be the continuation of discussion of the future of the two most often encountered regulatory signs on our waterways: "Idle Speed, No Wake" and "Slow Speed, Minimum Wake". FWCLE recognizes the confusion and interpretive challenges of boater compliance and enforcement and entertained some lively dialogue and Council suggestions about de-coupling the speed and wake regulations. That could mean re-defining some zones to be regulated, potentially numerically, by either speed (actual max mph) or wake (max size) - but not both. CFFW strongly supports this approach, which we believe will remove the ambiguity and subjective enforcement of the current signage. ... (Continued on Page 4)

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Please Mark Your Calendars!

Please call Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.



- » 5/17/2014 Merritt Island Waterfest: 8AM to 1PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building. For more information contact Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department at 321-633-2016, or Matt Culver at Matt.Culver@brevardcounty.us, or Marie Winkler at Marie.Winkler@brevardcounty.us.
- » 5/18/2014 Thunder on Cocoa Beach Super Boat Races: CFFW will have a tent set up on the beach at the far south end of Shepard Park for anyone that would like to attend. Please bring your chairs, coolers, food and what ever else you may want. Contact Kelly Haugh at 321-449-0827 for more information.
- » 6/2/2014 Board of Directors Meeting: 6:30PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building (near the boat ramp). Open to the public.
- » 6/30/2014 Board of Directors Meeting: 6:30PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building (near the boat ramp). Open to the public.
- » 7/12 to 7/19/2014 19th Annual CFFW Poker Run: Stay tuned to www.CFFW.org for more info. ❖

Newsletter Delivery Mode

E-Newsletters Now Available

CFFW is offering all members the option to receive all future newsletters by email instead of a hard copy by mail. The Board of Directors have reviewed the expense logs for the past few years to determine where we could save money and this is the biggest expense we have.

If you wish to save your club money on printing and postage, please reply to info@cffw.org and we will add you to the email list for your newsletters! You will receive an email stating your E-Newsletter is ready for viewing. If at any time you wish to receive the hardcopy again, just send us a note at the same email and you will again receive the hardcopy.

You can view the same exact version online at CFFW.org and click on "newsletters" tab and the issue you would like to view. \$\ddots\$

PAGE 2 CFFW - MAY/JUN 2014

Citizens For Florida's Waterways Boat Safe Reimbursement Program

CFFW promotes the need for responsible use of Florida waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property owners, and the environment. CFFW advocates education in the safe and considerate use of watercraft with respect for our marine environment and conservation.

If you would like to receive reimbursement for the class fees charged by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Cocoa Beach Power Squadron, you can attend a CFFW meeting, present your certificate of completion, and receive your reimbursement.

CFFW funds are limited, and we do have a finite amount of money in our scholarship fund, so it is on a first come, first served basis, and as noted above this is for the Basic Safe Boating class only.

You can visit our website at <u>www.cffw.org</u> or <u>www.savefamilyboating.com</u> for the location of our events and meetings.

You may also contact Kelly Haugh CFFW President at 321-449-0827 for more information.

Enjoy safe boating! ❖

Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Safe Boating Courses

The Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Education Officer has graciously invited all of our members to participate in their boating education classes and pay only the member fee!

To enroll, refer to the web site www.cbsps.org where they post the upcoming classes. Mention that you are a CFFW member and the Education Officer will reply via email and then ask you to confirm you are a CFFW member the first night of classes. You can confirm this with your most current copy of the newsletter, which has your name, address and renewal date on the back page.

This is a great opportunity for education in safe boating if you have not had the chance to participate in any safe boating classes!

Stay safe and see you on the water! *





When Does Your Membership Expire? (See Back Cover)

President's Message

(continued from Page 1)

The Manatee Forum will reconvene with its annual spring meeting on May 16th. There has been renewed interest and attention to the question of carrying capacity and the potential impact on the lagoon from the threat of manatee overpopulation. This threat (loss of seagrass, accumulation of nutrient rich excrement) is much more real than extinction ever was and it is much more alarming. No one wants to think we might have been approaching the loss of the manatee species, but over population threatens the health of the lagoon itself and ALL the species that call it home. The inevitable downlisting of the species must move forward and a realistic management plan must be developed to replace the current crisis-based and limitless "more is better" approach. CFFW contends that this start with the elimination of the manmade hot water sources that have not only

violated the Federal Clean Water Act for the last 40 years, but have impacted the natural migration habits of the species. Downlisting from "endangered" "threatened" is a step in the right direction, but since the federal population analyses conducted twice over the last 6 years have concluded that the danger of the manatee becoming even quasi-extinct over the next 100 years is less that 1%, the real status of the manatee should be complete removal from the Endangered Species Act. But, politics is over-riding sound environmental science once again. Just like the political basis (not science) for all these boating regulations. All of the regulations probably made some folks feel good - that they were doing something positive - but in reality have had no impact on saving the species. The science is clear. The species not threatened ... (Continued on Page 5)

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PAGE 4 CFFW - MAY/JUN 2014

Citizens For Florida's Waterways Presents

The 19th Annual & POWERBOAT POKER RUN

Saturday, July 12, 2014

Registration - Kelly Park East Boat Ramp (Merritt Island) 9:30 to 10:30 am

Card Stops and Ending Location to be announced

Cash Prizes 1st 2nd & 3rd best hands

Cash prizes will be determined by the size of the pot

Prizes for Gentleman with the most Kings

and Lady with the most Queens

Fun for the whole family!

