



**Community Notification #2008 – 05  
(Issued 04/09/2008)**

### **VOLUNTEER SEARCH – BRAZILIAN PEPPER TREE REMOVAL TEAM**

The State of Florida designated the Brazilian Pepper tree as a foreign, invasive plant species to be eradicated. In 1996, the Association initiated a project to remove the species as it formed an impenetrable jungle, reducing the quality of beneficial plant life in many locations throughout the community.

Dale DeKraker has led many volunteers on the quest to eradicate pepper trees from the north side of the development along the dividing line of San Ciprian, west of Cape Horn and Bear Branch Creek east of Cape Horn. The strategy is to proceed methodically along sections of lots and greenbelt areas. Instead of creating large piles and the expense of burning, volunteers are cutting the peppers with chain saws and loppers. Small branches are left in the fields where they are cut up by the mowers and leave little visible debris that quickly decays. Larger logs or trunks are stowed under bigger trees where they will decay and not obstruct the mowers. Stumps and roots are sprayed with "Clear Pasture", an approved chemical that kills this tenacious and resilient tree species' roots. This technique, which is time consuming, has worked very well and avoids the cost of hiring a contractor.

It is necessary to once again remove the pepper trees from the island on Ibis Lake; and at this time, Dale DeKraker is confronting the problem alone. The BSLPOA Board of Directors commends Dale for his tireless work and encourages other property owners to join him for a few hours every week. Dale plans to use his canoe to gain access to the island and remove the necessary debris; he is in need especially of assistance to transport the canoe to and from the island. Of course, able bodied assistance with Brazilian Pepper tree removal is appreciated. If you have a few hours to spare – even if it is once per month, contact either the POA office (639-5881 or [bslpoa@sunline.net](mailto:bslpoa@sunline.net)) or Dale DeKraker (505-2088 or [daledek@embarqmail.com](mailto:daledek@embarqmail.com)).

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