

Shoreline Restoration Update October 2007

When checking the April 2005 experimental planting of young red mangroves at the mouth of the Homosassa River, volunteers found the seedlings well grown and holding their own in the rocky ground of an eroded shoreline. They added some new propagules to the small plantation, hoping to give Mother Nature a hand in re-establishing natural protection to riverbanks. The mangroves will produce stilt-roots that retain soil, protect fish and eventually provide nesting-sites for birds. Healthy stands of mangrove will also slow down incoming storm surges. The experiment is an ongoing project of the Homosassa River Alliance, executed in cooperation with the Crystal River Preserve and with support from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

