



**Volunteer**  
**Calusa Waterkeeper Ranger**  
**Handbook**

Revised October 23, 2019

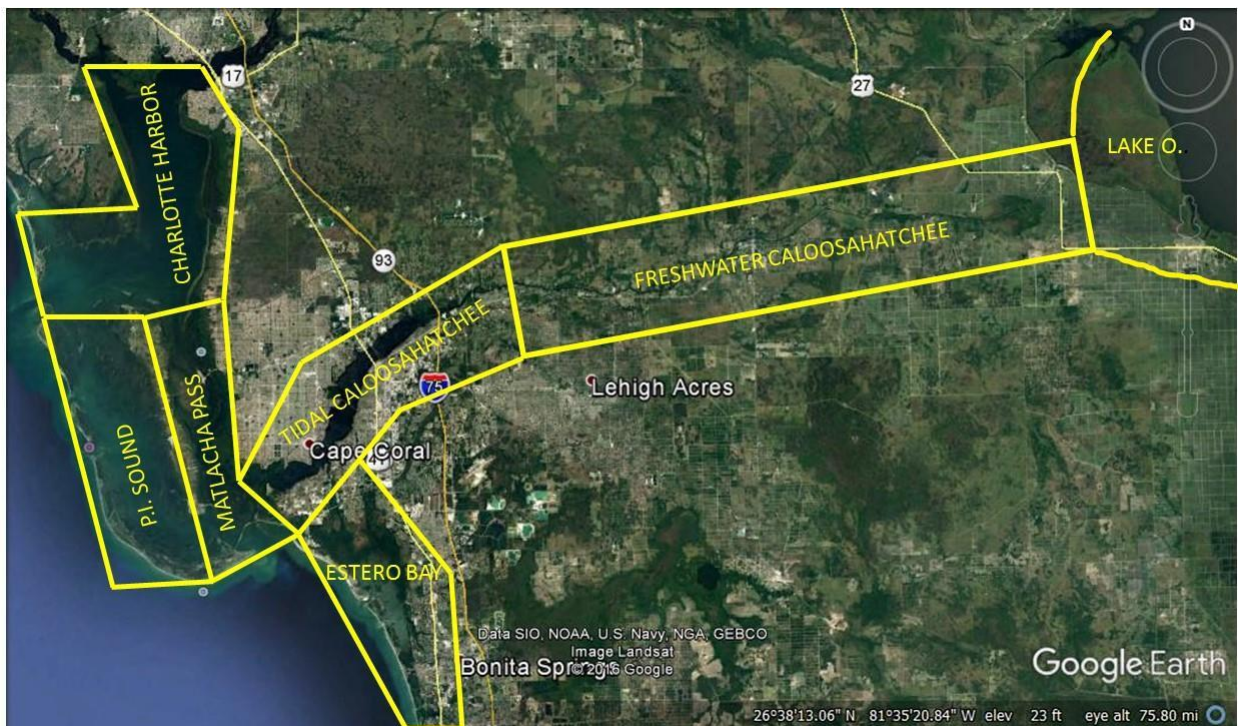


