

UORB monthly project status report  
For April Board

### **Emeralda Marsh**

The contractor completed construction related to reconnection of the K cell and a pump station at Emeralda Marsh in mid-December. A work order was issued for installation of the box culvert under Emeralda Island Road. The culvert will reconnect Areas 6 & 7 to Area 2 and thence Lake Giffin. Recent aerial photos from Area 2 show significant expansion of beds of spatterdock, a water lily-like plant that once dominated large areas of Lake Griffin. This is a welcome development and an important habitat to return to the Lake Griffin/Emeralda system.

### **Shad Harvesting in the ORB and Lake Apopka:**

Shad harvesting on Lake Apopka ended for the season on November 30<sup>th</sup> because of low catches and small fish. The fishermen harvested almost 400,000 pounds of gizzard shad. The District began the harvest on Newnans Lake near Gainesville on February 1, 2010. After the first month, they have removed 100,000 lbs of rough fish. Catches have been lower than expected because of cold water temperatures.

### **UORB Lake Level Management**

Lake levels are generally close to the regulation schedule throughout the basin. The Superpond lakes (Harris, Eustis, Dora and Beauclair) have exceeded the regulation schedule for a couple days. Discharges have begun at Burrell and Moss Bluff to lower upstream levels for summer storage according to the regulation schedules. Planning continues on implementation of enhanced lake level fluctuations for the Harris Chain of Lakes and Lake Apopka. Establishment of MFLs for these lakes will be incorporated into the project. Staff anticipates that this major project will require 4 years to complete.