



# CITIZENS FOR FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS

Volume 20 - Issue 5

Sept/Oct 2013

*Citizens For Florida's Waterways promotes the need for responsible use of Florida's waterways. Our primary objective is to encourage coexistence among recreational and commercial boaters, the marine industry, property 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.*

## The Indian and Banana Rivers: Our Lagoon in Crisis by the Numbers by Bob Atkins

### By the Numbers - Seagrass

- Three Years Ago
  - Estimated 131,000 Acres of Seagrass in IRL
  - From Scottsmoor to Vero
- Last Three Years
  - 30,000 to 45,000 Acres of Seagrass LOST
- 25 – 35% Decline in Seagrass Coverage
- Significant Increase in Floating Algae Mass
  - Attributed to increased Free Nutrients in Lagoon
  - Aggravating Issue for Seagrass Growth

### By the Numbers - Manatee

- Twenty Years Ago
  - Estimated 1800 Manatee STATE WIDE
- Three Years Ago (Jan 2011)
  - 1100 Manatee counted in North Central Brevard County
  - This Implies 1100 Year Round Population
  - Migration Altered by Thermal Pollution
- 2013 - 120 Manatee Found Dead
  - Unusual Mortality Event (UME)
  - Many attributed to Toxin Found in Floating Algae Ingested by Dead Specimens
    - > 25+ Dolphin and Hundreds of Birds Found Dead TOO
    - > Complete Collapse of the Blue Crab Population

### By the Numbers - Seagrass vs. Manatee

- Seagrass intake per Manatee
  - 40 to 150 pounds per day per Manatee
  - 14,000 to 55,000 Pounds of Seagrass per year per Manatee
  - 1100 Manatee Consume between 7,000 and 30,000 TONS per year

### By the Numbers - Seagrass vs. Manatee (continued)

- Seagrass Production
  - A HIGHLY Productive Acre of bottom might produce 20,000 pounds of Seagrass per year
- Manatee DESTROY Seagrass Beds
  - 0.75 to 3 Acres per year per Manatee
- The Brevard Herd of 1100 Manatee is Turning SEAGRASS into NUTRIENTS
  - 825 to 3,300 Acres per Year
  - Conservatively - Between 2500 and 10,000 acres in the Last 3 Years
  - Conservatively – Between 20,000 and 90,000 TONS of Additional Free NUTRIENTS in the Last 3 Years
- Over the Last 3 Years, What Was 10,000 Acres of Seagrass IS NOW As much as 90,000 TONS of Manatee POOP – aka Free Nutrients
- Free Nutrients are Feeding the Algae Blooms that are KILLING EVEN MORE SEAGRASS

### WHAT CAN WE DO

- STOP the MORE IS BETTER Manatee Management Approach
  - Brevard Manatee are Already Starving
  - That is WHY they are eating ALGAE?
- STOP THE THERMAL POLLUTION of Florida's Waterways
  - Our Seagrass Beds Need a BREAK
  - Encourage Natural Migration of the Manatee Herd
  - Eliminate Year Round Pressure on the Grass Beds
  - Give the Grass Beds a Chance to Replenish
- SLOW the SEAGRASS CONVERSION TO FREE NUTRIENT Cycle ❖

