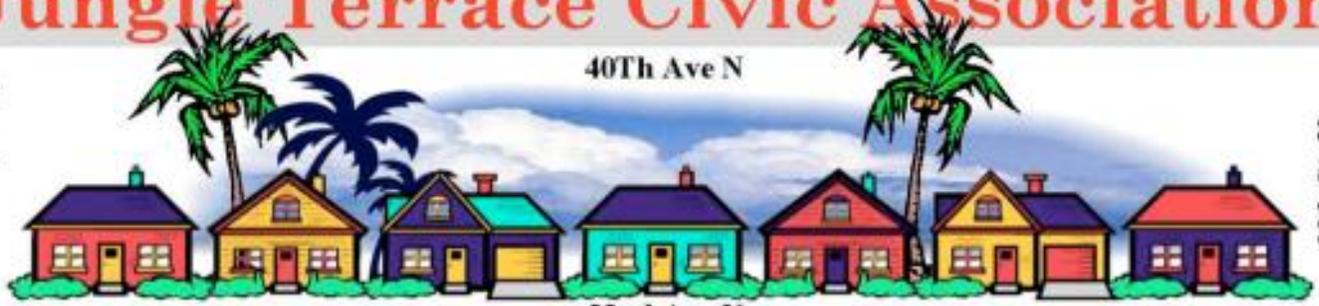


Jungle Terrace Civic Association

40Th Ave N

Boca Ciega Bay



66th St. N.

22nd Ave N

70 Years Advocating for Jungle Terrace Neighborhood!

2nd Quarter 2024

www.Jungle-Terrace.org

Green Thumb Festival ~ April 27 & 28

<https://www.stpeteparksrec.org/greenthumb/>

Members Meeting January



Jim Bays Presents “Jungle Lake Restoration + Floating Wetland Islands”

See Presentation photos and text ~

<file:///C:/Users/Ed/Downloads/JT%2024%20Lake%20BAYS.JTCA.01152024.v3.web.pdf>



Joe Hamilton, Owner/Editor “The Catalyst” on Science Center progress.



Steve Harris, OCTOBERFEST, Oct 12
Fun + 2 Hour Volunteers



Steve and Dr. Ed encouraging the crowd!

**The Gabber reporter, Amanda Haygood discusses
Jungle Lake with Dr. Ed to write story.**



Green Clean Machine

Jungle Lake's Floating Wetland

By Amanda Hagood



ED CARLSON

Once unrolled, assembled, and planted, the volunteers towed the floating island to and anchored it in a deeper basin of the lake.

Visitors to Walter Fuller Park in Jungle Terrace will notice something new in Jungle Lake: an island! But this is no enchanted isle rising from the depths; it's a floating wetland: a lean, green, lake-cleaning machine.

■ Troubled Waters

Jungle Lake looks like an urban oasis, frequented by wading and diving birds. But it plays an important role in local hydrology, explains Dr. Ed Carlson, President of the Jungle Terrace Civic Association (JTCA). It drains a 470-acre swath of St. Petersburg, catching contaminants that run off streets, parking lots, and lawns. Its waters then flow to Boca Ciega Bay, a half a mile away.

In 2015 and 2018, Carlson adds, the lake was contaminated with wastewater spills from the nearby Northwest Water Reclamation Plant.

There were clear signs that something was fishy – and not in a good way – with the lake. Seven times throughout the past few years, it

had become overgrown with water lettuce, indicating a high nutrient concentration in the water. Worse still, this floating fluorescence could also cause oxygen levels in the lake to drop, endangering other plants and animals that called Jungle Lake home.

The City's attempts to remove water lettuce mechanically were only temporarily effective, and stripped other needed plants from the lake's edges. Controlling the lettuce with pesticides lead to fish kills. There had to be a better way.

