



Spring Lake BREEZE

Florida . . . the way it should be.

VOL. 1 NO. 5

JUNE 2007

Grass Carp Have Arrived

The grass carp, also known as the white amur, is a plant-eating freshwater fish that has the biological name *Ctenopharyngodon idella*. It is cultivated in China for food but was introduced in the United States for aquatic weed control, especially hydrilla. It is a species of carp native to Siberia and northern China. The name white amur derives from the Amur River, where the species originated.

After Tropical Storm *Ernesto* hit Spring Lake in September 2006 and our canals overflowed, many people saw dead grass carp strewn throughout the canal system. These carp had grown up to 4 feet long and over 40 pounds in weight. As you can see from the picture, the young grass carp recently put into the canal system are only 8 inches. The grass carp grow extremely rapidly and the District needed to replace the lost carp to control the spread of hydrilla. Thirteen hundred grass carp were released into our system on May 4.

Grass carp and hydrilla are like a match made in heaven! The fish are relatively inexpensive and they have a ravenous appetite for hydrilla. No lumbering harvesters are needed, no expensive chemicals; just stock the canals with some hungry carp and let them do their thing! The cost for this latest shipment of grass carp was just over \$6,000. The last time the District put grass carp in the canals was in 2003, so the return on our investment is well worth the effort. The grass carp come from a fish hatchery in Arkansas, and the state of Florida issues a permit to our District that stipulates how many grass carp we

can release in our canal system.

The Chinese grass carp were originally imported and stocked into Florida lakes in 1972 as part of an experimental effort to control hydrilla. When stocked in high enough numbers, the fish proved to be extremely effective plant harvesters. However, water managers and biologists were also in for a few surprises. When attempts were made to remove the fish from the water systems, they were amazed at the carp's uncanny ability to outsmart virtually every type of fishing technique. Nets, hook and line, electro shocking, even poison baits were minimally successful. It became apparent that once grass carp were released, they were nearly impossible to remove. As of today, there are no easy ways to remove grass carp from a water system.

That is unless you have a local court system that will not let you use your pump station effectively, heavy rains come and

flood your community and the grass carp lose oxygen and die!

Grass Carp Have Arrived on page 4



Grass carp

Weed Control In Canals

District Foreman Randy Nelson recently began the next cycle of weed control in the canals. Randy has taken numerous classes to become certified, and the District is permitted by the state of Florida for aquatic weed control.

This picture shows Randy treating the aquatic weed known as water lettuce; the biological name is *Pistia stratiotes*. Water lettuce is a troublesome floating aquatic plant from South America that was first discovered in Florida in 1765. It is considered one of the worst weeds in the subtropical and tropical regions of the world and can double its population in less than three weeks time if left untreated.

Water lettuce floats on the surface of the water with its roots hanging submersed beneath floating leaves. It is a perennial weed with thick, soft leaves that form a rosette. The leaves can be up to 14 cm long and have no stem; they are light green in color, with parallel veins, wavy margins, and are covered in short-like hairs. Along with clogging our canals, it has the potential to reduce the biodiversity of the canal. The weed blocks gas exchange at the air-water interface and reduces the oxygen in the water, killing fish.



Treatment involves the spot application of the aquatic herbicide Reward. If not treated properly, flood control and fish and wildlife populations may be negatively impacted. The annual chemical budget for treating this weed is close to \$10,000 per year. Applications are conducted as needed and coordinated by Nelson.

Weed Control In Canals on page 7

Country Club Villas

At the recently held annual meeting for the Country Club Villas, members elected their new Board of Directors.



Left to right: Ray Albert; Millie Havlock, secretary/treasurer; Terry DeVries, vice president; Dan Ostapowicz, president; John Koller

The Breeze Is On The Net!

Beginning with this issue of *The Breeze*, arrangements have been made with our publishing company to have the paper put on our Web site where it can be read by, not only our residents, but many other people interested in Spring Lake.

To view *The Breeze*, simply go to our Web site at www.springlakeimprovement.com and click on the appropriate title in the navigation area.



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2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Spring Lake Improvement District
 115 Spring Lake Boulevard
 Sebring, Florida 33876-6143
 (863) 655-1715

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed of the quality water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been to provide to you a dependable supply of drinking water.

This report will be mailed to customers only upon request and is also available at the District Office, located at 115 Spring Lake Boulevard. This report is also posted on the District's Website at www.springlakeimprovement.com

Our water source is wells; our wells draw from the Floridan Aquifer. Chlorine is added for disinfection and Soda Ash and Zinc Polyphosphate are added for stabilization.