## CFFW Officers

### President

Kelly Haugh  
321-449-0827

### Vice President

Peggy Wehrman  
pwehrman@cffw.org

### Secretary

Kelly Haugh  
321-449-0827

### Treasurer

Karen Dignan  
kdignan@cffw.org



## Board of Directors

Gary Haugh

Bob Atkins  
ratkins@cffw.org

Sandy Reynolds  
sreynolds@cffw.org

Doug Jaren  
321-452-8622

## Sales Marketing and Membership

Sandy Reynolds  
sreynolds@cffw.org

## Government Liason

Steven Webster  
swebster@cffw.org



# Please Mark Your Calendars!

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



- » **10/17/2013 - Indian River Lagoon Brevard Workshop:** 6PM - 9PM, at Ted Moorhead Lagoon House, 3275 Dixie Hwy, NE Palm Bay, FL 32905.
- » **10/23/2013 - CFFW Annual Meeting:** 6:30PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building (Boat Ramp Building). Annual elections.
- » **10/28/2013 - CFFW Board Meeting:** 6PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building. Open to the public.
- » **12/02/2013 - CFFW Board Meeting:** 6PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building. Open to the public.
- » **12/14/2013 - Cocoa Beach Christmas Boat Parade:** Stay tuned to CFFW.org/events for the latest on the Captain's Meeting location and time!
- » **12/21/2013 - Merritt Island Christmas Boat Parade:** Stay tuned to CFFW.org/events for the latest on the Captain's Meeting location and time! ❖

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## 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](mailto: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](http://CFFW.org) and click on "newsletters" tab and the issue you would like to view. ❖

## 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 [www.cffw.org](http://www.cffw.org) or [www.savefamilyboating.com](http://www.savefamilyboating.com) 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! ❖

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## Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron Safe Boating Courses

CFFW recently received a letter from the Cocoa Beach Sail and Power Squadron informing us of some very good news!

The 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.cbsp.org](http://www.cbsp.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! ❖

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**Ask A Friend  
To Join CFFW**

***When Does Your  
Membership Expire?***  
(See Back Cover)

# 2013 CFFW Board of Directors Slate

All CFFW Members are eligible and encouraged to vote. Please turn in your ballot at the 2013 CFFW Annual Meeting in October.

Alternately, you may mail in this ballot to:

**CFFW**

**P.O. Box 541712**

**Merritt Island, FL 32954-1712**

Write-ins are encouraged. Nominations from the floor during the October meeting are encouraged. **YOUR INVOLVEMENT ON THE BOARD IS ENCOURAGED!**

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## 2013 BALLOT

The ballot includes 7 Candidates. You may vote for up to 11 candidates, which means you are encouraged to write-in at least one name.

Standing For Re-Election: Check the <input type="checkbox"/> next to the candidates		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Bob Atkins	CFFW Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Peggy Wehrman	CFFW Vice President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Karen Dignan	CFFW Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gary Haugh	CFFW Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Kelly Haugh	CFFW President/Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Doug Jaren	CFFW Director
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Sandy Reynolds	CFFW Director
Write-Ins: You may write in as many candidates as you wish. Please include their name and phone number. If elected, write-ins may decline the honor.		
	Name	Phone
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Fish Attractors

Have you ever been fishing and wished there was a sign saying right where the fish are? Well, fish attractors and the buoys that mark them are intended to do just that.

We all know that sportfish like structure, meaning something different than just a plain sand or mud bottom area, around which to hang out. We also know that tiny plants (phytoplankton) are the food for many bugs that little fish like to eat, and big fish eat little fish.

When biologists plan a fish attractor, they take advantage of those two facts, but a lot more goes into the decision. Research shows attractors may not produce more fish, but they do effectively congregate fish. So fish are more accessible to anglers, especially when there is a lack of natural structure or there is a need to bring fish to a specific location. Translation: a better opportunity to catch fish, from small bream to trophy bass.

For example, in community ponds or small fish management areas that are popular with children and families, it is often desirable to place an attractor near shore or a fishing pier to give young anglers and others without access to a boat somewhere to aim their cast. In other instances, productive lakes may have large areas of open water, and a properly deployed and marked attractor can help provide a new “honey hole” for recreational fishermen.

Before we detail how attractors are constructed, where to find them and how to fish them, let us share a legal disclaimer or two. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a permit from the Department of Environmental Regulation to place attractors in state waters. It is illegal for anyone to place materials in public waterways without such a permit and, moreover, in many instances it can constitute littering and result in severe penalties. Finally, unmarked attractors without a minimum clearance of 3 feet can become a navigation hazard.

