



# Pinellas Pond News

## Pinellas County Adopt-A-Pond Program



Educating Citizens. Enhancing Stewardship. Creating Communities.

### Guess The Plant

Answer inside



A Florida native perennial with rhizomes that occurs primarily in shaded areas along the edges of ponds or in swamps and marshes. It has distinctive heart-shaped leaves and a curved or drooping raceme with many white, inconspicuous flowers.

Volume I Issue 2

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### What have we been up to?

#### Meetings

- Bay Pines Lake
- Robinwood HOA
- Woodfield HOA
- SWFWMD Pinellas-Anclote Basin Board

#### Educational Events

- Discovery Day @ Boca Ciega Millennium Park
- Lakes & Ponds Education Day 2007 @ Weedon Island Preserve

#### Cleanups

- Three Lakes-East
- Zack's Pond
- Winwood Warriors
- Gardenia Lake
- YMCA Omni Ridgecrest
- Ripple Lake
- Unity Church
- Bay Pines Lake
- Mayfair Woods

#### Plantings

- YMCA Omni Ridgecrest

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## ***Invasive Species Spotlight:*** **Primrose Willow: Invasive Exotic Plant**

### **Primrose Willow** *(Ludwigia peruviana)*



This native of South America has thrives in saturated soils or open water, it has the potential to become a major weed. Often growing in disturbed areas, Adopt A Pond has found it to be among the first colonizers following Brazilian Pepper removal.

*Ludwigia* is a vigorously opportunistic plant, clogging wetlands and reducing biodiversity. Reducing the rate of flow in streams

causes wide ecological damage through increased sedimentation and accumulation of additional organic material resulting in the de-oxygenation of the water column. This leads to the death of aquatic fauna (wildlife) and a change in flora (plants) species composition. Dense stands of *Ludwigia* can intercept almost all incident light, dominate all other water plants and in some cases lead to the loss of native plants and animals.

At times, the Primrose Willow grows up to 13 feet tall. The four petal flowers are bright yellow and last for only a day. The leaves are hairy and spear shaped and grow to between one and five inches long.

*Ludwigia's* many small pepper-like seeds are contained in four to five rows within a capsule. The seeds

are spread by birds, although not in the usual manner! The tiny seeds adhere to their feathers and are easily dispersed. Probably the most common method of the spread of this weed is through humans unknowingly carrying the seeds in their clothing, hats and hair.

Primrose Willow has proven to be extremely difficult to eradicate. Seeds are produced in profusion and continue to germinate at or near the soil surface. Hand removal is best. The roots are relatively shallow, and it is not difficult to pull out whole plants. Having a replacement vegetation strategy in place is an important first-step.

For further information, visit [www.sydnevolympicpark.com](http://www.sydnevolympicpark.com): *Primrose Willow*

## ***Pollution Solution:*** **PET WASTE: Getting the Scoop on Poop!**

**Q What's worse than picking up dog poop?**

**A Stepping in it.**

**Q What's even worse than that?**

**A Swimming in it, fishing in it, or drinking water that has dog poop in it.**



Rainwater can wash those little presents your pooch leaves on the ground into streams, lakes, rivers or directly to the bay itself. Just like human waste, **dog poop poses a**

**threat to both public health and water quality.** It contributes harmful bacteria that can make people ill, as well as **excessive nutrients that cause algae blooms and rob the water of oxygen** needed to support fish and other aquatic life.

Join the "Pooches for the Planet" pack and pick up after your dog. It's easy, it's neighborly, and it's the healthy thing to do...for you and for our bay area waters. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey estimate that pet waste contributes between 20 to 30 percent of the water pollution in America—**bow WOW!**

**Pick up after your pet.** Flushing pet waste down the toilet is best, because then it is treated at a sewage treatment plant.



**Bag your dog's waste** and put it in the trash can if flushing down the toilet is not feasible. News-paper bags or plastic grocery bags are great for dog waste disposal. Bag dispensers that clip to the leash also are widely available at pet supply shops.

For more information, visit [www.tbep.org](http://www.tbep.org) or call (727) 893-2765.

## **Wildlife Feature: Ducks — The Good, The Bad, and the Muscovy**

The Florida mottled duck (*Anas fulvigula fulvigula*), often called the Florida mallard, is a unique subspecies found only in peninsular Florida, residing in both brackish and freshwater marshes. The Florida mottled duck spends its entire life within the state and has inhabited



Florida for thousands of years.

