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STOCKING SAVVY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spicebush Swallowtail in porch garden for Backyard Butterflies!

Stocking Savvy is a habitat restoration company aimed at improving the health of ponds, lakes, mitigations, and even backyards. This newsletter focuses on our work and achievements and includes supporting local businesses, grants, events, and volunteer opportunities. As always if you want to help restore Florida ecosystems, need consulting on environmental topics, plant native plants, volunteer on a habitat restoration project, or fight Red Tide, check us out on:

www.stockingsavvy.com or call 941-500-2218!

COVID-19 Updates, Staying Connected



STOCKING SAVVY NEW HABITAT OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE PADEMIC

We here at Stocking Savvy understand that these are incredibly difficult and dangerous times and first and foremost wish that all our customers, staff, partners, and dedicated environmentalists remain vigilant and stay safe during these times. This includes maintaining social distancing, which has resulted in us canceling many of our projects including our Fogartyville Festival and Earth Day events. We understand that this is difficult and urge as many people as possible to stay home! For more information please go to the CDC.gov website. That said we have switched how we are operating and wanted to update everyone who follows us on our new protocols. We are no longer doing in person consultations for the time being but **offering online and phone consults for \$25 every half hour and focusing on backyard ponds and habitats!** Solitary site visits are also available to limit contact and disease spread. Second we are now offering to help ship fish, plants, and other organisms directly to people's houses for backyard habitat restoration!

We are excited that over 10 backyard habitats have already been delivered everything from drought tolerant butterfly gardens to fish stocking for small home ponds. Everything from native water lilies and submersed plants to aquatic invertebrates and live fish can be shipped to anywhere in the state while any non-aquatic plants are limited to the Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Additionally Stocking Savvy has been working hard expanding our network of vendors and now can stock rare Bowfin Amia and Florida Gar into ponds for reintroduction. We are only will establish rare species into established ponds and our organisms are priced low for restoration and reintroduction and not for home display. If you would like a full list of available species we can ship during these times be they plants or animals please email us at stockingsavvy@gmail.com or call 941-500-2218.

Other updates include that all current Stocking Savvy staff will be fully employed until at least July 1st through the pandemic and preferably much longer as even during this pandemic our dedicated staff remain on hand to help restore the environment and protect Florida wildlife and waters. We are also pleased to announce that through the CCA Environmental Discovery Awards Program that we will be hiring two summer interns to focus extensively on nutrient remediation through Floating Islands and specialized lake planting projects here in Sarasota and Manatee counties. If you are interested in having a discounted consulting and nutrient removal plan by helping with our CCA approved project then please contact us for more information! This will focus on putting bird habitat or butterfly gardens into the middle of lakes improving the beauty and habitat value while reducing nutrient loads. – Sean Patton



One of the baby Bow Fin Amia at Stocking Savvy's home office where we will learn more about behavior, feeding, breeding and general husbandry. Would you like your own native Florida fish in your ponds? We can help at Stocking Savvy and will ship fish to anywhere in Florida along with a wide range of aquatic plants. *Call 941-500-2218!*



FLOATING ISLANDS PROJECT

Stocking Savvy is hiring two new interns through the CCA Environmental Discovery Awards Program specifically to research new methods of making, maintaining, and planting floating islands. Much of this research will be on introducing pollinator or bird habitat through aquatic butterfly gardens.

Floating islands work by plants filtering water flowing under the island removing nutrients and are occasionally harvested of excess growth to permanently remove the nutrients from the system. This process works well in water treatment plants but often fails to start in communities due to the look and maintenance of the islands. This project aims to improve the aesthetic value by adding butterfly flowers and habitat while also keeping maintenance low or even finding ways to make it easier.

If you or your community has a lake or large pond with nutrient issues or already has a floating island in Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough, or Myakka Counties and would like to be part of this research which will include reduced fees and services please contact us at: 941-500-2218 or our email stockingsavvy@gmail.com!



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Invasive Species Spotlight – Melaleuca Tree

Melaleuca Trees were initially brought in to help drain swamps and as a landscape tree but now have so drastically changed hydrology that it encourages flooding and more intense wildfires in Florida. Thankfully several biocontrols have been released for it slowing it's spread but many older trees and occasional juveniles pop up damaging local ecosystems. Want help removing Maleleuca trees or finding native replacements? They are ID'd by their papery bark, white flowers, and simple parallel leaf veins. Go to www.stockingsavvy.com to get a consult today and start fixing your habitat.



New Partners in Habitat Restoration



STOCKING SAVVY GOES COAST TO COAST WITH NEW ORLANDO PROJECTS



Sean Patton Founder of Stocking Savvy with Lee Perry the Orlando CEO of Ideas for Us at the monthly IDEAS HIVE.

Stocking Savvy is excited to be partnering with Agrarian Land and Pond, a wetland restoration company based in Orlando, Florida. Officially licensed in 2010, Agrarian Land and Pond has been devoted to the sustainable management of stormwater in Central Florida for 10 years. Much like Stocking Savvy, they are dedicated to improving the overall water quality and native habitat in Florida's water bodies. They provide environmentally-friendly methods of removal/management of algae and invasive plants, such as 'floating islands' of native plants that cycle the excess nutrients in ponds and provide a source of food/habitat for native wildlife. Agrarian Land and Pond have effectively raised numerous property values by beautifying and restoring lakefront views.

Agrarian Land and Pond's team of trained and certified environmental engineers, biologists, and ecologists originated as students attending the University of Central Florida. Zachary Morimon, the owner of Agrarian Land and Pond, is currently attending UCF as a master's student in their

Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Zach grew up in South Florida and developed a passion for the environment and retaining Florida's natural beauty early on. He is well versed in the native and invasive plants of Florida and intends to inform and involve the public on the common issues Florida's wetlands face today. Zach and his company have been involved with community education and outreach before, with I.D.E.A.S for Us.

I.D.E.A.S for Us is a globally-expanded non-profit focused on environmentally sustainable community-led projects. What started as a student-led organization at the University of Central Florida, I.D.E.A.S for Us aimed to encourage environmentally-focused clubs on campus to collaborate and initiate change. Among these student founders was Zachary, who is now involved in advising I.D.E.A.S for Us on pond-related projects. Much like Zachary, Stocking Savvy will be collaborating with I.D.E.A.S for Us by stocking native fish and plants and serving as an adviser for pond-related projects. Most of these projects are based in Florida, seeing as their flagship branch is located in Orlando, but I.D.E.A.S for Us has branches around the globe. They expand as far as Nepal, DRC, and Rwanda (to name a few); with their branch in Uganda being particularly active.

To fund these projects, I.D.E.A.S for Us has a 'solutions fund', that is a budget for any environmental action. These Solutions Funds are comprised of grants and sponsorships and can reach upwards of \$50,000. A project can vary widely, depending on the grant or sponsor's conditions. However, the goal is always to address at least one of the following environmental issues; food, energy, water, waste, and/or ecology. Examples of projects include climate strikes, tree-planting, and student-led climate panels. Hundreds of these projects have already been completed, and I.D.E.A.S for Us continues to expand and positively impact communities with every project. To get involved, contact your closest branch and ask about ways to organize your community and take sustainable action. – Piper Cole 2020