Most FWC-constructed freshwater fish attractors are built from hardwood trees and branches. A suitable

**... (Continued on Page 7)**

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## 2013 CFFW Membership Picnic

The day started out hot and sunny for a change. A nice breeze blowing helped to keep the pavilion at Kelly Park nice. About halfway into the event some pretty nasty storms came up and things got pretty wet. We managed to hang on to everything and the skies cleared up for a bit, and then round 2 hit! Let's just say, we were a soggy group trying to load everything up and head for home!

We had a small turnout this year, but the group had a great time, sharing great food and stories.

Thank you so much to our wonderful Chefs -Tom Riordan and Ernie Joy and also to Bruce Taff, Gary Haugh, and Kelly Haugh for setting up and tearing down the event.

Maybe next year the weather will cooperate for a great day!

Hope to see you all out on the water! Be safe! ❖

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## District 2 Dredge Committee Formed

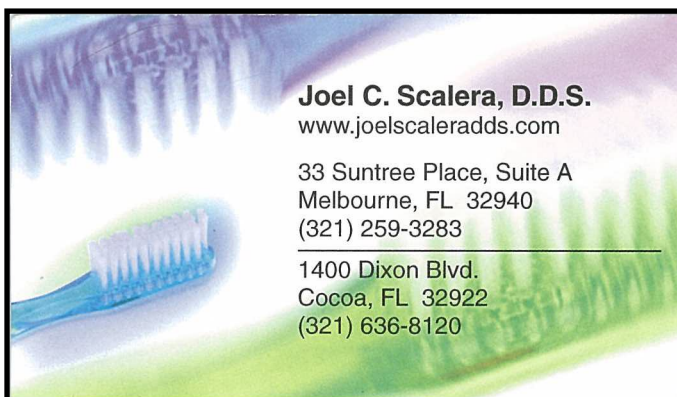
Back in 1995 the Brevard County Commission established the District 2 Canal Dredging Committee and then in 2008 it was terminated with the option to reconvene when new funds were available.

Those funds are now available and Kelly Haugh has been appointed to serve on the committee and will be reporting back to our membership on a regular basis once the committee has convened.

The purpose of the committee is to provide advice and guidance to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the long and short term processes of identification, prioritization and scheduling of canal and channel maintenance dredging projects in District 2.

The committee is comprised of 7 members residing in that district that have an interest and education on the subject, with the advice, consent and recommendation of the District 2 Commissioner.

The term is for 4 years, and the committee will meet once a month. The dates and times have yet to be decided, but should be developed soon. ❖



**Joel C. Scalera, D.D.S.**

[www.joelscaleradds.com](http://www.joelscaleradds.com)

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1400 Dixon Blvd.  
Cocoa, FL 32922  
(321) 636-8120

## Fish Attractors

(continued from Page 5)

location is identified that will benefit anglers, and a brushpile is submerged using cinder blocks. Care is taken to keep the tops of the material at least 3 feet below the surface, and a marker buoy is deployed. Hardwood attractors are effective because the natural substrate quickly attracts algae and stimulates the food chain. In addition, passages between the branches provide hiding places for small fish to avoid predators. Ironically, branches also provide concealment points for ambush predators like bass.

Other attractors are made of plastic or concrete materials. Those are normally located away from boat paths. Their advantage is they are longer lasting than hardwood and need to be refurbished less frequently. Other attractors are actually bedding sites. These use oyster shell or gravel to create a desirable area for bass, bream and crappie to spawn over when the surrounding bottom is mucky. They can be very productive for anglers, especially in spring.

The net effect is a community of fish hanging out where anglers can find them. To fish effectively around a fish attractor, there are several considerations. First, use weedless lures or natural baits with strong braided line. Second, when fishing from a boat, do not anchor too close; stay 50 feet or so away and cast toward the buoy. Remember there are branches or other material under the surface, anchoring in amongst them can pull the attractors apart, ruining their effectiveness or fouling your prop.

