



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

Established 1994

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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 the marine environment.

President's Message

“Corona. No lime! – ‘Cause fruit doesn’t belong in beer” – RP

This is not an easy article for me to write this month. Ron Pritchard, a good friend and CFFW Past President cast off on his final voyage last week. Ron was passionate about government’s role in everyday life and he committed to a long list of community service activities including election as Brevard County Commissioner, District 2 in 2002.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Ron, Tom McGill, Dan Dvorak and Russell Gentile for a couple of years just prior to his term as commissioner. We researched, developed and presented a significant courtroom challenge to the State’s proposed extensive manatee protection zones here in Brevard County. Ultimately, the State, really the Save the Manatee Club, prevailed and the resulting impact to boating in Brevard is painfully still obvious. Standing for reasonable government regulation of the waterways is the basis for CFFW since 1994. That is what attracted Ron to us and his energy and approach helped shape who we are as an organization today. We will miss Ron.

Time marches on. Life is short. Those are not cliches. They are words to live by. This has been a rough year for each of us. Thankfully, we are among those with a passion for the water and as such we have had access to activities that have been relatively unaffected by the elephant sitting on the world. In fact, many newcomers have seen our lifestyle and taken the dive. As I stated last month, new and used boat sales are at record highs and many manufacturers are unable to keep up with demand for popular models with the 2021 build “sold out” and new orders now being place for 2022 production.

Can’t you feel ‘spring’ in the air. There have been quite a few cooler days over the last few weeks but it really isn’t fair to call them “cold” is it? I’m a midwest transplant, but even after nearly 60 years in the sunshine, I think about how much our “winter” days remind me of some of the summer days of my youth.

One of the easy reminders of the lead-up to summer is the annual preparation that your CFFW Board Of Directors is doing to prepare for our 24th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market.

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Steven Webster

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Please Mark Your Calendars!



- » **February 18: Brevard Marine Advisory Council** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **March 1: Board of Directors Meeting** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public
- » **March 3: District 2 Dredging Committee Meeting.** 6:00 pm at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island. Open to the public.
- » **March 18: Brevard Marine Advisory Council.** 6:00 pm Viera Government Center, Bldg. C, 3rd Floor. Open to the public.
- » **March 27-28: CFFW 24 Annual Marine Flea Market-** Harbor Town Marina Merritt Island.
- » **March 29: Board of Directors Meeting.** 6:30 pm Lighthouse Christian Church on N. Banana River Dr. Open to the public

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.

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

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

President's Message

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This year's event is the weekend of March 27 and 28. After the last-minute cancellation of last year's event, our returning and new vendors have signed up early and are anxious to be at Harbortown Marina on Merritt Island for our very popular event.

It takes a significant amount of time and effort to make this event a success. Kelly Haugh will be making her annual request for a few hours of relatively easy volunteer help for which we will extend our CFFW Membership for the next year in return. Please consider lending a hand for a few hours. You know you're going to come by to shop for bargains anyway. It's the perfect place and time to pick up that nautical item for the home, the boat, on the water or to wear.

GOOD NEWS – I was out on the Banana side a couple of days ago and the water looked like water again. SO - Let's get those boats wet and get out there on the water. ❖

Improving Lagoon Water with Bottle Caps

Ryan Randall November 6, 2020

Bottle caps may serve a key role in preventing spills from plastic bottles, but when it comes to recycling, they get no respect. They are often discarded as recycling plants don't have a use for them.

Novel research now underway at Florida Tech may lead to a new, important future for these underappreciated bits of plastic – with the Indian River Lagoon as the beneficiary.

Ocean engineering and marine sciences assistant professor Austin Fox and graduate oceanography student Abbey Gering are working on an Indian River Lagoon water treatment that will feature mesh bags filled with bottle caps. The bags will

be placed in strategic locations within the lagoon to allow "good" bacteria to grow on them. These good bacteria can convert and remove excess nitrogen from the lagoon through a process called denitrification, helping clean the water and contributing

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Joel C. Scalera, D.D.S.

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Improving Lagoon Water with Bottle Caps

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to the prevention of harmful algal blooms. The bags can be moved to other parts of the lagoon, with the accumulated bacteria helping improve water quality in whatever areas they are needed.

