Seeing is Believing

Getting Residents of Pelican Cove to buy into realities of adapting to climate change
Pelican Cove
Built from late 70’s to early 80’s
Two story wood frame construction
Heavily wooded and residents love their trees
Pelican Cove is extremely vulnerable to effects of a changing climate

• First Step: Pelican Cove commissioned a study on how to adapt to climate change. Report presented April 2017
  – Improve flow of Clower Creek
  – Manage tree canopy, remove invasives and trees with minimal wind resistance
  – Native plants where possible to reduce water use, end need for supplemental fertilizer
How to Convince Residents to accept changing their current environment

• Four or five presentations on subject
• Round table discussions
• Articles in Monthly Pelican Cove News

• Upshot of our efforts
  – Many residents still very concerned: ‘Native Plant’ Look = Myaka State Park Look
  – All the beautiful trees would be cut down
Plan B: Do some demonstration projects. Let the residents see what it looks like

Bay Front Grass Removal

Bay House Back Yard Renewal
Former Area of Australian Pine Trees – Trees removed courtesy of Hurricane Irma
Where are we now?

• Hundreds of residents walk or drive past these native plant areas every day. They now have a realistic idea of what a native planting is. Most are really OK with the concept.
• The 25 residents who planted the Bay Front are leading the charge for change.
• Hired new Grounds Manager this year. Residents believe in the Adaptation Plan. Wanted new manager to have skills & desire to carry out adaptation plan. He does. To date Pelican Cove has:
  – Discontinued use of supplemental fertilizer.
  – Reduced use of non-organic pesticide. By 2020, no use at all.
  – Major plan to remove/prune Laurel Oaks & invasives.
  – Integrated grounds management plan based on adaptation plan by early 2019
  – Replace bay front St Augustine grass in 2019 (Seashore Paspellum grass)

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