Approximately 40% of the mottled duck's diet consists of animal matter such as insects, snails, mollusks, crayfish and small fish. The remainder of its diet is composed of grass seeds, stems, and roots, seeds of other marsh plants and bayberries.

The most common domestic duck species in Florida is **the Muscovy**

**Duck (*Carina moschata*).** It is native to Central and South America and was first domesticated as a source of food.

Wild Muscovy ducks are glossy black with white wing patches. The bare skin around the base of the bill and eyes often is red. The domesticated Muscovy is much heavier and occurs in a variety of color patterns.

Many people consider unconfined domestic ducks a nuisance. Some breeds can be aggressive toward pets and children. Most breeds deposit droppings where they are not desired and cause damage to lawns and gardens by their feeding and nesting activities. Each adult duck produces about one-third pound of manure each day. Further, domestic ducks lay many eggs, and

uncontrolled domestic duck populations can increase dramatically in a short time.

In small urban ponds, high Muscovy duck densities contribute to reduced water quality that lessens the aesthetic value and presents a potential public health hazard.

**Feeding ducks of any breed is not recommended.**

For complete articles visit [www.MyFWC.com](http://www.MyFWC.com) Mottled Ducks, and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu> Domestic Duck Problems in Urban Areas



## **Adopt-A-Pond Star Pond: Bay Pines Civic Association Lake**



This lake was adopted in January 2007. It is a 3.32 acre lake located near 98th Way North and Bay Pines Blvd North in St. Petersburg. When the residents came to us, they had a major water hyacinth infestation. Their goals were to make their lake look better and improve the habitat for fish. The pond representative has been very successful at enlisting everyone to

help with the clean-up efforts. They taught us what a real community was all about by having over 100 residents show up for their first cleanup without AAP assistance.

This group has shown great self sufficiency and determination in restoring their lake. Their hard work supports the AAP goal of assisting residents in managing their own lakes and ponds. They almost don't even need us! The residents removed 42 tons of water hyacinth from this lake before the first scheduled AAP cleanup.

Recently Admiral Farragut Academy helped remove some of the troublesome water hyacinth in their effort to serve the community.

This lake has been one of

the most successful AAP projects regarding the amount of work done in the shortest amount of time. We feel that this is because of the participation from all the residents on the lake.

**Way to go Bay Pines Lake!  
And a big Thank You to AFA students!**



# April 2007

## Schedule of Upcoming Events

- 4/7/2007 Roanoak Pond cleanup & planting
- 4/7/2007 Earthfest at Pinewood Cultural Park
- 4/14/2007 AAP day off
- 4/14/2007 Florida-Friendly Landscaping with Native Plants: Brooker Creek Preserve, call (727) 453-6800 for reservations
- 4/21/2007 Carriage Bay planting
- 4/21/2007 Crescent Lake, St. Pete, Restoration Planting, call Lucy 821-2133 for information or to volunteer
- 4/26/2007 Suncoast Earth Force Youth Summit, Al Lopez Park in Tampa, call (727) 215-8619 for information
- 4/28/2007 Hewitt Lake planting
- 5/5/2007 Zack's Pond cleanup
- 5/5/2007 Rain Barrel Workshop: Brooker Creek Preserve, call (727) 453-6800 for reservations
- 5/12/2007 Franklin Square planting
- 5/19/2007 Introduction to Florida-Friendly Landscaping, Palm Harbor Library, call (727) 582-2673 for reservations
- 5/19/2007 Immanuel Chapel cleanup
- 5/26/2007 Memorial Day Holiday, AAP off

Please contact us if you would like to volunteer, post your scheduled community event or need to schedule an event with our staff.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

# May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

# June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## 6th Annual Lakes & Ponds Education Day

We celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakes and Ponds Education Day on February 24, 2007. This year's event was held at the Weedon Island Preserve's Cultural and Natural History Center located at 1800 Weedon Drive NE in St. Petersburg.

We were pleased to see over 100 people in the audience of this free educational seminar, more than doubling the attendance from last year! Some of whom included representatives from 17 of our adopted ponds.

The program included educational talks about mosquitoes, stormwater ponds and their true functions, stormwater pollution and regulations, how to create wildlife habitat in urban settings, volunteering to help Keep Pinellas Beautiful, and the Penny for Pinellas tax. Two of our adopted ponds presented testimonials on their progress and challenges.

