

# LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge  
Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34243

04-26-2019

Here are the more important stories we had this past and upcoming weeks:

**Ponds** – here are a couple of issues related to the ponds:

**Spatterdock** – Several months ago, we reported an issue with the spread of spatterdock in several of the Association’s retention ponds. Spatterdock, if you may recall, is a type of an aquatic lily which unlike the more common water lilies, such as the fragrant water lily, is a little bit harder to control. It was also reported that the spread of this aquatic plant was minimal and that Eco-Logic Service, the company that maintains the Association’s ponds, treated the affected ponds with Sonar, a type of environmental friendly aquatic herbicide. The report was concluded with the notion that the owner of Eco-Logic Service, Mr. Pete Nabor advised that it may take a couple of months and treatments before the spatterdock will completely be gone. And indeed, it took a few months, but in the end, we are happy to say most of the spatterdocks died. There is a handful left but they are turning yellow and should disappear in the near future.

Not supersonically but nevertheless quite understandably, there were some residents who were unhappy with the slow pace of the sonar treatment. Addressing these concerns, Eco-Logic Service agreed to send one of its techs to remove some of the dying spatterdocks. What does it mean? You guessed it right...a tech had to walk into the ponds and with scissors remove dying spatterdocks. This was done a few weeks ago. As can be seen in the picture below, this task was quite interesting and drew a few curious residents out of their homes.



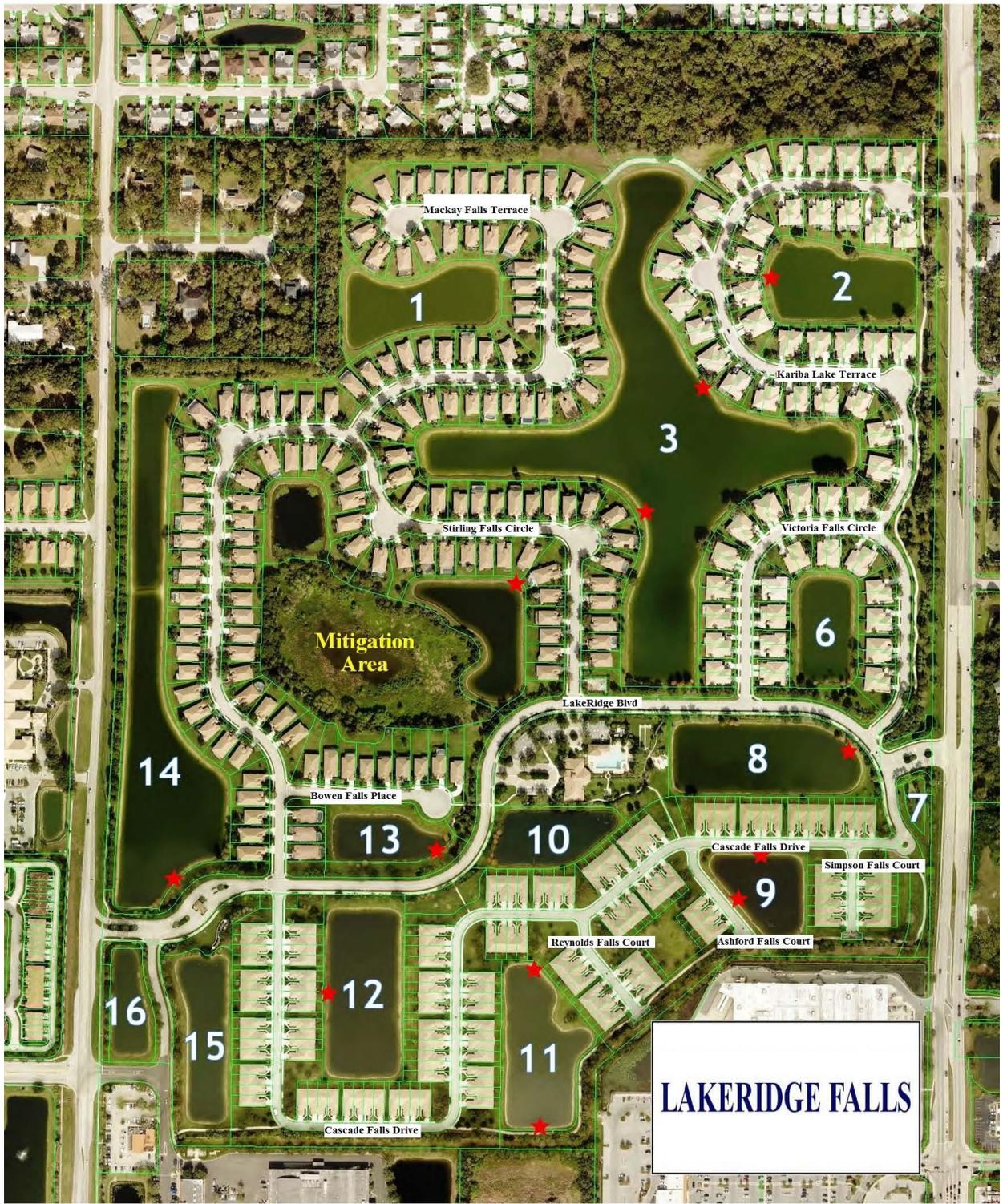
**Aquatic Plants** - Staying on a related topic, Eco-Logic Service techs are now installing a variety of aquatic plants in three different ponds. But as always, it is a good idea to start with the beginning. Back in 2017, the Roads & Grounds (R&G) Committee performed a thorough study regarding aquatic plants. The committee utilized the help and professional guidance of a representative from the Environmental Horticulture & Water Conservation Dep't of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). During this study, the committee examined all the pros and cons of aquatic plantings, mainly their impact on the ponds.

