



Community Organizations Help Us Keep Rivendell's Ponds Healthy. We Thank Them for Their Support, Advice, & Grant Funding.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – October 2022]

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A key focus this year is improving the health of our many lakes and ponds in Rivendell. The work of the Ponds and Preserves Committee relies on input from and support from local experts to implement best practices. We are working with Sarasota County's water quality team. A Florida freshwater pond consultant is now part of our team to review pond management strategies and planting approaches to ensure the best possible success. Our pond shorelines continue to change and evolve to maintain the value of our properties, protect our natural assets, and provide enjoyment for the entire community.



We have also created valuable relationships with several community organizations and have earned grant funding support to help with our aquatic planting efforts. We are grateful for their financial assistance – it enables us to continue with our ponds program while reducing the program's cost to our community. **To date, Rivendell's P&P Committee has been awarded \$18,000 from various sources and organizations.** Let's learn more about these generous organizations and the good works they do for this community. (Links below.)

	<p><u>START</u> - Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (\$1,000)</p> <p>START has been in the forefront in securing funding to reduce excess nutrients in our coastal waters and increase public awareness about the importance of preserving our marine environment.</p>
	<p><u>Sarasota Bay Estuary Program</u> (\$4,000)</p> <p>The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring our area's greatest and most important natural asset – Sarasota Bay. They strive to improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public.</p>
	<p><u>Healthy Pond Collaborative</u> (\$3,000)</p> <p>The Healthy Pond Collaborative, funded by the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, is a three-year initiative to enhance water quality in Sarasota County. The Collaborative includes UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County, Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (START), Sarasota County Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST), the Science and Environment Council of Southwest Florida, and citizens.</p>
	<p><u>Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative - NEST</u> (\$10,000)</p> <p>Within Sarasota County, Neighborhood Services offers grants (up to \$10,000) to neighborhoods that are willing to match funding through cash, in-kind donations, professional labor or volunteer hours. Sarasota County also developed the Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST) recognizing that one way to achieve comprehensive watershed management is to involve the community or homeowners.</p>

More Recognition for Rivendell



In addition, Rivendell was recognized by Sarasota County's NEST as a "Featured Project." We were also named a "Water Quality Champion" by the Science and Environment Council. Three Rivendell residents completed the County's "Healthy Ponds Workshop" (Bob Frank, Frank Freestone, & Sue Remy). We also participated in a panel discussion at the Manasota Neighborhoods Summit (Sue Remy). Building and nurturing these relationships continues to help us earn grant support as well as learn best practices to keep our ponds healthy & vibrant.

If you are interested in local organizations that share the same water quality values as Rivendell, we encourage you to learn more about these groups and consider supporting them. We thank them for helping us achieve our healthy pond goals with their generous grant funding support, which enables us to stretch our pond management dollars even further.



(Wildlife photos: Allie Sandow & Bob Frank.)