



## Rivendell Rewarded For Our Pond Management Efforts. Thank You! Your Actions Make a Difference.

By the Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – April 2022]

With the introduction of Rivendell's pond LMZs and aquatic planting program, our community is making good strides toward healthier ponds. While still a work-in-progress, Rivendell is being noticed for its good work and as a result has been awarded financial support to continue our pond management actions.



### Our Ponds Efforts are being Recognized!



Rivendell has garnered grant funding from several agencies to help support our pond planting projects. We are grateful for this financial assistance – it enables us to continue with our pond program while reducing the program's cost to our community. We have earned grants from these generous organizations:

- **START - Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (\$1,000)**
- **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (\$4,000)**
- **Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative (\$10,000)**
- **Healthy Pond Collaborative (\$3,000)**

We are batting 1000 on our recent grant applications and will continue to apply for future grant funds that fit with our management plans.

Rivendell was also recognized by Sarasota County's NEST (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team) as a "Featured Project." We were also named a "Water Quality Champion" by the Science and Environment Council. ([Click here to learn more.](#)) Three Rivendell residents recently attended 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 will continue to help us earn grant support as well as learn more about keeping our ponds healthy and vibrant.

### Thank You for Your Support and Patience!

We appreciate homeowner support as we all work together to control erosion, strengthen our wildlife habitats and improve water quality. We also thank the many residents who participated in the Fall Wildlife Week during which we collected thousands of exciting wildlife sightings. The Spring Wildlife Week was held in mid-March. We hope you participated. We will recap our Spring Wildlife Week once we have tallied the results. Stay tuned!

The work of the Ponds and Preserves Committee relies on input from and the support of local experts. We are working with the County's water quality team to implement best practices. A Florida freshwater pond expert is consulting with us to review our pond management strategies and planting approaches to ensure the best possible success. Our pond shorelines continue to change and improve to maintain the value of our property, protect our natural assets and provide enjoyment for the entire community.

We are making strong headway. Let's keep it up! Our wildlife friends seem pleased with our progress as well. Recent sightings on our ponds have shown many shoreline birds among the LMZs and aquatic plants. In fact, during Wildlife Week, residents remarked the birds were spotted mainly in the grasses and plants for protection and feeding. While they are more difficult to spot, we suspect many other pond creatures also thrive in our shorelines. Enjoy the wonderful wildlife photos from our ponds. Thanks to our talented photographers! Keep those photos coming!