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•Additional hands \$15 each

Call Bob Atkins @ 321-453-1656 for more details, or email ratkins@cffw.org







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President's Message

(continued from Page 4)

(probably never was). And the number of boating fatalities, has never been a factor in the survival of the species. It's a long road back to reasonable. But, it starts with downlisting and continues with opening up the navigational channels that have been regulated solely for manatee protection. In Brevard, that includes most of Sykes Creek, the Barge Canal through the onerous eastern half-lagoon zones to a more reasonable distance like the west side channels and the designation of some near shore water sports areas. These are the goals of your CFFW. While we continue to strive to meet these goals, let's all do everything we can to clean up and preserve OUR Indian/Banana River lagoon system. Be cognizant and adjust any behaviors that create nutrified or polluted runoff at your home and in your neighborhood. Don't put anything in the water while you are out there. Take home everything you take out and a little more – if you find it. Don't run in shallow waters and impact the seagrass – we need every acre.

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Top 10 Pieces of Gear for Runabouts

There's a lot to be said for owning small runabouts, center consoles or bow riders. While they are affordable, easy to store, and can keep everyone in the family happy, they have their limits, though, if you want to venture into coastal waters and big lakes. But these journeys can still be done, with the right ten pieces of equipment. Here's what CFFW recommends should be aboard every boat 26 feet or smaller:

Paddles: If your engine quits, paddles are your propulsion. Keep the outboard or sterndrive down for a rudder, and if you've got a buddy or a spouse aboard, you can make decent headway. A T-handle paddle, the kind used for whitewater canoeing, gives you a great grip. The aluminum shaft is light and strong, as is the high-impact plastic blade. Those materials don't mind sitting out in the weather, either. Make sure they're at least five feet long.

Dry box: Small boats typically lack dry storage. Large, plastic marine dry boxes with lids with O-rings seal out moisture and an extra-deep model can hold the radio, smartphone, flashlight, GPS and more, leaving them dry when ... (Continued on Page 9)

PAGE 6 CFFW - MAY/JUN 2014

Enjoying Our 2014 Flea Market Success

"There's something for everyone!" That is our flea market tagline and what a success our event was this year! Our weather presented us with a few challenges on Saturday and we joined hands to help everyone with "tent-fixing." The vendors reported extremely good shopping.

Again this year, our traffic counting device "clicked-in" nearly 4000 shoppers this year! Our gratitude goes out to everyone for helping make it another year of success for our organization and the vendors participating!

First and foremost, a great BIG thanks to our host, HarborTown Marina employees and the efforts of Mr. Jim Riley! Our event would not be successful if it were not for this great venue! The restaurant was busy most all of the time; they provided a lot of beers, burgers and sandwiches for the hungry and thirsty shoppers.

Our volunteers this year were Thumper Volkmer, Bruce Taff, Kim Johnson, Ed French, Kim and Bill Rouse, Bob and Barb Land, Gary and Debra Sawicki, Frank Jones, Chuck and Susan Reed, Ron and Donna Pritchard, Bob Bridges, John Borland, Karen and Jack Dignan, Troy, Genessa and Marissa Lanay, we could not do this without you!

If I missed anyone, please forgive me. The CFFW marine flea market team knows that our flea market absolutely could not have been done without you and your limitless help and support!

Kelly and Gary Haugh provided an enormous amount of support and guidance to all of us alongside of Sandy Reynolds whose late husband George, this event was born from. Our hats off to all three of them for such commitment to our organization!

As in previous years, we signed up quite a few new members and renewed several continuing members, thank you all very much!

We had just over 50 vendors this year, more than last year. The selling activity at each of the vendor booths were reported as being very good. We will look forward to our 2015 event and hope to have the same great volunteer support and vendor turnout! Our 2015 annual marine flea market will follow the Dania Marine Flea Market. Those dates are being worked now and will be published on our website and in the newsletter as soon as we know it! Thank you all, again! •



PLF Sues Feds for Stalling on Manatee Downlisting

Palm Beach Gardens, FL; April 30, 2014 — Attorneys with Pacific Legal Foundation today sued the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) because it persists in listing the manatee as "endangered" under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, even though the agency's own scientific findings say that the species, found in the warm waters of Florida and elsewhere on the Atlantic Coast, should be "downlisted" to "threatened."