At the end of the day, we gave away several hundred aquatic and terrestrial Florida native plants. Those plants were generously donated by three nurseries for the event: Florida Natives Nursery, Aquatic Plants of Florida, and All Native. We hope everyone was able to take home a few of the plants for their pond or garden. Breakfast was graciously provided by Lee's Tree & Crane Service. We would also like to thank the City of Largo for a generous donation that helped tremendously to make our big day a real success!

We have received many evaluation forms from the event and we're happy to report overwhelming positive comments. Next year's event will be held at another Pinellas County park or preserve. We will be providing native and exotic plant specimens for identification.

For future registration information, or if you have any suggestions for next year's event, please contact us at:  
Adopt-A-Pond@PinellasCounty.org  
or by calling (727) 464-3454.



### Thank You to our Sponsors:



All Native  
Plant what works



Florida Natives Nursery, Inc.  
4115 Native Garden Drive, Plant City, Florida 33565  
Ph#: (813) 754-1900 Fax#: (813) 754-4001  
[fnativesnursery@yahoo.com](mailto:fnativesnursery@yahoo.com)



## ***Guess The Plant Answer*** **Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*)**

Lizard's tail is a common emergent plant. This native perennial plant is 1½ – 3 feet tall, branching occasionally. It is erect or semi-erect, often leaning on neighboring plants for support. The erect plant typically grows in ditches, swamps, marshes, and other wetlands. The small, white flowers grow in a spike with a drooping tip. The flowering structure consists of a spike of many small whitish flowers that forms an arching, tail-like shape.

The flowers begin to bloom at the bottom of the spike, rather than the apex. The blooming period occurs during the summer and lasts about 1 month or slightly longer. Lizard's tail has a distinctive citrus smell. As the greenish seeds develop, the "tail" takes on a wrinkled appearance and hence the common name. As the fleshy carpels begin to dry, their surfaces become wrinkled in appearance and they are joined together at the base. Each carpel contains a single seed. The root system produces abundant rhizomes, enabling vegetative reproduction. Lizard's tail forms colonies from the spreading rhizomes.

For more information, visit <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

## ***Something's Fishy:*** **Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*)**

The Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*) inhabits swamps, marshes, shallow lakes, slow-moving streams and canals with soft, muddy bottoms. They prefer to stay around aquatic vegetation, stumps, and usually stay close to the bottom of the waterbody in which they live. They have more tolerance for muddy water than most species of panfish. The warmouth is also tolerant of low oxygen levels.

The warmouth can easily be identified by its large mouth and the four to five stripes radiating back from the eye. The common name warmouth refers to the stripes on its head that look like war paint. It also has a patch of teeth on its tongue. They can be confused with the Rock Bass or the Green Sunfish, but neither are seen in Florida.



