

“IN THE WETLANDS, IT IS ALL ABOUT THE FLOW” Part 2

WE ABANDONED IT. THEY DID GO

By Larry Eichert

The hard work put into the five year wetland restoration project, started in 2010 was producing dividends. Two highly visible examples of this would be the areas on Haven Harbour Way and Stone Harbour Loop. The rainy season began and both of these restored areas produced a bonanza for our local bird populations for two completely different reasons. However in that year, 2012, the restoration funding was cut from the C.D.D. budget. The result is what you currently see in these areas today. The pictures below were taken from approximately the same spot and are dated. They show the changes that have occurred..

The wetland area on Haven Harbour Way is composed mostly of Cypress with a mitigated area on the south side. It contains water year round. In the restoration process a silted channel was reopened. The overgrowth of invasive species plants, plus water lettuce and duck weed, were removed. Once the plant covering was removed, birds could see their food supply better, so they came to dine.



The Stone Harbour Loop wetland is a mixed wetland hardwood with a mitigated section on the north and west side. In the restoration process, started in 2010, the silted drainage area on the west side was cleaned out and the system was allowed to drain. Under normal conditions this type of wetland will go dry prohibiting invasive species plants from taking root. Siltation prohibited this from happening and many opportunistic and invasive plant species took advantage of the water supply. Once the area dried out, the invasive plants were removed. In 2011 primary succession plants were planted and the area started to revert back to normal cyclic activity. In 2012 secondary succession plants were to be planted. This did not happen due to a cutting of funding. The open areas became a haven for invasive and opportunist specie plants to flourish. Since these plants can consume a broad range spectrum of nutrients they crowded out the indigenous plants that had established themselves the previous year. This has negated the work that was started in the five year plan to reestablish a healthy, naturally functioning community (eco-system), thereby actually degrading parts of the system below the original starting point.

