



## Thanks for Your Endorsement of Rivendell Pond LMZs! Experts Continue to Help Us Improve Our Pond Health.

By Sue Remy, Ponds & Preserves Committee

Woodlands Word - May 2023

[Bob Frank's wildlife photos]

### Thank You Homeowners for Your Strong Support of Pond LMZs.



At the February, 2023 HOA Annual Meeting, the community voted to amend our covenant and thereby make Low Maintenance Zones (LMZs - buffer zones) **required** for all of our stormwater ponds. We are very grateful for our Homeowners overwhelmingly approval of this important action to keep our ponds vibrant and reduce erosion. Our wildlife friends thank you too! Maintaining healthy ponds requires ongoing efforts and we appreciate your continued support.

This amendment to require the installation and maintenance of pond LMZs is a huge step to help control erosion damage, reduce flooding, absorb excess nutrients, and keep our natural habitats attractive for our wildlife friends. However, our work is not done. Pond health is a work-in-progress and a delicate balance between time, resources, expenses, and expertise.

### P&P Participates in County's "HOA Healthy Pond Workshop" to Gain Knowledge.

In January, three P&P Committee members participated in a pond health workshop designed for HOA members. Sponsored by Sarasota County's various stormwater groups, the workshop included expert speakers, panel discussions, clinics, and outdoor sessions. Topics included watershed connections (from pond to creek to bay), pond assessment, plus clinics on managing nutrient and runoff, native plant selection, plus available funding and resources.



Two Rivendell P&P members, **Bob Frank**, and **Sue Remy**, joined panel discussions to share "**HOA Success Stories**" about Rivendell's pond experiences. **Frank Freestone** also attended this valuable workshop. Building relationships with leading experts helps us to continually learn new skills to take care of our ponds, finetune our pond management plan, and exchange ideas with other communities facing similar challenges.

This workshop also helped us validate that we are on the right path for success. As a follow up, Rivendell shared with workshop sponsors that our pond LMZs are now required, as part of our covenants. Their reactions have been very positive and enthusiastic! Victoria Goldner, Healthy Pond Collaborative's Communications Coordinator, responded, "**Thank you for sharing that fantastic news! It is absolutely a major victory, and great to hear that you have so much buy-in from residents.**" We agree.

### Everyone's Actions affects the Water Quality of our Ponds.



Our own choices for fertilizer and water use, as a community and as homeowners, affect both our water quality and algae concerns. We have made strides with our community contractors to reduce use of toxic herbicides and fertilizers. We also remind all homeowners to follow Sarasota County's guidelines for responsible fertilizer and irrigation practices and reduce usage where possible.

The P&P will continue to install shoreline plants as part of our ponds management program. However that is only half the story. We all need to work together to reduce the amount of fertilizer and toxins from runoff that goes into our ponds, especially from our own backyards. Healthy ponds result in significant benefits we all enjoy: improved water quality, attractive wildlife habitats, beautiful natural aesthetics... plus strong property values.

Click here to visit the Ponds & Preserves website at <https://www.rivendellcommunity.com/ponds>.