

2023

JUNE SPECIAL EDITION



Leading the Advancement of Progress

Marilyn Maleckas— MCA Board President

The Meadows has always been an environmentally friendly community in a natural setting with open green space, 14 miles of pathways around lakes and waterways, fitness trails and a vast array of wildlife. All of us enjoy the beauty of the Meadows and share responsibility to care for the nature that surrounds us.

As part of our mission, on February 6, 2019, the Meadows Community Association (MCA) Board approved a policy statement, "MCA's Vision for Water Bodies and Wildlife Management in The Meadows", charging the Water and Wildlife Committee (WWC) to implement the following practices:

- **Create No Mow Zones**
No mow zones shall consist of a border at least 3 feet wide and 10-12 inches high and shall be maintained around the shorelines of all water features to the fullest extent possible.
- **Add Native Aquatic Vegetation**
The growth of native aquatic vegetation along shorelines and on littoral shelves shall be encouraged and promoted to the fullest extent possible in all water features.
- **Reduce Chemical Treatments in Ponds**
The use of chemical treatment in ponds shall be reduced to the minimum necessary to maintain these water features.
- **Oversee the Management of Wildlife**
The WWC shall oversee the management

of wildlife in the water features and adjacent areas of The Meadows. The Alligator Panel manages alligator reports, educates residents on living with wildlife, assesses safety risks, and recommends necessary next steps.

- **Protect Wildlife Habitats for Native Species**

No critical habitats for native species of wildlife within The Meadows shall be disturbed unnecessarily. County, state and federal rules for this will be followed. In general, it will be the policy of The Meadows to protect all wildlife habitats to the fullest extent possible, for the ecological health of the community and the enjoyment of all Meadows residents.

These practices are being encouraged, adopted, implemented, and conducted by the MCA, The Meadows Country Club (TMCC), the shopping center, individual homeowners associations, and single-family homeowners.

The environment is the cornerstone of our community. Our goal is to advance our environmental initiative by bringing educational opportunities on a variety of topics, such as: composting, waste reduction, fertilizing in SunCoast soil, cleaning without chemicals, and sustainable food, addressing the importance of maintaining an eco-friendly environment.



A community effort, with four teams and over 50 volunteers, working together, to make a difference in the community, by improving water quality and our environment.

JUNE CALENDAR

6/1	Let's Make Some Black Gold Sarasota County IFAS	10 am	MCLWF
6/2	Adept Audiology	9 am-1 pm	MCLWF
6/5	Safety Committee	2-3 pm	MCLWF
6/6	Standards Committee	3-4 pm	MCLWF
6/7	Bingo	6:30 pm	MCA
6/8	MCA Board Meeting	1-3 pm	MCLWF
6/13	Emergency Preparedness Meeting	4 pm	MCLWF
	Maintaining GI Health	5 pm	MCLWF
	Florida Digestive Disease Specialists		
6/14	Maintenance Committee	2:30-3:30 pm	MCLWF
6/19	Making Savvy Decisions at the Grocery Store	1-2 pm	MCLWF
6/20	Movie Night-GIANT	7-9 pm	
6/22	String Concert Lewis Roslove	1:30 pm	MCLWF

AQUATIC PLANTINGS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The MCA, Water and Wildlife Committee, and Volunteers are proud stewards of the land working together to improve the water quality of our ponds, provide habitat to species and prevent lake bank erosion. With over 85 ponds and 25 miles of shoreline, integration of aquatic vegetation into our pond system is critical to support wildlife and a healthy ecosystem in The Meadows.

On May 12, The Meadows conducted its fourth Annual Spring Aquatic Planting, supported by The Healthy Pond Collaborative, receiving \$3,000 in grant money, to fund this project. This planting covered over 8 ponds, added 1,600 plants, and involved more than 50 volunteers. Over the years, The Healthy Pond Collaborative and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, has made it possible to add over 7,000 native aquatic plants.

A big thank you, to all our volunteers and our partners from The Healthy Pond Collaborative; Sandy Gilbert, Chairman/CEO of Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (START), and Molly Holland from Sarasota County Government's Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST), whose support is instrumental in our success.

This year, we welcomed our outside community guests from Glen Oaks Manor, Sarasota and Waterside Village, Venice, who joined us to discover the benefits of aquatic planting and the power of a community working together, as evidenced by The Meadows.

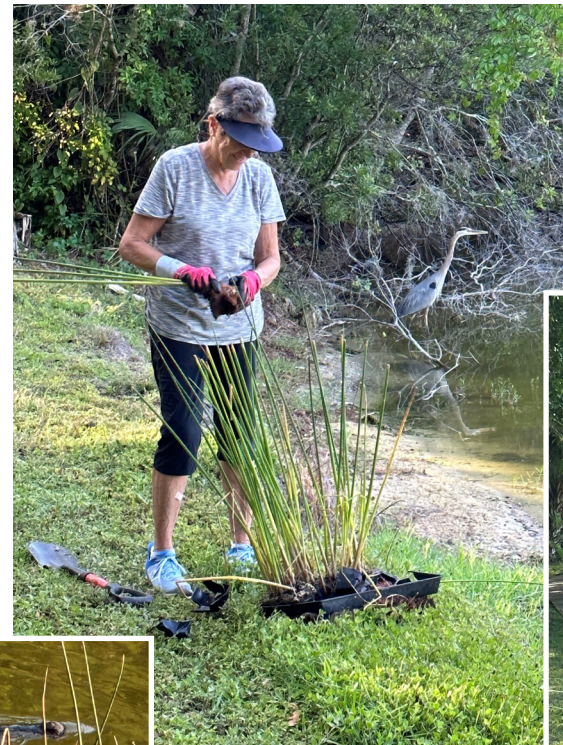
Several outside communities are facing challenges establishing healthy ponds. "The Meadows is an example of healthy community waterways, and we thank them for encouraging others by way of example", said Sandy Gilbert, during our pre-planting orientation.

Aquatic plantings around ponds are the most cost-effective way

to slow erosion along water edges, costing only \$1.50 per linear foot, whereas pond remediation is a very expensive and on an average, costs anywhere from \$70 to \$150 per linear foot. These plantings are 1/100th of what shoreline remediation could cost, Sandy reminded the participants.

The Meadows has always been committed to protecting the beauty and health of its environment," said Frances Ripponi, General Manager of MCA. The community made it part of their cultural make-up by establishing The Water and Wildlife Committee (WWC) in 2018, chaired by professional marine biologist Dr. Robert (Bob) Hueter, with over 40 years of experience and more than 200 scientific articles to his credit.

"The WWC has contributed greatly to the vitality of The Meadows, and collectively, with the support of our MCA Board of Directors and our 52 neighborhood HOAs, has raised awareness about the importance of maintaining our natural assets, launching a number of important projects to restore the health of our



many ponds," Bob said. "We prioritized goals with initiatives such as adopting No Mow Zones (NMZs) around our ponds and partnering with Sandy Gilbert, Chairman/CEO of Solutions To Avoid Red Tide (START), to increase awareness for Meadows residents on red tide and how they can be part of the solution.



We have been engaged from the beginning with Sarasota County on stormwater pond management, recycling, and hazardous waste removal. MCA is working with the University of Florida (UF) on several fronts, ranging from bringing water conservation education to our community, to working with UF researchers to study the health of our ponds," Bob added.

To learn more about Water and Wildlife Committee's work, visit our website under community/ecology & nature section themedowssarasota.org.



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Glen Oaks Manor, invited guests of MCA, discovers the benefit of aquatic plantings.