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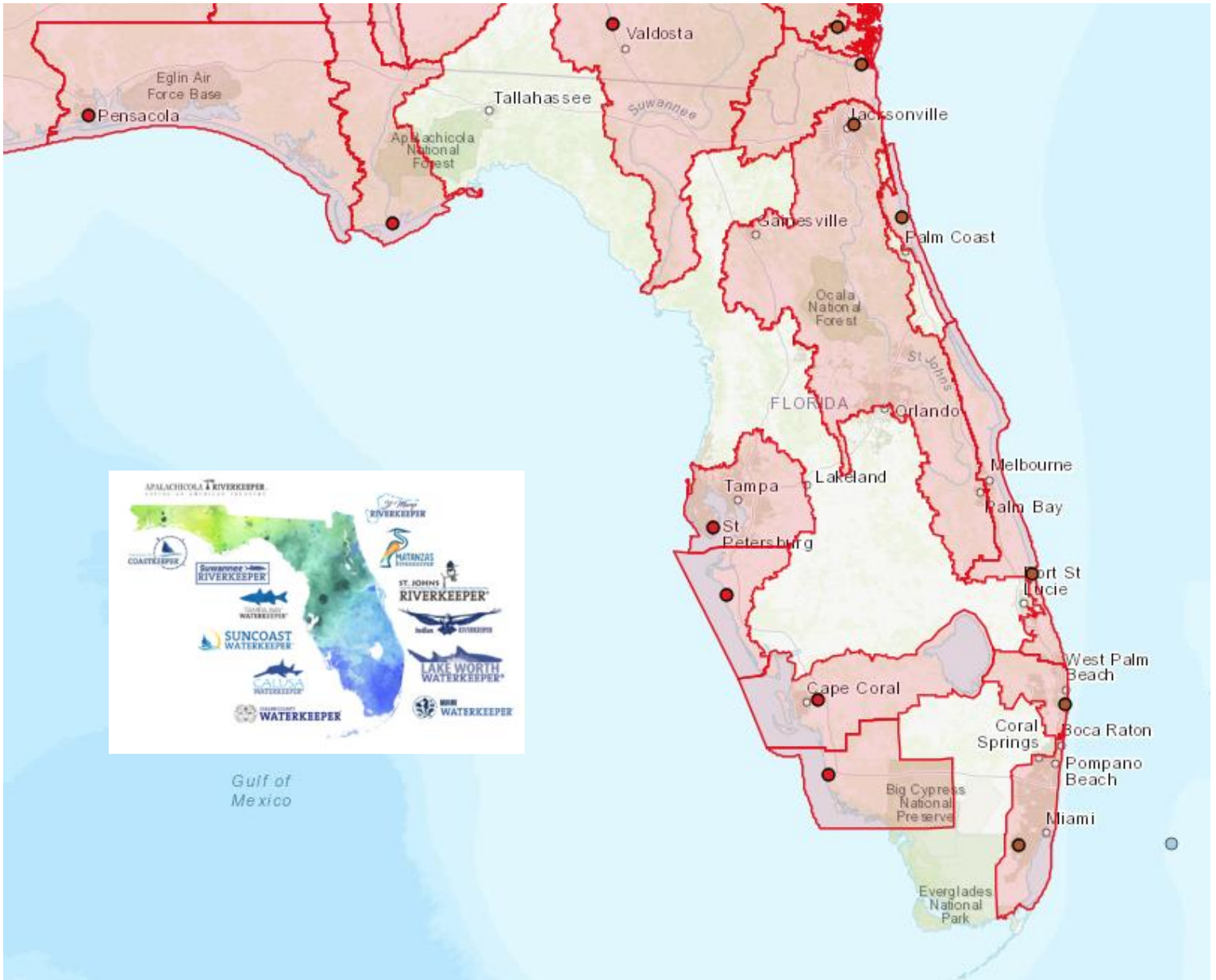
# Calusa Waterkeeper

Watershed Project Area Boundaries (above); Monitoring Zones (below)

