

Citrus County Aquatic Services Project Communiqué

February 2010

Exotic Plant Update

A new infestation of Crested Floating Heart has been found in the Inverness Pool. As you may recall, Aquatic Services has been trying to eradicate this plant from the Floral City Pool for over two years. When the new colony of plants were found, a crew was dispatched to hand remove the plants. This required getting into the water and digging out the roots. Each week the area is surveyed for new growth and hand removed as needed. Thankfully, it has not spread to other areas.

Aquatic plant crews have been removing Brazilian Pepper trees from a few area shorelines in the Inverness and Hernando Pools. This is another non-native, highly invasive plant that could takeover native plant habitat. Crews have also been working on removing Chinese Tallow trees in all three Pools. First the trees are cut down and then the stumps are treated with herbicide to prevent re-growth.

Fish Attractors

The County Commission approved the construction of Fish Attractors in each of the three Pools of Tsala Apopka Chain-of-Lakes. The funding for the attractors comes from the one dollar collected from each fishing license sold in Citrus County. Fish Attractors are constructed using woody brush, such as Oak, Citrus limbs or Christmas trees. Each limb or tree is anchored to the bottom with a concrete block and a Styrofoam buoy is attached to the top to help keep limbs from settling into the bottom. The Fish attractors do just that,

attract game fish, into a concentrated area. Each Attractor is .25 acres in size and will be clearly marked with a yellow FWC buoy. The first Fish Attractor was constructed in Big Lake Henderson, on the Inverness Pool, using Citrus trees. The next Attractor will be placed in the Floral City Pool using recycled Christmas trees. If you get to try one of the attractors, give me a call and let me know how you did fishing on the site.



Navigational Aid Grant

Aquatic Services has secured a grant from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to replace the fading Boater Safety signs in the Inverness and Hernando Pools. The \$48,691 grant is through the Boating Improvement Program Section. In all, forty-six signs will be replaced.

If you have questions or have a suggestion for an upcoming newsletter I can be reached at:

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