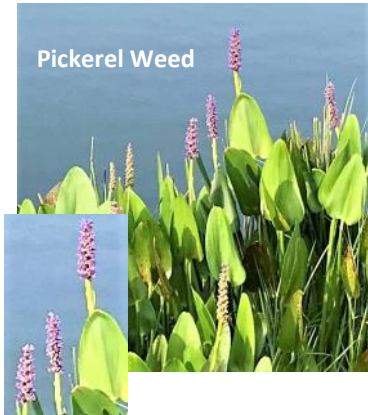


Littoral Shore Plants on Reflection Lake Begin to Flourish

Last fall, the Preserve Committee planted hundreds of “littorals”—i.e., shore plants—along the east bank of Reflection Lake. They selected five flowering species to provide variety and beauty for this area. But littorals also serve a very important role in nature. They help to clean the lake water, as well as provide habitat for the many water species who make their home in Reflection Lake.

Reflection Lake littorals can serve as an example of what these plants look like, and how they spread and grow as we watch them over several seasons. Below are the species that were selected:



Pickerel Weed – *Pontederia cordata lancifolia*
Growing from rhizomes, these heart or lance-shaped leaves are accompanied by showy spike-shaped, multi-blossoming purple flowers on elongated stems. In addition to all of the advantages of littorals, these flowers create seeds that provide food for ducks and small mammals.



Canna

Spider-Lily – *Hymenocallis*
The Spider-Lily has strap-shaped leaves about 12”-24” long and emerge from standing water. The flowering stem typically stands about 12”-14” tall and is forked at the top to often produce two long-petaled white flowers with one opening a day or two before the other. There are 7 species of this genus in Florida.



Florida Spider Lily

Golden Canna – *Canna flaccida Salisb.*
These gorgeous plants can grow to about 4 feet tall, from an underground stem or rhizome. It produces yellow flowers that are very showy and asymmetrical. The wide leaves provide a beautiful cover for shorelines.



Arrowhead

Southern Blue Flag Iris – *Iris virginica L.*
Blue Flag Iris leaves look much like the iris leaves that we see in northern climes. They are linear and sword-like. The flowers are showy blue to purple. The flowers generally have 3 prominent more upright claws, with 3 drooping claws around them.



Blue Flag Iris

Arrowhead – *Sagittaria*
The leaves on these plants resemble Pickerel Weed leaves, though are more pointed—resembling arrowheads, for which they are named. Instead of producing the showy purple flowers of the Pickerel Weed, however, these produce a small delicate white daisy-shaped flower on a very long thin stem. They provide a nice contrast to other littorals.



Debbie Davidson, Clydie Douglass and a Roseate Spoonbill practicing social distancing at Reflection Lake

The Preserve Committee will be providing signs for these species along the shoreline of Reflection Lake, to make it easier for the residents to identify them.