

President's Letter



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What is the future of the Homosassa River and its Bluewater? Only time will tell.

In the past, the river supported Native Americans for hundreds of years, it was able to support agriculture (sugarcane), and a thriving fishing community during the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. The health of the river remained in good condition during this time. If any damage occurred, it was quickly healed by mother nature. This is not the case today! The river and mother nature needs all the help the community, county, and state can provide in order to survive.

The population of Florida, Citrus County, and recreational boaters continues to grow at an accelerated pace, a pace at which the river can no longer protect or heal itself. The increase in recreational boating, especially during scallop season, has caused extreme damage to submerged vegetation, shorelines, and its environment. The excessive loud music drives wildlife from the area and is of great concern to residents and visitors alike.

Several of these same conditions are being addressed on the Weeki Wachee River, by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Three Sisters Springs, by the Federal Wildlife Service, and Kings Bay and its canals by the City of Crystal River. Now is the time that the Citrus County Commissioners recognize that they must react to the conditions and poor behavior of boaters along the river and its bluewaters, by passing an enforceable noise ordinance and granting additional funding to the Sheriff's Department for marine watercraft and deputies needed to patrol the overcrowded waters!

The Homosassa River Alliance, and the Homosassa River Restoration Project have worked very hard to protect and improve the health of the river and its environment over the past several years, making a difference.

The future of the river depends on immediate decisions made by our elected representatives and concerned citizens.

Frank Kapocsi III, President
Homosassa River Alliance