Donor-supported PLF is a nonprofit watchdog organization that litigates for limited government, property rights, and a balanced approach to environmental regulations, in courts nationwide. PLF's Atlantic Center office is located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

PLF attorneys represent Save Crystal River, Inc., a nonprofit organization of citizens from Crystal River in Citrus County, Florida, who advocate for property rights and a quality of life that preserves the proper balance between nature and human activity. As with all its clients, PLF represents Save Crystal River free of charge.

"In late 2012, PLF and Save Crystal River submitted a petition for the downlisting of the manatee," said PLF attorney Christina M. Martin, who is based in PLF's Atlantic Center office. "But federal officials failed to act. That failure means we must sue to force regulators to do their job."

"The foot-dragging has continued even though there are more manatees today than when the feds' own study said the species can and should be downlisted," Martin continued. "While there have been news reports about a high number of manatee deaths last year, the government has still reported that the species' population is significantly higher than a decade ago."

Specifically, on January 23, 2014, the FWS published a stock assessment for the West Indian manatee in the Federal Register, which states that the minimum current population estimate for the West Indian manatee is 4,976, including 4,834 Florida manatees (79 Fed. Reg. 3856-57). In contrast, the agency's 2007 status review for the West Indian manatee (which called for downlisting the species) stated that the "best, current, minimum population estimate" was more than 25 percent lower than at present: 3,300.

The feds' seven-year stall -- In 2007, the FWS conducted a status review of the West Indian manatee, the species found in Florida, which includes the subspecies Florida and Antillean manatee. The purpose of the status review, required every five years by the Endangered Species Act, is for the government to ascertain on a regular basis whether a listed species still requires ESA protection, and if so, to what degree.

The 2007 review recommended that the West Indian manatee should be downlisted from its current endangered status to the status of "threatened." The review relied heavily upon information provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

"It has been seven years since the federal government's own scientific review signaled that the manatee should be removed from 'endangered' status," said Martin. "But no action has been taken. Everyone who values responsible environmental management should be concerned by this foot-dragging and failure to follow scientific findings. What's ... (Continued on Page 9)

PAGE 8 CFFW - MAY/JUN 2014

PLF Sues Feds for Stalling on Manatee Downlisting

(continued from Page 8)

really endangered here is accountability in government and credibility in regulations.

"Our lawsuit is necessary because environmental policy has to be kept honest," Martin continued. "Changing the manatee's status from endangered to threatened won't change the protections for the species. But not changing that status — when the science says it should be changed — will undermine the credibility of environmental oversight, and that's bad news for all species and all environmental concerns."

Save Crystal River says: "The rule of law is at issue" -- PLF attorneys represent Save Crystal River, Inc. (a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation). Save Crystal River (SCR) is a coalition and partnership of friends and neighbors, young parents and retirees, career professionals and business owners, residents, and community leaders, who became united by their commitment to maintain and protect the unique quality of life for all people in the community of Crystal River and Citrus County, on Florida's west coast. The mission of SCR is to educate the public regarding current environmental, property, and riparian rights, and to represent the interest of the citizens of Crystal River against excessive government regulation of the Crystal River and the resources of the surrounding area.

The FWS has moved to effectively take over the entire bay that the City of Crystal River sits on — the 600-acre Kings Bay — because manatees come into the bay for four months of the year, from November through February. The threat of onerous federal regulations endangers the fishing industry and the tourist industry.

"It is important to preserve a healthy environment," said Steve Lamb, vice president of Save Crystal River. "It is also important to preserve the rule of law and integrity of the regulatory process. Unfortunately, litigation has become necessary in order to make the government follow the findings of science, and obey its own rules."

PLF's complaint may be found at PLF's website: www.pacificlegal.org.

Top 10 Pieces of Gear for Runabouts

(continued from Page 6)

you need them.

Anchors and line: Some small-boat manufacturers barely leave space for a lunch hook. But what happens if your engine quits, or you want to anchor overnight in a quiet cove? Stowing two anchors with different line lengths gives you options. Chain between line and anchor also helps. And don't forget a few docklines.

Wearable life jacket: Luckily, life jacket design has evolved and you can find Type III vest-style models that are comfortable to wear all day. Plenty of small-boat owners wear inflatable jackets. They're more buoyant, but more costly and require some care. Your best choice is any life jacket you'll always wear.

Compatible power source for electronics: When your cell phone runs out of juice during a nautical emergency, that's a crisis. Same goes for your flashlight, handheld GPS unit and VHF radio. Get devices that run on the same power source such as AA batteries and stow an extra sealed pack of batteries in the dry box.