Most freshwater sport fishes in Florida will use attractors. The FWC's Big Catch program includes 33 different species for which anglers can be recognized. Simply take a photo of the fish and submit it. If the fish is longer than the Big Catch minimum length or weight (see [MyFWC.com/BigCatch](http://MyFWC.com/BigCatch) for details), you will receive a customized certificate and have your picture posted on the Web. There are special sizes for youths under 16 to encourage their participation

However, the big rewards go to TrophyCatch anglers who catch, document and release bass over 8 pounds. Beginning Oct. 1, you just need to submit a photo of your 8-pound plus bass on a scale showing the entire fish and its weight to [TrophyCatchFlorida.com](http://TrophyCatchFlorida.com). An additional photo showing the length of the fish on a measuring tape will help with verification, if

... (Continued on Page 8)



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## **Fish Attractors**

*(continued from Page 7)*

the first photo isn't clear. You can choose to submit other photos such as you holding the fish, the bass' girth and release. In return, you'll receive rewards starting with a \$50 Bass Pro Shops gift card and Bass King T-shirt, to go along with your customized certificate and window decal. Registering on the website makes you eligible for a Phoenix Bass Boat drawing. Like us at FaceBook.com/TrophyCatchFlorida to get the latest updates.

Find the location of FWC fish attractors online at MyFWC.com/Fishing (select freshwater, sites and forecasts and then fish attractors). A new map (bit.ly/Attractors) makes it easier for anglers to find attractors and check out the video at bit.ly/YT-attractor.

Instant licenses are available at MyFWC.com/License or by calling 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356). Report violators by calling 888-404-3922, \*FWC or #FWC on your cell phone, or texting to Tip@MyFWC.com. Visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and select "more news," or scr.bi/Fish-busters for more Fish Busters' Bulletins. ❖

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## **Governor Rick Scott Appoints Two to the Boating Advisory Council**

### **Tallahassee, Fla.**

Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointments of Robert Atkins and Hans Wilson to the Boating Advisory Council.

Atkins, 61, of Merritt Island, is a former senior manager of KSC Operations for Lockheed Martin. He succeeds Joanne Mogle and is appointed for a term beginning September 12, 2013, and ending September 30, 2015.

Wilson, 56, of Fort Myers, is an engineer with Hans Wilson and Associates Inc. He succeeds Joseph Lewis and is appointed for a term beginning September 12, 2013, and ending September 30, 2015. ❖

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## **CFFW Membership**

*by Sandy Reynolds, Membership Chairperson*

The CFFW board members want to take this opportunity to thank members for your support and are hoping for another active year for our organization. Your membership helps us to continue our efforts to protect boating rights. We are always open to suggestions for activities to do and/or places to get together for a day of fun. This is your organization and we can build it to be stronger and larger with support from each other. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Another summer has come and almost gone. CFFW has had several successful events with members joining in on the fun. Members and friends participated in the exciting Poker Run one weekend in May. Bob Atkins was the lead person in putting it together along with help from several other members.

On another weekend in July members got together for a “day event”, hanging out on the boats for an afternoon at SquidLips for lunch and on to Aquapalooza on Pine Island in the Indian River. We have a couple more weekends with plans to get together. Email notices will be sent out to members that have their email address registered. If we don't have your email address and you want to be notified, send it to us at [cfwbrevard@aol.com](mailto:cfwbrevard@aol.com)

These are some of the ideas that we've come up with for our members to stay active within the group. These kind of get-togethers will give us a chance to get to know each other and know your board members .

We hope you all have had a great boating summer. The next couple months should offer some great weekends for boating and fishing.

We want to hear about your comments on the organization and some ideas for fun weekends. ❖

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## **Orion Update**



Orion is the spacecraft that will sit atop a Delta IV Heavy rocket and undergo a test launch from Kennedy Space Center in twelve short months! Orion's launch window officially opened on September 18, setting the stage for the EFT-1 launch in Fall 2014!

Stay tuned for more information and updates on Orion's ... *(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 cohorts 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 web-site: [www.floridainsiderfishingreport.com](http://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](http://www.finelinefishingcharters.com). ❖



CFFW members are entitled to a full Membership in BoatUS for only \$15 - that's 50% off the 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.

