

UORB monthly project status report
For October 2010 Board

Emeralda Marsh

All construction planned for this fiscal year has been completed, including a box culvert under Emeraldal Island Road that connects Areas 6 & 7 to Area 2 and thence Lake Giffin. Stabilization of levee banks on the K cell connection near Haynes Creek was completed in September. 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.

UORB Lake Level Management

Lake levels are generally close to the regulation schedule throughout the basin. Discharges have occurred at all the basin structures, including Apopka, Burrell and Moss Bluff to maintain upstream levels 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.

UORB Harris Bayou

The District completed an alum treatment of Harris Bayou to reduce nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to protect Lake Griffin from nutrient releases. The contractor, Teemark from Minnesota applied over 200,000 gallons of alum and 8,000 gallons of sodium aluminate to buffer the alum. All the chemical was applied in two weeks. Initial water chemistry indicates a successful treatment, but monitoring continues.