■ Introducing "Riverponics"

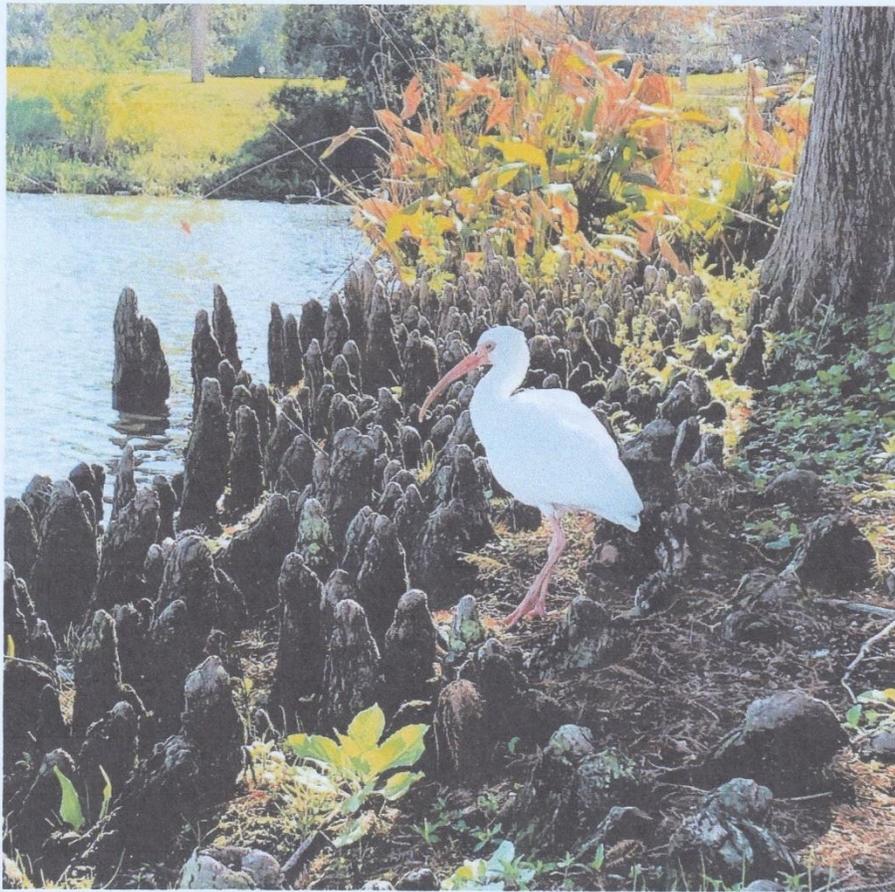
That's where Stewards of Our Urban Lakes (SoUL) came in. The St. Pete-based nonprofit, founded in 2021, focuses on preserving and rejuvenating urban waterways. SoUL President Jim Bays, an experienced environmental scientist, thought he had a remedy for Jungle Lake: floating wetland islands.

Environmental scientists have

known for decades that natural wetlands can improve water quality. Plants remove excess nitrogen, phosphate, and suspended solids (sand, sediment, plankton and other materials that impact water clarity) from runoff. Floating wetlands mimic natural wetlands by providing a surface – usually, a durable, recycled plastic mat – for hundreds of plants whose roots grow directly into the water. These "riverponic" plants absorb harmful nutrients and provide additional wildlife habitat. They can also be installed in spots too deep for typical wetland plants to grow. A 2020 study suggested that one acre of floating wetland can absorb the nutrient pollution generated by as much as 15 acres of urban development

■ Installing an Island

With the additional support of Keep Pinellas Beautiful and Florida Representative Linda Chaney, JTCA launched a three-year plan to re-



AMANDA HAGOOD

JTCA hopes that the floating wetland islands will help create more habitat for local birds such as this white ibis... And more joy for local birdwatchers at Jungle Lake.

installation this fall. The 25-by-25-foot “island” arrived in pieces, at a cost of slightly more than \$8,000. SoUL volunteers unrolled and assembled sections, nestled in 540 plants, and towed the island into the open water in the center of the lake. It was, as Carlson quipped in a recent JCTA newsletter, the perfect Christmas present for Jungle Lake.