The Department of Environmental Protection has performed a "Source Water Assessment" on our system. These assessments were conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. Potential sources of contamination identified include underground petroleum storage tanks. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection program at www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact **(Greg Gretz, Water Plant Manager at (863) 655-1715)**. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. **They are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. at the Spring Lake District Office.**

Spring Lake Improvement District routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water. The State allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2006

KEY TO TABLE

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

"ND": means not detected and indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter: one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Picocurie per liter (pCi/L): measure of the radioactivity in water.

N/A: Not applicable

The Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

(B) *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

(C) *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(D) *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

(E) *Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791**.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

As you can see by the following table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State Requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some constituents have been detected. The EPA has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

We at Spring Lake Improvement District would like for you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to insuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact our office.

2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report on page 3

Who's Who?

The Improvement District is managed by a Board of Commissioners, a full-time staff and advisors. Here are the people in charge of SLID:

Board Of Commissioners:

Leon Van Chairman
 Marsi Benson Vice Chairperson
 Bill Rentel Secretary
 Ann Steinlage
 Brian Acker

District Staff:

Joe DeCerbo District Manager
 Diane Angell Administrative Assistant
 Greg Gretz Water Department Supervisor
 Randy Nelson Maintenance Department Supervisor
 Gladys Eaglen Secretary

Field Staff:

John Laiosa Brian Murray Brian Patrick
 JR Clarke Neil Wilkinson
 Bill Maine Corey Jones

District Advisors:

William Nielander Attorney
 Gene Schriener Craig A. Smith Engineering
 Craig Wrathell Financial and Management
 Bruce Stratton Accounting and Auditing

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 911

Spring Lake Improvement District	655-1715
SLID After Hours	655-0615
Spring Lake Property Association	655-2230
Ambulance and Sheriff	385-5111
Sheriff Dispatch	402-7200
Highlands County Emergency Center	385-1112
Lorida Fire Department	655-0122
Desoto City Forestry Division	655-6407
Animal Control	655-6475
Florida Game and Wildlife	800-282-8002
Reliable Sanitation	385-0817
Auto and Boat Registration	402-6685
Comcast Cable	385-2578
Drivers License Facility	386-6053
Progress Energy	800-700-8744
Lorida Post Office	655-1321
Sebring Post Office	382-0578
Embarq	800-339-1811
Voter Registration	402-6655
School Board	471-5555
Hunting and Fishing License	402-6685
Hammock State Park	386-6094
Highlands Regional Medical Center	385-6101
Florida Hospital	314-4466

Neighborhood Watch

Chairman	Vohn Steinlage	655-4981
Village I	Dan Snyder	655-2723
Village II	Don Vandygriff	655-1762
Village III & IV	Joanne McCulley	655-1701
Village V	Lynn Benson	655-1081
Village VI	Ann Steinlage	655-4981

Legal Notice

Notice Of Meetings

.. The Board of Supervisors of the Spring Lake Improvement District will hold their meetings at the District Office, 115 Spring Lake Blvd., Sebring. The meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Any person requiring special accommodations at these meetings because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the District Office at (863) 655-1815 at least five calendar days prior to the meeting. Meetings may be continued at a later date and time, which will be announced at the meeting.

Each person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at the meeting is advised that that person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

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2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report from page 2

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
11. Barium (ppm)	May 2005	N	0.101	N/A	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
16. Fluoride (ppm)	May 2005	N	0.33	N/A	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
20. Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	September 2006	N	0.04	N/A	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
21. Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	August 2006	N	0.01	N/A	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer Use; leaching from Septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
23. Sodium (ppm)	May 2005	N	14.9	N/A	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

Radiological Contaminants

6. Radium 226 +228 or Combined radium (pCi/L)	October 2003	N	3.0	N/A	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
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TTHMs and Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Parameters

- For the following parameters monitored under Stage 1 D/DBP regulations, the level detected is the highest annual average of the quarterly averages: Bromate, Chloramines, Chlorine, Haloacetic Acids, and/or TTHM (MCL 80 ppb). Range of Results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites.
- For TTHMs monitored under rules adopted before the Stage 1 D/DBP rules (MCL = 100 ppb), the level detected is the highest running annual average calculated quarterly. The Range of Results is the range of results (lowest to highest) at the individual sampling sites.

