



Pickerel Rush



Broadleaf Arrowhead



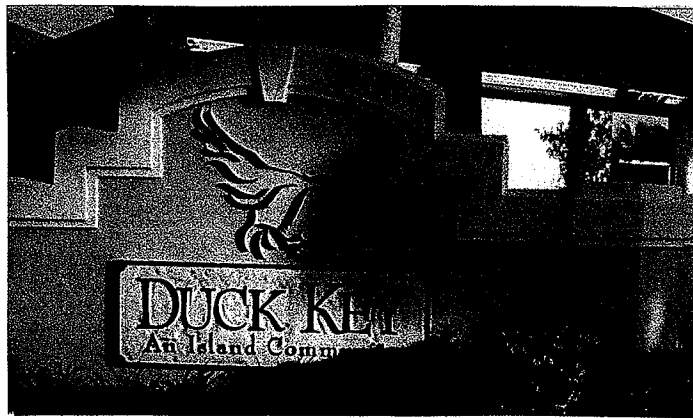
Arrowhead



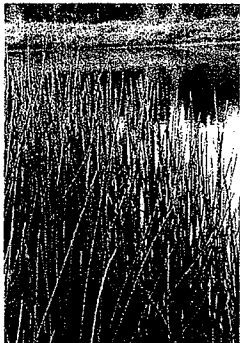
Golden Canna



Blue Flag Iris



Thallia



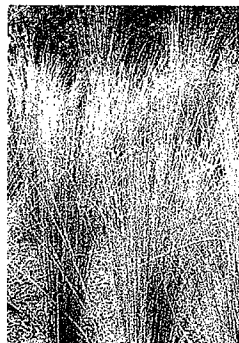
Jointed Spikerush



Giant Bulrush



Soft-stem Bulrush



Baker's Cord Grass

**SARASOTA COUNTY
NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT**

Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant Program

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Description - Please be specific (attach photos if applicable):

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project is designed to improve the ecological balance of our two retention ponds by aquascaping to improve the appearance as well as filtering pollutants. Aquascaping will help filter the contaminant runoff, minimize erosion as well as providing habitat for fish and waterfowl to breed and live. The placement of the two fishcribs inside Mystic Pond will serve as protection from predators.

Please note that the areas in question are owned and maintained by the Duck Key Community.

The ponds are maintained by a licensed contractor. The areas surrounding the ponds are also maintained by a licensed lawn service.

Specific Location of Project - Physical improvement projects must be located within community/public property or located within the public right-of-way (attach maps if applicable):

LOCATION OF PROJECT:

The two retention ponds (Lino Pond and Mystic Pond) are located within the Duck Key Community. Duck Key is located within the North Port city limits.

Please see locator maps

**FLORIDA YARDS AND NEIGHBORHOODS
LANDSCAPE INFORMATION**

Organization Name: DUCK KEY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Square footage of the area(s) to be landscaped: Approximately 2000 linear footage of shoreline for Lino and Mystic Ponds in the Duck Key Community.

Note: None of the littoral zone will be touched.

Soil pH: NA

Plant list (attach additional sheets, if necessary):

| <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Size</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| 650 | BR | Pickerelweed (<i>Pontederia cordata</i>) |
| 100 | BR | Arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria lancifolia</i>) |
| 200 | BR | Jointed spikerush (<i>Eleocharis interstincta</i>) |
| 100 | BR | Soft stem rush (<i>Scirpus validus</i>) |
| 200 | BR | Lemon bacopa (<i>Bacopa caroliniana</i>) |
| 100 | BR | Fragrant water lily (<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>) |
| 100 | BR | Cord grass (<i>Spartina bakeri</i>) |

Type of irrigation, provide brand name or other details*: NA

Source of the irrigation water (well, reclaimed, city or county utility):
Natural rain water and pond water will be used

Type of mulch:** none

The landscape will be maintained by:
Certified and licensed pond management company

* The Neighborhood Grant Program requires the use of hand-watering or micro-irrigation.

** The Neighborhood Grant program requires the use of non-cypress mulch.

Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant Program

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

Duck Key includes two retention ponds in our common areas. The Lino Pond is approximately 1 acre in size and the Mystic Pond is about 2 acres. The ponds are the focal point of our common areas.