## **Orion Update (continued from Page 9)**

progress as we ramp up to assemble, test and launch the Orion spacecraft at Kennedy Space Center in 2014. More details will follow regarding Orion launch activities and employee events that will take place over the next year as we prepare for this Orion spacecraft and Delta IV rocket launch.



We are all encouraged to watch as the Orion crew module, service module (hardware that provides services to the crew module), launch abort system (for emergency escape) and launch vehicle take shape over the next year through this website <http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/mpcv/index.html#.UkLiy4IYL5Y>.

We at Kennedy Space Center remain focused on mission success for EFT-1! ❖



## **Ask A Friend To Join CFFW**

# CFFW Member Recognition

## New Members

Jim & Pam Urick, Merritt Island

## Diamond Level (\$100 per year)

Bob & Sherry Atkins	David & Irene Nelson
Robert Behm	Don Nesbitt
Ron & Lois Dixon	Tony & Debby Pappas
Don & Linda Ewers	Ron & Karen Presley
Col. & Mrs. J.C. Farley	Richard & Patricia Rehm
Ollie & Sherry Follweiler	Jim Ross\Fineline Fishing Charters
Charles & Susan Frazier	Scorpion's Port Canaveral Marine
Jeff Haggard & Anita Bromberg	Sea Tow Port Canaveral
Jeff & Anita Haggard	Jamie Seymour/New England Mfg. Co.
Alston & Kelli Hammons	Wayne Stratford
Keith & Tamasine Houston	Robin & Kathy Turner
Doug Jaren	Willie & Peggy Wehrman
Scott & Sue Kee	Bill & Eileen Wetzel
Troy & Genese Launay	Robert Wille
Troy & Lisa Lotane	Gerd Zeiler

## Gold Level (\$50 per year):

Dr. & Mrs. Barry R. Barnhart	Bruce & Carol Hess	Luis & Jennifer Rivera
Skip & Ruth Bateman	Lonnie & Carla Hughe	James & Carol Rosasco
Gregory & Patricia Bean	Frank Jones	Alan & Joanne Russo
Howard Bernbaum	John & Diane Kendrick	Cliff & Diana Schommer
Rick & Merry Cleveland	Chyung M. Kim, MD	Anthony Sidor
David DeSouza\D&D	Joseph & Faith Kroto	Christine Smith
Marine at the Port, Inc.	George Legters	Richard Sproc
Glenn & Sherry DeJong	Nicholas F. Mancini	Fred Stasio
Don & Annette Doerr	Shawn McCoy	Sam & Anne Thorpe
Clark & Becky Fischer	Dentis McDaniel	Ted & Linda Trainor
Edward French	Gordon & Anita Millar	Bob & Cookie Tubielewicz
Dan & Terri Friedlander	David & Alicia Musalo	Robert Veschi
Joe & Rita Fust	Cloud & Frances Pawtowski	Thumper & Iva Volkmer
Gus & Bobbie Gostel	John & Elizabeth Picardi	Steven Webster
Charle & Myrl Gunter	Ron & Donna Pritchard	Westland Marina/Titusville
Terry & Patricia Hammond	Paul & Francesca Ragusa	Jim & Pam Urick
Henry & Dolores Happel	Rick Rescott	Jess H. Yates, DMD
Gary & Kelly Haugh	Chuck Reed	

## Business Recognition Diamond Level

# MarineMax of Cocoa

This business supports  
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by donating a CFFW membership with  
each boat purchased from their store.

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If you own a boat or live by the water,  
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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and  
membership dues are not tax-deductible.





## Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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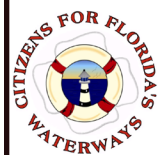
If you're not a member... please join.  
Your membership dues provide the financial support  
needed to save family boating from the  
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Membership Expire?*



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*Please Mark Your Calendars!*

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- » **10/28/2013 - CFFW Board Meeting:** 6PM at Kiwanis Island, Karen Rood Building. Open to the public. ❖

*(More Coming Events on Page 2)*

  
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