An Inspiring View

Beemats – the New Smyrna Beach company that created the floating wetlands – will trim back growth and roots three times a year. This not only prolongs the life of the island, but allows the company to gauge the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and other nutrients it absorbs.

In the following phases of the plan, JCTA hopes to see several more floating wetlands installed. They’ll plan to seek grant funding to do so, says Carlson.

For now, at the heart of one of the largest and most popular parks in St. Petersburg, Jungle Lake sets an intriguing example of how cities can balance urban growth and natural resource management. But that’s not the only reason it’s inspiring.

“I love nature,” says JCTA volunteer Leilani Looker, gazing out over the water. “I love the beauty of this lake.” ♦

store the lake. Throughout summer 2023, volunteers “waded in” to log more than 300 hours of maintenance. They “hand-weeded” water lettuce and replanted key sections of lake’s edge with 600 native Florida plants. They also launched a

“demonstration” floating wetland: a dining table sized collection of plants anchored along the lake’s southernmost channel. By September, it was flourishing.

Building on this initial success, JCTA began raising funds for a larger

KPB Keep Pinellas Beautiful, SoUL, Inc., and Jungle Terrace: “Jungle Lake Day”

15 Individuals for "Day at Jungle Lake" event.

Clearing shoreline adjacent to 4 Plant Plots, and planting 36 Spatterdocks (water lilies) in lake bottom. Taking water samples for Univ. of FL LAKEWatch.





Eager Early Arrivals!



Invasive shore weeds removed from 15 feet into lake, uncover Spatterdocks. Indentation is the actual shoreline. 4 Sites: 772 lbs cleared away. Three truckloads to the Brush Site.



Floating Wetland Island ~ 540 plants growing beautifully!!!

Hundreds Enjoying WF Park!



