

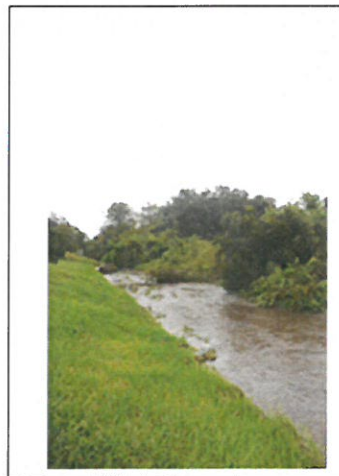
# WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE HURRICANE?

By Larry Eichert 11/17

We can be thankful that we have a good wetland maintenance program. According to the report from the COASTAL WETLANDS and FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM “Well maintained and healthy wetlands reduce the damage by hurricanes up to 16%”. “Wetlands reduce flood losses from storms every year, not just during single catastrophic events”. **“Coastal Wetlands and Flood Damage Reduction”** report. In conjunction with our wetland program, our engineering company has done a good job of maintaining our drainage system. There were only minor problems that related to drainage and storm damage. These have all been handled, including the removal of debris and downed trees plus the filling of potholes. Both of these programs are maintained by our CDD. A special thank you should also be given to our HOA, for providing funding from its reserve funds to remove yard-waste.

There remains one challenge over which we have no control. That is the clearing of our drainage ditches on both our east, west and north sides. The two north south ditches on the Stoneybrook side are maintained by our contractor. However the west side of the west ditch and the east side of the east ditch are not our property. Neither of these sides have been maintained well by our neighbors. They are overgrown and contain dead vegetation which slows down the drainage of water through the ditch. The water was further slowed down as it traveled northward, into our neighboring properties on the north side of Stoneybrook, as it made its way toward the Manatee River. We were fortunate that the bulk of the storm by-passed us toward the east. Had we experienced such an increase in rain there is the possibility we would have had flooding from the two ditches into our community. This would have been particularly true for the four cul-da-sacs on the east side of our community. What actions can be taken to solve this problem is not clear at the present time.

The left side of the picture is the Stoneybrook side of the ditch. The right side belongs to our neighbors. The middle picture shows the day after the hurricane.



## Wetland Workshop Sat. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>

AT 8:30 AM IN THE REC CENTER  
SIGNUP AT THE REC CENTER BULLETIN BOARD