



Burnt Store Lakes Property Owners Association
Community Information Network



Community Notification #2007-05
(Issued 06/28/2007)

VOLUNTEER SEARCH – BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREE REMOVAL

They seem to be just about everywhere - along roadsides, in stream beds, and out in open fields - trees with dark green leaves, dense intertwining branches, and bright red berries. At first glance they look almost attractive, but in reality they're among the worst pest plants in Florida and have been declared an invasive species by the State. They're Brazilian pepper trees and they're the most aggressive of the non-native plants in our area. Left unchecked, they invade our natural habitats and greatly reduce the quality of beneficial plant life.

Burnt Store Lakes is not immune to the ravages of these troublesome plants. In fact, at one time, Brazilian pepper trees could be found throughout the BSL community. Over the past decade, however, the number of offending trees has been greatly reduced, thanks to the efforts of a several dedicated BSL residents. One resident in particular, Dale Dekraker, has led the fight to rid BSL of Brazilian peppers. According to Dale, there's an end in sight to the problem but several pockets of trees remain.

At this time, Dale is confronting the problem alone. The BSLPOA commends Dale for his tireless work and would like to encourage other POA members to join him in this effort. Dale is "on the job" most Saturday mornings, weather permitting. If you would like a little "fresh air and modest exercise," and have a few hours to spare – even if it's only once a month - please let us know. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

To volunteer your time or for more information contact either the POA Office (639-5881 or bslpoa@sunline.net) or Dale Dekraker (505-2088 or daledek@embarqmail.com)

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