



More Shoreline Plantings in Rivendell Ponds

Helps Control Erosion. Enhances Wildlife Habitats & Beauty in Our Community.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – August 2022]



The Ponds & Preserves Committee spent many months planning for Rivendell’s large-scale pond shoreline planting project. In mid-June, you likely noticed crews were busy around our community ponds planting more aquatic vegetation. This is a continuation of a multi-year program to install “Rivendell Natural Shorelines” along our ponds. These native plants, along with our low-maintenance zones (LMZs), help control erosion and absorb nutrient runoff to improve

water quality. LMZs and plantings also create vital habitats to attract more wildlife providing shelter and food sources.



Thanks to all the volunteers and neighbors who have continued to support these efforts. While the pond planting was completed in June, it was the culmination of many activities this year. Inspired by three P&P members completing a County-sponsored

“**Healthy Pond Workshop**,” individual pond inspections were conducted, followed by key discussions with pond experts to help us finetune and implement the best strategy for success across our community ponds.

- Several groups of P&P volunteers walked and inspected each of Rivendell's 23 ponds & lakes to observe and document the health of the LMZs, presence and condition of plantings, plus any other observations. Individual pond reports were created which included a schematic of current shoreline plantings, photos, and written observations.
- Next, we met with our Pond consultant, Ron Hart, and Solitude (planting contractor) to review our individual pond results and identify problem areas. Individual pond plans were created and plantings were implemented based on these observations.
- More of the three natives have been planted: Spikerush, Pickerelweed, and Duckpotato. Plus we added a few new native species that might survive better in some of our more difficult locations, plus add a pop of color and variety to our pond shorelines. They include: **Golden Canna Lily, Blue Flag Iris, and Fire Flag/Thalia.**



Golden Canna Lily
A native herbaceous perennial wetland plant. An emergent plant, it only needs to have “wet feet” (damp soil). The bright-yellow flowers of golden canna measure up to three inches across.



Blue Flag Iris
A Florida native that grows in standing water. This truly blue-flowering plant is a perennial that grows two to four feet tall. Great blue color in the spring, the deep-green leaves of this plant also provide architectural interest year-round.



Fire flag (Thalia)
A large emergent plant that blooms from summer to fall and grows in wetlands. Large simple leaves on long stalks are among its most notable features. Multiple small purple flowers hang from the bracts; each flower has three petals.

(Plant images: UF/IFAS)

- These native emergent aquatic plants were chosen for their deep roots to help stabilize the bank, hold soil in place, absorb excess nutrients, and reduce wind-wave action that cause erosion damage. These plants not only adapt to our fluctuating seasonal water levels, they offer vital wildlife shelter, nesting, and food sources.
- Plus, over the past year, the P&P team has also helped Rivendell earn \$13,000 in grant monies to help offset costs for these 2022 plantings.

Your Actions Make a Difference! Every resident can help keep our community vibrant and attractive to wildlife. Follow Sarasota County’s rules for applying fertilizer to reduce nutrient runoff in our ponds. Reduce water usage where possible. Irrigate only on your assigned day. Inspect your sprinkler system regularly, making repairs as needed. Healthier ponds attract more buyers to our community, increase our quality of life, and keep property values strong.



← P&P Pond Survey Team: (l-r): Sue Remy, Larry Dobias, & Bob Frank. Plus Frank Freestone, Allie Sandow, Tom Hurban, and Alwyn Ralphs (not shown).

Overseeing the plantings, were **Bob Frank, Larry Dobias, & consultant, Ron Hart** →