Duck Key is in the midst of a multi year common area beautification project. To date, emphasis has been on the land area around the ponds but residents have asked that "something be done about the ponds." Due to the heavy rainfalls during the rainy season washing lawn fertilizer and other contaminants into the stormwater drains the quality and the appearance of the ponds diminishes each summer and fall. The water has a slimy green look about it, algae and hydrilla blooms form. Even though Duck Key employs the services of a pond maintenance firm to chemically treat the ponds it is a challenge to manage. The other issue is that, with the drought conditions we have experienced in recent years, the pond water level significantly draws down by 3-5 feet in late winter/early spring leaving the entire shoreline exposed which attracts invasive shoreline weeds and detracts from the overall appearance of the ponds.

About a year ago, the association contacted Robert Wright to discuss these issues. Rob discussed ways of improving the ecological balance of the ponds including the establishment of a "no mow" zones around the ponds, aquascaping to improve the appearance of the pond as well serving as filters to remove pollutants. We did further research on pond aquascaping and became converts to the idea of aquascaping. We have already started establishing a "no mow" zone around the ponds and are planning to aquascape the ponds.

From our viewpoint, aquascaping has the following benefits for Duck Key residents, our surrounding neighborhoods as well as the ecology of the Myakkahatchee Creek/Myakka River/Charlotte Harbor watershed.

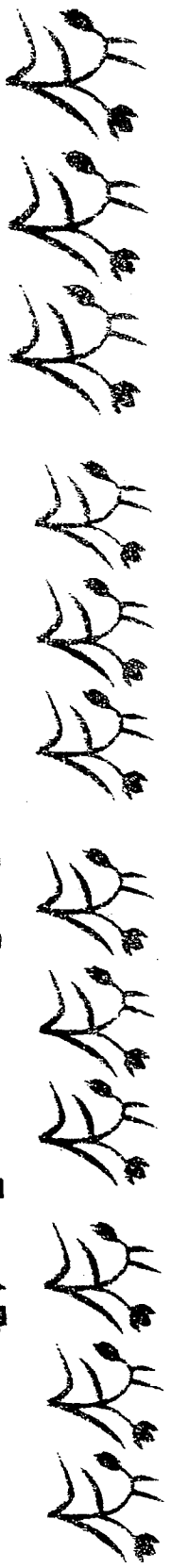
The proposed plants will add beauty to the ponds...even more so when they are in bloom. The plants along the shoreline will help hide the barren shoreline that occurs as the pond level retreats during the late winter/ early spring months as well as preventing shoreline erosion which also has been a problem in the Lino pond. Duck Key residents as well as the dozens of adjoining neighbors who walk/ run/ bicycle around the Duck Key common areas will surely appreciate the enhanced appearance of our ponds.

Aquascaping will help filter the contaminant runoff that flows into the ponds hopefully reducing or eliminating the greenish caste to the water and minimizing algae & hydrilla bloom. This will also cause a reduction in pollutants as well as the amount of chemicals our pond management company needs to apply to the ponds to control these unwanted plant species. Since the ponds overflow into the adjoining Myakkahatchee Creek and 2/3 of a mile away flows into the environmentally pristine Myakka River which, of course empties into Charlotte Harbor, we can do our small part in improving the ecology of our neighboring watersheds.

Another benefit that has come to our attention is that, by aquascaping our ponds we provide habitat and hiding places for fish and waterfowl to breed and live. This attracts addition bird and waterfowl species to our ponds increasing the biodiversity of our ponds... so the possibility exists that the ponds could be used for recreational fishing and add to the enjoyment of several residents who are birdwatchers.

**Meetings / Events leading up to the Neighborhood Initiative
Grant Application 2007**

| | |
|---------|---|
| January | Meet with Beautification Committee |
| March | Grounds and Beautification Committee met Made Presentation to Board of Directors Approval was granted |
| April | Contacted various vendors for input |
| May | Further discussion with members of community |
| June | Mailed letter to all residents and property owners (copy attached) |
| July | Met with Beautiful Ponds company Met with Creative Wetlands company Met with Vicky French -Sarasota County Met with Robert Wright -Sarasota County and residents Contacted Annemarie Post -Sarasota County Contacted Todd Hershfeld -Sarasota County Contacted local scouts for project |



Certificate of Completion

Tony Hall
Has completed the

Grant Application Course

In compliance with the requirements for applications for a grant through the
Neighborhood Initiative's Grant Program

Brian Kaman
Signature

Feb 26, 2003
Date