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
78. Chlorine (ppm)	Jan. 05 to Dec. 05	N	1.6	1.1-1.7	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
80. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes] (ppb)	Sept. 3, 2005	N	2.25	N/A	NA	MCL = 80/100	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Violation Y/N	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
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Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

84. Copper (tap water) (ppm)	June 2005	N	0.11	0	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
85. Lead (tap water) (ppb)	June 2005	N	1.0	0	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits

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Automatic Water Bill Payments

Many people have taken advantage of the new automatic billing program now offered by the District. If you are interested in having your checking account automatically pay your bill through your bank, call the office at 655-1715 to receive your form. Known as ACH, the forms are available at the District Office.



Have you ever wondered how our water charges compare with surrounding communities? Here are the latest rates as of May:

	Minimum Charge	Cost Per 1,000 Gallons
Spring Lake	\$10.00	\$1.43
Lake Placid	13.00	1.45
Sun 'n Lake	10.00	1.50
Avon Park	11.30	2.70
Sebring	11.80	3.30

Lot Mowing Under Way

One of the main responsibilities of the Spring Lake Improvement District is ensuring that the 1,295 vacant lots and 69.5 acres are mowed. Additionally, the District mows all county right of ways and medians. There are three tractors and mowers dedicated to vacant lots and acreage, and there are additional equipment and personnel for all entranceway medians, Duane Palmer Boulevard and the parks.

The District is instituting a new system of mowing that will increase the level of accountability. Personnel are being specifically assigned to Villages so that one person has responsibility for that area. If there is a problem or a resident request, we will have a specific staff member we can go to. We feel that this will greatly enhance the level of service this program provides.

While lots are normally mowed four times a year, our new process will allow us to do extra cuts if there is a lot or acreage where grass grows faster than other areas.

Equipment for this program has been updated with the

purchase of two John Deere tractors. This replaces equipment that was over 12 years old and was constantly in need of repair. These new tractors are 90 horsepower, four-wheel drive units that will be much more adequate than the units being replaced. Two new personnel have filled our existing lot mower vacancies and training has been completed. The three staff members who have primary responsibility for lot mowing are Neil Wilkinson, Brian Murray and Brian Patrick.

The Board of Supervisors is diligently looking at the costs of the lot-mowing program as they begin working on our next fiscal year budget. The current assessments for lot mowing are \$63 a year for stand-alone lots and \$88 per acre. It is projected that these assessments will have to increase to ensure that lot mowing does not run a deficit. These amounts have been very low over the past five years and will more than likely be increasing. The September issue of *The Breeze* will fully outline the lot mowing costs for FY 2008.

Grass Carp Have Arrived from page 1



Monthly Calendar

June

- 5 Men's Golf League
- 6 Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, Community Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 7 Men's Golf League
Bridge Club, Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 12 Men's Golf League
- 13 **Yard Waste Pick-Up**
Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, Community Center, 9:30 a.m.
SLID Board Meeting, 3:30 p.m., District Office
- 14 Flag Day
Men's Golf League
- 17 Happy Father's Day
- 19 Men's Golf League
- 20 Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, Community Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 First Day of Summer
Men's Golf League
Bridge Club, Community Center, 6 p.m.
- 26 Men's Golf League
- 27 **Yard Waste Pick-Up**
Ladies' Golf League
Women's Social Club, Community Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 28 Men's Golf League
Please note that the District Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4.



Spring Lake Specialist Sue Tellschow
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2208 VILLAWAY EAST

3 Bed, 2 Bath, much sought after Golf Villa. Master on 1st floor with 2BR and 1BA upstairs. Also a sitting room. **\$179,900**

Tennis Court Update

As noted in last month's issue of *The Breeze*, a meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, at the District Office. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from interested residents about their feelings regarding the tennis courts. The courts are in need of much repair and before the District Board of Supervisors makes a financial commitment to the tennis courts, input and data were needed.

The May 8 meeting was attended by several interested tennis players and some residents who simply wanted to give their input. A very good discussion took place and the participants were very willing to share their experiences both here in Spring Lake and at the Country Club of Sebring, where several of our residents have to go to play on good

courts. Several in attendance, Ted and Diane Poliac who live on Edgewater Terrace, are members of the Highlands County Tennis Association. Walker Jackson, a longtime tennis player and resident who lives on Lin, wants to teach tennis to our youth several times a week. Even though some people were not able to attend the meeting, they sent their thoughts and ideas to the District via e-mail. A few people stopped by or called to give their input as well.

A meeting was also held by the District Manager with ACRO Maintenance and Restoration, the area's only tennis court repair and resurfacing company. To bring the tennis courts up to an acceptable playing level, add shelter and benches and make general repairs to the fence and light

would be approximately \$18,000. The courts were also looked at by an officer of the Florida Tennis Association who affirmed the projected cost.