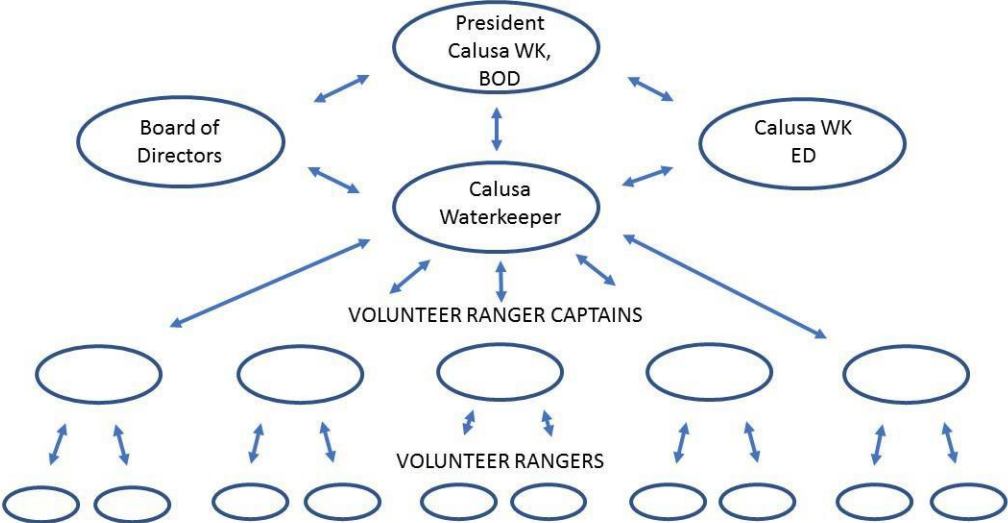




## WATERKEEPERS FLORIDA



# Calusa Waterkeeper Organizational Structure



## Calusa Waterkeeper and Executive Director

**John Cassani**

**Title: Calusa Waterkeeper**



John's professional career as an ecologist started here in Lee County in 1978 after receiving degrees in Biology and Fish and Wildlife. From 1978 to 2014 he has worked as a resource manager for local government, managing waterways of southwest Florida. He has authored both peer reviewed science publications and popular media sources on resource management, history, water policy and conservation issues. John is a courtesy faculty member at FGCU in the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences with research interests in the areas of exotic species and biodiversity. His service on advisory boards, commitment to community and involvement with land and water conservation has received recognition from various civic groups, including the Florida Audubon Society, Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management, Lee County Government, the Everglades Coalition, the American Fisheries Society, and the Alberta provincial government. John's expertise as a fisheries scientist and water manager has been sought as a consultant to private industry, government and academia. As of December, 2016, John accepted the position of Calusa Waterkeeper, licensed through the Waterkeeper Alliance.

**K.C. Schulberg, Executive Director**



Noted community organizer and international media specialist, K.C. Schulberg was appointed Calusa Waterkeeper's Executive Director effective July 1, 2018. Schulberg's background merges film, television, marketing and fundraising with hands on civic engagement and community organizing, allowing him to bring a new global set of administrative tools to Calusa Waterkeeper's mission. In a sense, this appointment brings Schulberg full circle as his first exposure to the SWFL ecosystem came when, at the age of five, his father and uncle produced the first studio-financed environmental-themed feature film, Warner Brothers' "WIND ACROSS THE EVERGLADES" starring Oscar-winner Christopher Plummer in 1957.

## Calusa Waterkeeper Contact Information

**John Cassani:**

**Cell phone: 239-633-7274**

**Pollution reporting HOTLINE: 239-444-8584**

**Email: [jcass927@gmail.com](mailto:jcass927@gmail.com)**

**Web Site: [www.CalusaWaterkeeper.org](http://www.CalusaWaterkeeper.org)**

**Mailing address: P.O. Box 1165, Fort Myers, FL 339**

## Reporting Contacts

Report all observations to the Calusa Waterkeeper

**1-239-444-8584**

Also report:

### **Fish Kills: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)**

- Fish Kill hotline: **1-800-636-0511**
- How to Report a Fish Kill:  
<http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline/how-to-report/>
  - Leave a brief message about the event you are reporting.
  - State the location and the type and number of fish involved.
  - Include a mailing address and a phone number or e-mail address so Fish and Wildlife Health staff can call back if they need more information.

### **Algae Blooms**

- Report to FDEP: **1-855-305-3903**
  - Algal Bloom Reporting Form:  
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2877729/AlgalReportForm>
- Algae bloom general information:



- The **Department of Health and Florida Poison Control Center** are available to take your calls on algae-related illness. Call **1-800-222-1222**.
- Florida Aquatic Toxins Program: **850-245-4250**, email: [phtoxicology@FLHealth.gov](mailto:phtoxicology@FLHealth.gov)
- Florida Department of Health in Lee County, Press Release information: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Diane Holm, PIO, May 28, 2015 (239) 332-9561, **(850) 519-5728 (cell)**,  
Diane.Holm@FLHealth.gov
- Florida Department of Health in Lee County
- HEALTH NOTICE
- Harmful algal blooms may be present
- Lee County, FL— The Florida Department of Health in Lee County is recommending, that the public be cautious before exposing themselves, pets or livestock to the brackish and fresh water of the Caloosahatchee River and its tributaries due to sporadic but potentially harmful algal blooms.
- It is recommended not to fish, participate in recreational activities or drink the water if:
  - \*The water appears greenish or off color
  - \*The water smells different
  - \*Dead or distressed animal and aquatic life are present.
- An advisory will be issued if toxic blooms are identified in public areas.