“We’re trying to take this product and give it a second life to do something beneficial for the environment,” Fox said.

This doesn’t mean that tossing your bottle caps into the lagoon will lead to cleaner water, Fox and Gering said. The cap-filled bags will work best in ideal conditions, where the bacteria would thrive with an abundance of nitrogen and just the right amount of oxygen, leading to biochemical reactions that would in turn lead to improved water quality.

This project stemmed from testing if adding oxygen to the lagoon would improve water quality. While there were promising results with aeration, Fox felt like the results could be better if they had the right bacterial communities. This is because the degraded lagoon sediment where the water-cleaning bacteria would grow was not ideal for those types of organisms. It was then that Fox examined whether they could develop a place for the bacteria to live, which led to Gering using bioballs – plastic balls used in home aquariums – to provide a place for that growth. Those healthy bacteria helped to get rid of the nitrogen, but Fox and Gering wanted to find a sustainable and cost-effective way to carry this finding forward.

Enter the bottle caps.

The project has had the fringe benefit of strengthening community connections. In addition to reaching out to students about gathering and providing bottle caps, the team is working with businesses such as the Brevard Zoo and local coffee shops to collect the plastic tops. Civic engagement has also allowed for an opportunity to increase awareness.

“You can keep track of how much plastic you’re using because once you start collecting it, you start realizing how many bottle caps you use daily,” Gering said. “It’s a good way to get the community more aware of their use, while also reusing it for something that may help water quality.”

The bottle caps are part of a multifaceted effort at Florida Tech to help improve the water quality and health of the Indian River Lagoon, but the work done here could have an impact worldwide.

“Coastal water quality is one of the most ubiquitous problems of coastal areas around the globe,” Fox said. “We like to look at the lagoon as this microcosm where we can study these global processes, and it’s easy to access and has a huge variety of environments. We can study here how something like these bottle caps might work, and that data can be applied elsewhere.”

For more information or to donate caps, contact Abbey Gering at geringa2016@my.fit.edu. ❖

Volunteers Needed

It's time for the 24th Annual CFFW Marine Flea Market on March 27 & 28 and CFFW needs your help.


If you are interested in volunteering your time to help set-up, tear-down or work the event, please **contact Kelly Haugh at 321-543-6970**. Please leave a message with your name and phone number and she will contact you.

Volunteer for at least 4 hours and receive a full year extension on your CFFW Membership!

CFFW welcomes your input to the annual fundraising event! This event has become known around the state for it's great vendor participation and shopping opportunity. CFFW has been making it happen for 24 years and we could really use some additional help with this event. A few hours of your time during this weekend event would be greatly appreciated, and you might even meet some new friends or see old ones that you have been missing.

If you have a business or you have marine related items for sale and would like to have a booth at the Flea Market, please contact Kelly Haugh at 321-543-6970 or go to the CFFW website at www.cffw.org/fleamarket where you can download the information necessary.

We also have posters available. If you have a business and would like one for display, please call Sandy Reynolds at 321-543-7532 to arrange for pick up.

<p>Sea Tow Port Canaveral <i>Serving Port Canaveral, Indian & Banana Rivers</i> 321.868.4900</p> <p>800-4-SEATOW seatow.com</p>	 A black and white photograph of a Sea Tow boat on the water. The boat is white with a dark stripe along the side and has "SEA TOW" written on the side. An American flag is flying from the mast. The background shows a cloudy sky and the horizon.
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CFFW 24th Annual Marine Flea Market

Harbortown Marina
Sea Ray Drive (SR528) Merritt Island

March 27th & 28th, 2021
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

***Central Florida's Largest
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**For More Information, Please Contact: Kelly Haugh
(321) 543-6970 or email: cffwcovergirl@gmail.com**

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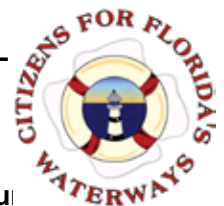
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Or join with your
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CFFW is a 501(c)4 organization. Donations and
membership dues are not tax-deductible.



Citizens For Florida's Waterways

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