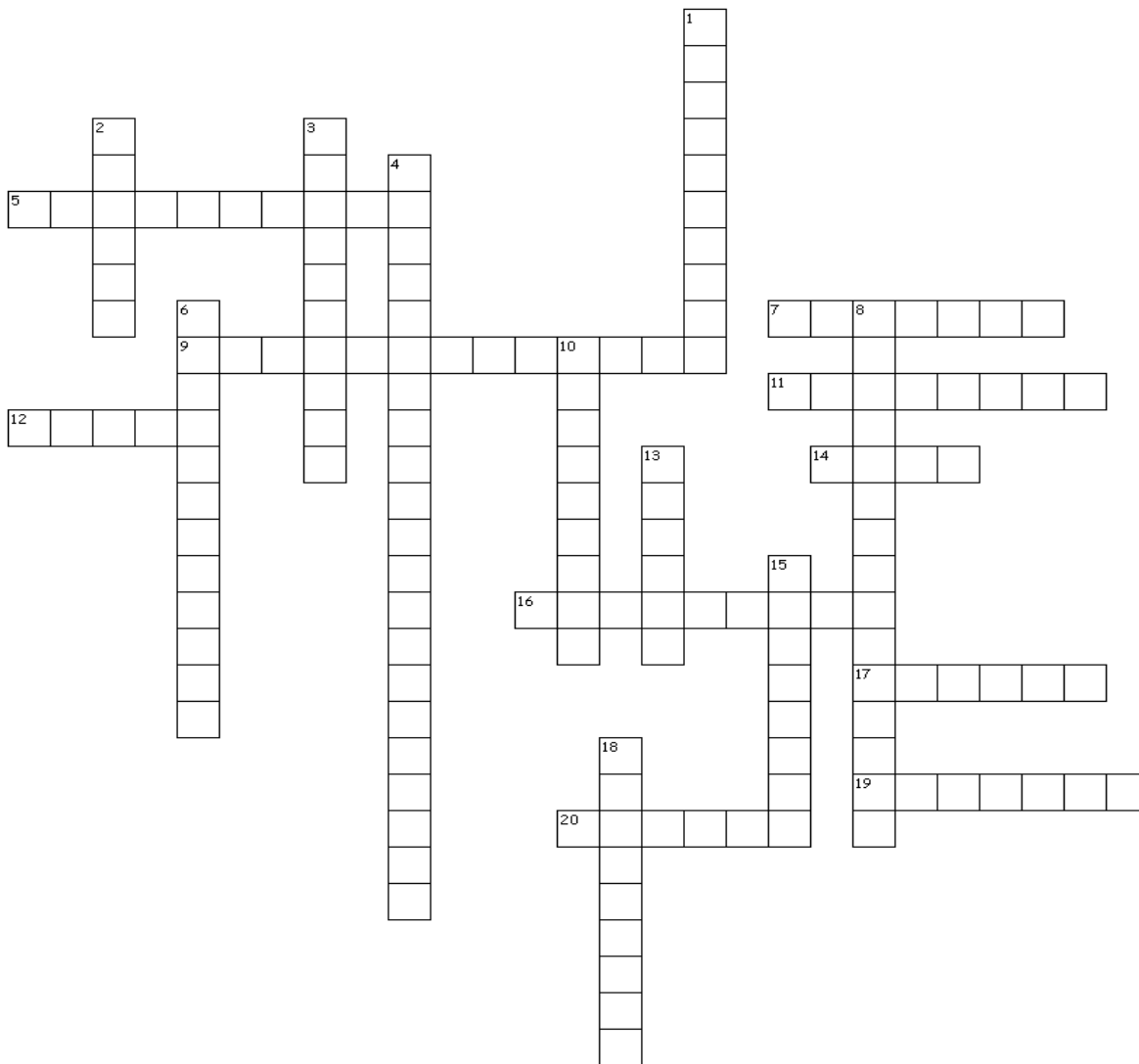
The scientific species name "gulosus" is Latin meaning gluttonous. This stems from the warmouth's voracious appetite. Warmouths are carnivorous and feed on a wide variety of prey including crayfish, shrimp, insects and small fishes. They can live up to eight years and can be up to 12 inches in length. The Florida state record is 2 pounds, 7 ounces.

Warmouths are solitary nesters that prefer to build their nest adjacent to some submerged object. Nests are found over a wide range of water depths. They often spawn more than once a year usually between April and August. Females may produce 3,000 to 23,000 eggs!

The warmouth can be caught by using live bait or artificial tackle. They feed in the morning, can put up a pretty good fight on light tackle and are good to eat if taken from clean water.

For more information, visit [www.floridafisheries.com](http://www.floridafisheries.com).

## Adopt-A-Pond Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 5. limits nutrients
- 7. what critters need
- 9. grow in water
- 11. working towards a common goal
- 12. venomous or non-venomous
- 14. underwater neighbor
- 16. pet waste
- 17. not native
- 19. shoreline washout
- 20. not imported

**Down**

- 1. our heroes
- 2. AAP sponsor
- 3. rain runoff
- 4. faithful supporter
- 6. what we want to improve
- 8. Robin's love my red berries
- 10. toothy, scaly
- 13. shelled resident
- 15. animal neighbors
- 18. our logo

Send us in your completed puzzle for a prize. Do not forget your contact information.  
 Limited to the first five correct received!

**Adopt-A-Pond Program**  
Pinellas County  
Watershed Management Division  
300 South Garden Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

**Phone: 727-464-4425**

**Fax: 727-464-4403**

**Email: [Adopt-A-Pond@PinellasCounty.org](mailto:Adopt-A-Pond@PinellasCounty.org)**



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## **Interesting Websites**

Pinellas County Government: <http://www.PinellasCounty.org>

Southwest Florida Water Management District: <http://www.WaterMatters.org>

Plant Management in Florida Waters: <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/guide>

Keep Pinellas Beautiful: <http://www.KeepPinellasBeautiful.org>

Floridata: <http://www.floridata.com>

Water Atlas: <http://www.wateratlas.org>

Florida Native Plant Society: <http://www.FNPS.org>