“St. Pete Bicycle Club” Joint-Adoptee with JTCA Pinellas Trail



**We picked up 175 lbs. of trash (a record for our group).
Our next cleanup is the morning of Sunday, March 10th.**



March 10

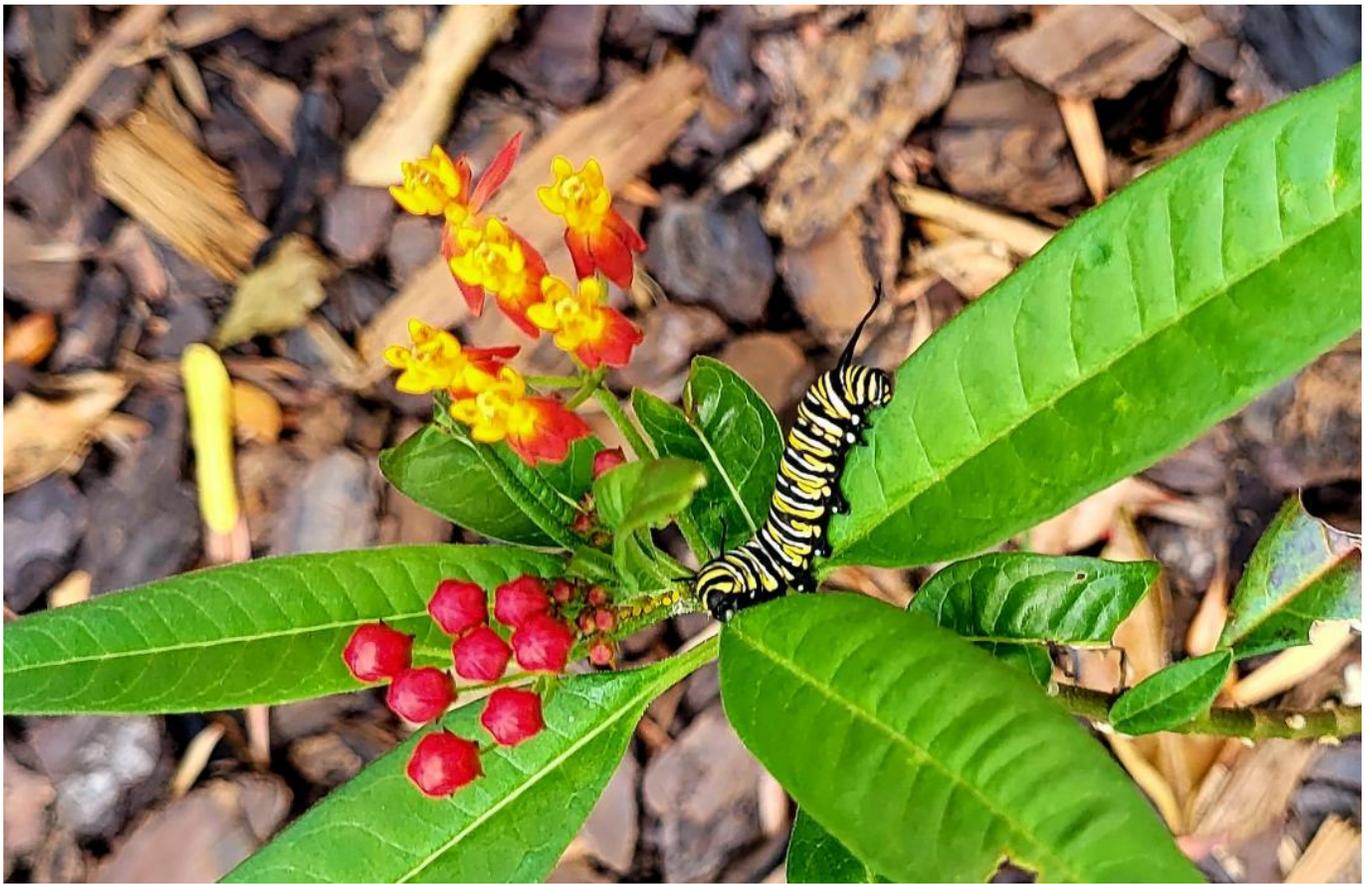


Bottom of Ditch

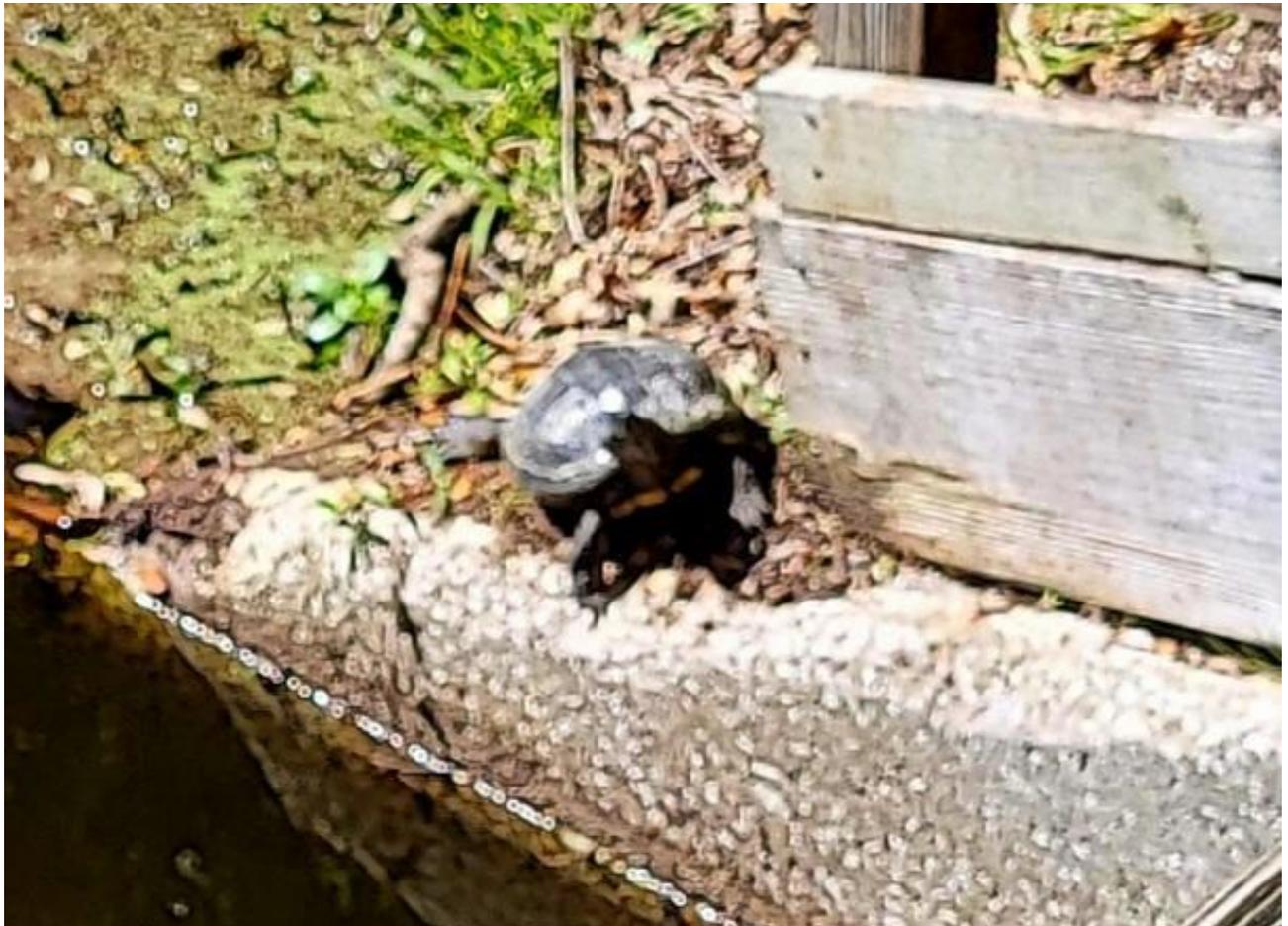




Danny, Tree Climb Specialist, de-brushing my oak. 727-603-9553



Caterpillar on Milkweed . . . Soon to Be Monarch Butterfly



Jungle Lake citizen taking some warm sunshine

Walter Fuller Park Cleanup, Aron Bryce Leads



**“We came together to scour Walter Fuller Park,
picking up 20 pounds of litter and tons of cigarette butts.”
Thank You, Aron and Team!~!**

**Future ~ Jim Bays is scheduling Keep Pinellas Beautiful KPB Again
on Oct. 4 for canoes, and
GoKo Kayaks on June 16, Aug 17, and Sept 21.**

Jungle Lake and WF Park are looking better and healthier!

Jungle Terrace CleanUP of STONEHENGE PARK at Tyrone Overpass



STONEHENGE PARK

Volunteers invested 5 hours and truckload to brush site removing palm branches, boots and debris the commercial contractor crews piled by SW Entrance.

In Memoriam

Dr. Roland Martens

January 23 ~ February 1, 2024

Grand Individual

**Stalwart Member of JTCA and Volunteer
Honorary Life Member of Board of Directors
All HONOR to Roland! And Thank YOU!**



Social Security

National Slam the Scam Day March 7, 2024



On National Slam the Scam Day and throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize Social Security-related scams and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information.

Protect loved ones and your community this Slam the Scam Day by:

- Educating them about government imposter scams. Let them know they shouldn't be embarrassed to report if they shared personal information or suffered a financial loss. It is important to report the scam as quickly as possible.
- Sharing our [Scam Alert](#) fact sheet and helping educate others about how to protect themselves.

Report Social Security-related scams to the Social Security Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

[Report a Scam](#)

Visit www.ssa.gov/scam for more information and follow SSA OIG on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to stay up to date on the latest scam tactics. Repost #SlamtheScam information on social media to keep your friends and family safe.



70 Years Advocating for Jungle Terrace Neighborhood