... (Continued on Page 10)

"Catch A Memory" Radio Show

The radio show will again be an hour long on WMEL 1300-AM, Saturday mornings at 7:35AM − 9:30AM. The program will be covering the fishing action on Florida's East Coast. Anglers can tune in to hear Captain Jim Ross and his cohosts provide the latest fishing and new product information. ❖

"Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report" Television Show

Captain Jim Ross has joined a host of other top professional guides across the State of Florida on a new television show called the "Chevy Florida Insider Fishing Report." The TV show is on the SunSports network on Thursday evenings from 5:00PM to 6:30PM (times vary, check your local TV guide). Reporting expert, Captain Jim Ross will bring you an up-to-date fishing report from our offshore and inshore local waters.

Captain Jim Ross also provides daily reports Sunday through Wednesday on the TV shows website: www.floridainsiderfishingreport.com

If you would like to contact Captain Jim Ross, his phone number is 321-636-3728 and his web-site is: www.finelinefishingcharters.com. ❖



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$15 - that's 50% offthe regular \$30 annual dues!



BoatUS and BoatUS ANGLER Member benefits include Member Rewards at West Marine stores, discounts at marinas nationwide on fuel, repairs, and overnight slips, on-the-water Towing Services, highly-respected Marine Insurance, a subscription to BoatUS Magazine or BoatUS ANGLER.

Top 10 Pieces of Gear for Runabouts

(continued from Page 9)

Manual bailer: Small, closed-deck boats rely on a single, submersible pump to keep the bilge dry. But if that pump fails, or seawater comes over the gunwales or stern, or there's heavy rain, you've got a problem. Keeping a hand-operated bilge pump aboard is cheap insurance.

Air Horn: The US Coast Guard says small boats must have a "sound-producing device" for distress signaling, capable of a four-second blast that's audible one quarter-mile away. While a plastic whistle or an installed electric horn may meet the letter of the law, a better choice is a handheld, gas-powered air horn, which can be heard at much greater distances.

Spare prop and fix-It tools: A submerged ledge or log can whop your prop and cripple your boat. Having a spare prop and the right wrench is common advice, but changing a mangled wheel while afloat is easier said than done. Dents in aluminum props can be put back into serviceable shape, at least enough to get home. Beefy, vice-grip-style locking pliers and slip-joint pliers are essential for this repair.

Have a charging source: Cell phones don't run on AA batteries. That's why you need a marine rated 12-volt receptacle with a weatherproof cap. Mount it away from spray and rain, and don't forget the charging cords for other electronics.

Paper chart in plastic cover: Even a waterproof chart is hard to manage underway in an open boat. But by putting it in a clear, plastic holder, wind and water won't matter it will always be ready when you need it. You can buy one or make one with clear plastic from the hardware store and duct tape. •

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PAGE 10 CFFW - MAY/JUN 2014

CFFW Member Recognition

New Members

Merritt Island: Dave Cassone, Russell Doucet, Jeff Elder, Brad Freed, Mike

Hughey, Randy Pearce, Tom Raftican, Ron Reef, and Bob Walsh.

Cocoa Beach: Mike Hayden. Satellite Beach: Tony Mills.

Cape Canaveral: Jeff & Selina Schick.

Orlando: Kelli Ahnen.

Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins Thomas Bruckner Jack & Karn Dignan Don & Linda Ewers Col. & Mrs. J.C. Farley Ollie & Sherry Follweiler

Jeff Haggard & Anita Bromberg

Jeff & Anita Haggard Alston & Kelli Hammons Gary & Kelly Haugh Keith & Tamasine Houston Lonnie & Carla Hughes

Doug Jaren Frank Jones

Troy & Genese Launay George Legters

Troy & Lisa Lotane

Nautical Spirits/Chris & Becky Hamilton

Don Nesbitt

Ron & Karen Presley Sandy Reynolds

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Jamie Seymour/New England Mfg. Co.

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Jim & Pam Urick Jess H. Yates, DMD

Paul & Francesca Ragusa

Business Recognition Diamond Level

This business supports Citizens For Florida's Waterways by donating a CFFW membership with each boat purchased from their store.

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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and membership dues are not tax-deductable.

CFFW - MAY/JUN 2014



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Post Office Box 541712 Merritt Island, FL 32954-1712

If you're not a member... please join.

Your membership dues provide the financial support needed to save family boating from the million-dollar enviro-businesses.

Please join online at cffw.org or by mailing the enclosed membership form.

When Does Your Membership Expire?



- » **5/17/2014:** Merritt Island Waterfest
- » 5/18/2014: Thunder on Cocoa Beach Super Boat Races
- » 6/2/2014: Board of Directors Meeting
- » 6/30/2014: Board of Directors Meeting
- » 7/12 to 7/19/2014: 19th Annual CFFW Poker Run
- » SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE!



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