



# Cape Royal Preserve Update

THEY'VE ARRIVED! The *Woods and Wetlands* crew arrived in November to treat the various invasive flora species in our Preserve. They will handle the spraying tasks for the Cape Royal Preserve on a quarterly basis, and our local "Swamp-Rats" will turn their attention to the more aesthetic (and safer) aspects of the Preserve clean-up—picking up debris, weed-whacking dead plants, pruning vines, sawing small trees for removal, etc.

For residents whose back yards are adjacent to the Preserve, thanks for your patience with the crews working to treat and, where possible, beautify your preserve views.



## Cattail Pond Resurrection

The "Cattail Pond" continues to improve. The Swamp-Rats' Lake Crew has regularly been removing the floating clumps of cattail debris—which are in essence floating cattail breeding grounds! Using kayaks, grappling hooks, and good old-fashioned arm muscle, Neil Price, Parker Moore, and Jeff Lucas (with Elaine Chapman-Moore in the kayak), have removed enough debris from the lake to fill at least 300 bags! The Swamp-Rat crew has worked to bag the debris and deliver it to various residents for pick-up. Many thanks to the neighbors who have offered their driveways for yard waste removal.

With support from the HOA Board, the committee has continued to utilize *Woods and Wetlands* to spray the cattails. As part of their recent treatment, they removed most of the larger floating islands of debris—same concept as with the kayak, but a much larger airboat! The company advised the Committee that until the floating seedbeds are removed, we will continue to grow cattails. With this removal, flora and wildlife return to the preserve.



Rosetta Spoonbill, Turtles, Littorals and more return

## Moving Forward...In 2019

The Swamp-Rats plan to continue their tasks to beautify our preserve—a natural resource that attracts wildlife and provides a feeling of serenity in our community. Its mangroves also help to protect us from flooding in the event of a storm surge. If you would like to volunteer with this group, contact Elaine Chapman-Moore at [echapmanmoore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:echapmanmoore@sbcglobal.net).

In 2019, the group plans to work two Thursday mornings per month in the preserve to prune, weed-whack, pick up debris, etc. Current members are Paul Boggs, Elaine Chapman-Moore, Bill Colman, Ellen Darby, Clydie Douglass, Gregg Forsberg, Bekki French, Jay French, Greg Lucas, Jeff Lucas, Marilou Lucas, Phyllis Mills, Parker Moore, Neil Price, Cheryl Veres, and Lin Willett.



### "Hats Off" to Ed

The Swamp-Rats recognized Ed Harrington as the "Original Swamp-Rat" at a recent HOA meeting.