➤ **Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin**

- The latest GOM HAB Bulletin is available at:  
[http://hab.nos.noaa.gov/hab/post/bulletins/HAB20170103\\_2017001\\_SFL.pdf](http://hab.nos.noaa.gov/hab/post/bulletins/HAB20170103_2017001_SFL.pdf)

**Wastewater Spills or Incidents to FDEP**

- FDEP State Watch Office: **1-800-320-0519**
- South District Office,
  - Phone: **239-344-5600**
  - Email: [SouthDistrict@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:SouthDistrict@dep.state.fl.us)
  - Environmental Manager, Nolin Moon, 2295 Victoria Avenue, Suite 364, Fort Myers, FL 33901-3875

## Wildlife Reporting

### ➤ **Sawfish Encounter:**

<https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sawfish/report-encounter/>

- To report a **sawfish** sighting to FWC:
- Call: **941-255-7403**,
- Email: [Sawfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Sawfish@MyFWC.com)
- To file a report of a sawfish sighting or encounter, please include the date and time of the encounter, the location, the estimated length of each sawfish, the water depth, and any other relevant details.

### ➤ **Reporting wildlife law violations to FWC:**

- If you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental law violation, report it to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Reward Program: **888-404-FWCC (3922)**.

### ➤ **Reporting sick, injured, dead, or tagged manatee:**

- FWC's Wildlife Alert Toll-Free Number **1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922)**
- Cellular phone customers: \*FWC or #FWC
- Please be prepared to answer the following questions:
  - What is the exact location of the animal?
  - Is the manatee alive or dead?
  - How long have you been observing the manatee?

- What is the approximate size of the manatee?
  - What is the location of the public boat ramp closest to the manatee?
  - Can you provide a contact number where you can be reached for further information?
- **Reporting dead, sick or injured sea turtles:**
- If you find a dead, sick, or injured sea turtle, please call FWC's 24-hour Wildlife Alert Number at **1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922)**.
  - Please be prepared to answer the following questions:
    - What is the exact location of the animal?
    - Is the turtle alive or dead?
    - What is the approximate size of the turtle?
    - Is the turtle marked with spray paint? (This may indicate that the turtle has been previously documented.)
    - What is the location of the closest access point to the turtle?
    - If the turtle is alive, please be prepared to stay with it until help arrives.

- **Rescuing and rehabilitating injured wildlife:**
  - **Conservancy of Southwest Florida, von Arx Wildlife Hospital: 239-262-CARE (2273)** 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Eastern Time seven days a week.
  - **Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife C.R.O.W.,** If you find an animal in need of help, please call CROW's wildlife hospital at **(239) 472-3644, ext. 222** between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., 7 days a week. If you are unavailable to bring the animal to CROW on Sanibel, we have convenient drop off locations in Lehigh Acres, Cape Coral and Fort Myers.
  
- **Reporting tagged fish:**
  - Tagged Fish: Report tagged saltwater or freshwater fish you have caught online or call **800-367-4661**
  
- **Track and report non-native freshwater fish with the FWC Fishbrain App:**
  - <http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2016/december/20/fishbrain/>

## Damaged or Missing Waterway Signs

- IF YOU SEE A DAMAGED FWC SIGN OR BUOY, PLEASE REPORT IT. CALL: **866-405-BUOY (2869)**
  - Information to have when calling/emailing:
  - Location of missing, damaged or found marker (GPS coordinates, waterbody name, nearby landmarks, county, nearest city or town, etc.).
  - Brief description of the problem
  - Your name and contact information
  - When a damaged sign or buoy is reported by telephone to 866-405-BUOY or by **email:** [Waterway.management@MyFWC.com](mailto:Waterway.management@MyFWC.com), <http://myfwc.com/boating/waterway/markers/damaged-or-missing/report-form/>
  - FWC will assess the problem.
  - FWC will identify/mark it, if it presents a potential hazard to navigation.
  - FWC will notify the owner.
  - FWC will work to fix the problem if the marker is managed by FWC.

## Beach Bacterial Monitoring and Advisories

Check this web site to determine if there are beach advisories for bacterial contamination.

- <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/county-detail.html?County=Lee&Zip=33916-2205>

850-245-4240

**To report an oil or chemical spill,  
contact the National Response Center  
at: 800-424-8802.**