To make a long story short, especially taking under consideration the title of the UF/IFAS representative, the committee identified during its study that aquatic plants: reduce water pollution, produce shade and thus reduces algae, create a favorable habitat for wildlife, and assist with pond bank erosion. On the other hand, the committee realized that some of the negative aspects of aquatic plants would be residents' resistance and the cost of the plants. Nevertheless, there was a majority consensus that the benefits of the aquatic plants outweigh the negative. The committee then identified five plants that they concluded would be desirable for LakeRidge Falls.

After further research, a recommendation was made by the committee to the Board of Directors to launch a pilot program in which three different species of aquatic plants, Arrowhead, Spikerush, and Pickerelweed, would be planted in three different locations. Regarding the aquatic plants, the committee recommended using these specific species based on their overall nature, mainly the fact they grow low and produce flowers, thus adding appeal to the ponds. Regarding chosen locations, the committee recommended installing the aquatic plants in areas where erosion was identified and that are less visible to most residents. This, the committee concluded, will help to evaluate the impact aquatic plants have on preventing bank erosions.

Following this recommendation, the Board of Directors reviewed and approved the pilot program and all related costs. However, the pilot never took off. Why? Rain... You see, in order to install the plants Eco-Logic Service needed the water levels at the ponds to be a little bit low, as they are at this time of the year. Unfortunately, the recommendation and approval were given in July, which is, as many knows, in the mix of the rainy season. So, we had to wait. In the meantime, the Board of Directors created the Long Term Pond Group and the issue was put on hold. After all, why invest money in a pilot program while there is a group examining the broader issue of pond maintenance? Make sense, no?!

Fast forward to 2019, a suggestion was presented during one of the Long Term Pond Group meetings to go ahead and execute the recommendation from 2017 taking advantage of the lower water level at the ponds... And then, an opportunity presented itself. Aquatic Consulting, the subcontractor used by Eco-Logic Service, advised us that they can install these plants at no cost to the Association. Why? Well, this is a story for another day. Not surprisingly, the Board of Directors, Roads & Grounds Committee, and the Long Term Pond Group all agreed to reignite this project based on this generous offer. The ponds to take part in the pilot program were the same one chosen in 2017. They are Lake #11, Lake #12, and Lake #3. Please see the map below (i.e. please ignore the red stars on the map). Please be aware that only 100 plants will be planted in each one of those ponds. Those will be small test sites. With this in mind, we will keep you posted on this pilot program as it progresses.



**LAKERIDGE FALLS**

**Renovation Project** – Not much took place this week besides painting. However, we are one week closer to reopening the clubhouse. We hope to shed some more light on the project by next week.

**Today Meeting** – As many knows, a special meeting took place today. More detailed information on the meeting in next week's report.

**New Family 2019** – If you didn't see them by now, you are most likely going to see the new Sandhill Crane family soon. I promise to share all the beautiful pictures sent to me by many of the residents by next week as well.

Have a great and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

**Oded Neeman** – Community Association Manager

Argus Managing Agent for LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Boulevard, Sarasota FL 34243

Phone: 941-360-1046 Ext 101

Fax: 941-359-6827

E-Mail: [PropertyManager@LakeRidgeFalls.Org](mailto:PropertyManager@LakeRidgeFalls.Org)