The District Manager gave a briefing to the Board of Supervisors at the May meeting, and it is anticipated that a decision on this issue will be made at the June 13 Board meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, we sincerely thank the people who took the time to write letters, send e-mails and attend the meeting. We will continue to use *The Breeze* to update our residents on these types of programs and issues.

District Staff Profile

Diane Angell joined the Spring Lake Improvement District on Dec. 7, 1987, and will be celebrating her 20th anniversary with the District this year. Over the years, Diane has performed a myriad of duties and responsibilities for the District and her knowledge, experience and expertise have been invaluable.

Currently serving as the administrative assistant for the District, the primary function of her position is to assist the District manager in the daily business, finances and operations of the District, as well as being its treasurer.

Diane has been married for 23 years to husband Jay, who is the chief operator for the city of Sebring Water Department. They have two children and one grandchild. Outside of work, Diane enjoys digital photography, scrap-booking and spending time with her grandson. She is a certified notary public.

Diane was born and raised in San Jose, Calif., and moved to Sebring in 1986; the following year she joined the District staff. Ask Diane what she likes best about her job and she enjoys the day-to-day challenges of running a District.



Update On Injunction

The last several issues of *The Breeze* have updated all residents on the continuing crisis our community is under relative to the injunction. This injunction, issued by the local courts, has placed our pump station under severe guidelines. Only being able to pump 15 minutes per hour, a maximum of 90 minutes per day, will **not** protect our community if a major storm hits us like *Ernesto* did last September.

With the refusal of South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to enforce its jurisdiction over Spring Lake, and its refusal to enforce the permit they gave us to

pump, we are at the mercy of the local courts. All of us are aware that the local courts have continued to rule in favor of Sandy Tyrell, thus continuing to strain the District budget in search of a solution ... a solution that the local courts have placed on Spring Lake in spite of all the permits and approvals originally given to us by SFWMD.

The Improvement District Board of Supervisors held an attorney-client session on Wednesday, May 9, to determine our next course of action. Last month's issue of *The Breeze* listed the options the Board was going to discuss. The attorney-client session gave direction to our

legal team as to our next course of action. Celeste Adorno, representing the state of Florida's attorney general's office, addressed the Board on the options they had before them. Results of this session were not available at press time, but interested residents may contact the District Office for further updates.

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A Little Bit Of History

The following articles were taken from historical documents that have been preserved at the District Office. Anyone who has interesting pictures and news from Spring Lake's past are encouraged to let us publish them in *The Breeze*. Please contact us for further information.



SEND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY! From the White House

for an elderly friend or family member...

The only requirement is that the individual must be at least 80 years old.

To request a card,
write at least one month in advance to:

White House Greetings Office OEOPB
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Tampa Tribune, Monday, June 16, 1975

SEBRING: The Spring Lake community, a modern housing development, has increased in value 434 percent during its five years of existence, records in the Highlands County Tax Assessor's office state.

The 3,500 acre development, about eight miles south of Sebring on U.S. 98 toward Okeechobee, has an assessed value of \$7.6 million compared to \$175,000 five years ago. Tax Assessor Billy Martin said 96 homes are contained in the acreage. Don Stanick, Spring Lake controller, said the most recent evaluation includes 86 homes assessed at \$2,137,000 in Village I, while 10 homes in Village II are assessed at \$279,000.

Next year's evaluation will include a total of 157 homes as construction continues in both Villages. Coral Ridge Properties, builders of Spring Lake, has announced that two additional Villages will begin construction with models available later in the next year.

Tampa Tribune, Saturday, Jan. 15, 1977

SEBRING: New home construction is expected to be almost doubled during 1977 at Spring Lake, a community being developed by Coral Ridge Properties, Inc. about eight miles southeast of Sebring. J.H. Ryan, general manager of Spring Lake and assistant vice-president of Coral Ridge Properties, said Thursday that 200 homes will be built during the year, compared to 112 in 1976.

Mr. Ryan spoke to a group of 30 banking representatives, builders and the news media at a preview gathering. He said the community has 230 homes and a population of 500, with an annual disposable income of \$1.5 million. He said the disposable income will reach \$8 million when the projected 200 homes for 1977 are completed and occupied.

Spring Lake is the fastest growing subdivision in Highlands County, doubling the construction activity of its nearest competitor. The total investment at Spring Lake to date is listed at \$19.5 million.



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