



Our Pond Shoreline Efforts Are Earning Recognition! Your Actions Make a Difference. Thank You!

By the Ponds & Preserves Committee
[Woodlands Word – September 2021]

It has been a busy year since our ponds' planting & LMZ trimming program began. Mandatory Low-Maintenance Zones (LMZs) had already been installed on all ponds and are being trimmed by our landscape contractor. We have already planted thousands of aquatic plants along the shorelines and will add more plants until all pond shorelines are planted as planned. While still a work-in-progress, we are making positive strides.



(Paul Remy.)



(Sheila Pies.)

Our Ponds Efforts are being Recognized! Rivendell has been the recipient of grant funding to help support our pond planting project. We have earned grant funding from **START - Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (\$1,000)** and the **Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (\$4,000)**. In addition, we have received preliminary approval for a grant from **Sarasota County Neighborhood Initiative** and are hopeful to receive their granted funding of \$10,000 for plantings. Rivendell is also a Featured Project of Sarasota County's NEST (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team) and was named a "Water Quality Champion" by the Science and Environment Council (a consortium of local public & private organizations). ([Click here to learn more.](#))

LMZs & Plantings - Our Rivendell Natural Shorelines. Our HOA (Rivendell Community Association) own and have title to our ponds that are managed in compliance with Sarasota County and SWFWMD as part of our stormwater system designed to manage rainfall runoff. LMZs and shoreline aquatic plants work together to help erosion control, reduce nutrient flow, enhance wildlife habitat, and keep property values strong. Experts from the County recommended three specific species we are planting: **Duck Potato, Pickerelweed and Gulf Coast Spikerush** for their deep roots, adaptability to seasonal water level changes and growth to stay near the shoreline edge. (Read more: [SWFWMD's Stormwater System](#) brochure.)



Thank you for your support and patience as we all work together to control erosion, strengthen our wildlife habitats and improve water quality. We are making great progress – let's keep it up!

Our wildlife friends seem pleased with our pond progress as well. Recent sightings on our ponds have shown many shoreline birds among the LMZs and plants. In fact, folks 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 pond shorelines. Enjoy these wonderful wildlife photos from our ponds. **Special thanks to our talented photographers – keep those photos coming.**



(Nancy Dobias.)



Magnificent Great Blue Heron enjoying the protection of shorelines plantings and in flight, with shadow on Rivendell Lake.
(Sheila Pies.)

