

UORB monthly project status report
For June Board

Emeralda Marsh

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. Construction is planned to start in June, 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 30th 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. By the end of April, they removed 205,000 lbs of rough fish. Catches were lower than expected, but the Leslie Depletion Curve generated from catch data indicates depletion of shad biomass that is catchable with 4-inch nets. FWC and District staff will meet in early June to discuss the Newnans Lake Shad Harvest and future mesh sizes.

Lake Griffin Water Quality

Lake Griffin water quality continues to improve with total phosphorus concentrations at about the TMDL target (31 ppb) for the past year. Chlorophyll concentrations have begun to decrease substantially as well with levels below 10 ppb for the past 3 months. Water clarity has improved substantially with Secchi depth visibility routinely exceeding 1 meter. Native submersed aquatic vegetation is expanding particularly for eelgrass (*Vallisneria*) stands.