

Buttonwood Pond MSBU Update

February and March 2015

Greetings Buttonwood Residents!

Below please find the latest bioassessment report for your lake. Key highlights of this update will include:

- Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV)- treatments conducted to reduce plants off of surface
- Shoreline vegetation observations- impacted torpedo grass observed
- Algae bloom present due to SAV treatments
- Shoreline Demonstration Site- installing beneficial native aquatic plants!
- Water level gauge installed
- Recommendations for you and your lake
- Factsheet attached: Aquatic Plant of the Month- Bladderwort (may or may not exist in your waterbody) (attached at bottom of this update)

On **February 17th and March 17th, 2015**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff (Thomas Calhoun and Gloria Eby) surveyed the aquatic plants in **Buttonwood Pond**.

The MSBU funded herbicide treatment is executed during the 3rd week of each month; weather permitting. Upon monthly inspections, impacts to invasive/exotic plants targeted, such as torpedo grass, continues to be observed. With warmer weather increasing plant growth rates, the native submersed Southern Naiad was treated to reduce this plant off the surface. Treatment has created a surface algae bloom as result from decaying plant material.

Photos: Before (October 29th) on left, after (December 9th) on right.



Photos: February 17th on left March 17th on right.



Photo: Impacted exotic torpedo grass around newly installed gauge.



In working with your liaisons to better enhance the water quality and habitat of your pond, we will be working towards installing a **Shoreline Demonstration Site** where native aquatic plants will be installed as a showcase (demonstration) of what a beneficial shoreline entails as well as testing the zonation of planting given the fluctuating water elevations in your pond (right plant in the right place!). Jim Grodin has volunteered his location and plantings are expected to take place within the next 2 months. We hope to expand the beneficial shoreline with more natives in the Fall once we have a good understanding of the proper planting elevation, the installed lake elevation gauge will assist us in determining this:

February gauge reading: 32.04 ft.

March gauge reading: 31.82 ft.

Recommendations:

1. Work together with other lakefront owners. Have at least one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss lake specific issues, especially lake management recommendations. Seminole County Lake Management staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys to the community.
2. Increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna). Native shoreline plants help absorb nutrients from rainfall/run-off, thereby improving habitat and water quality, and reducing shoreline erosion of sediments/organic matter into the lake. Over time, this process will fill the lake, creating a wetland-type of environment. Planting native species now can assist in slowing this process (formally known as eutrophication). In addition, native plantings can reduce your herbicide costs/needs, thereby providing a savings to you!

3. Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available, i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community to reduce personal pollution by: decreasing overall fertilizer usage, **using only phosphorous free and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers**, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keeping grass clippings out of your lake and the storm drains that lead to the lakes. All of these activities aid in protecting your lake! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for more information regarding the free educational programs available.
4. Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list in order to share this information with others. Valuable information is contained within these reports.

Have a great day!

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Lake Management website: <http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/LakeManagement>

Mosquito Control website: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/pw/mosquito>

[Seminole Education, Restoration & Volunteer \(SERV\) Program](#)



Bladderwort (*Utricularia species*): A Florida Native

14 Species of Bladderwort exist in Florida, all of which are native.

Identification

Bladderworts are annual or perennial plants which lack roots and are free floating. The entire free-floating plant is typically 8 inches tall with yellow, purple, or white flowers that rise above the water's surface. Underwater, the plant has fleshy, inflated stems that are filled with air and allow it to float. The leaves are forked and often have a very fine capillary appearance.

This unique carnivorous plant utilizes small oval "bladders" on its underwater leaves to trap and digest small aquatic organisms. Hairs at the edge of the bladder act as a trigger, causing the trap to spring open and draw in water (and organisms) when contacted.

Wildlife Value

Common bladderwort is used by several insects, waterfowl, and mammals as a food source. The stems also provide shelter and a place for wildlife to lay eggs.

Native submersed aquatic plants provide habitat for several micro- and macroinvertebrate species, which in turn provide a source of food for fish and other aquatic wildlife species including reptiles, amphibians, and waterfowl. Once aquatic plants die, their decomposing parts provide food (referred to as "detritus") for several aquatic invertebrates.

Additionally, native submersed plants play an important role in the aquatic ecosystem by reducing nutrients within the waterbody and by competing with invasive species for space.

Control

Although native, bladderwort may impede recreational access. For questions concerning control of bladderwort or to apply for a free aquatic plant removal permit, please contact your state agency, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, online at: <http://myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants> or by calling 407-858-6170.



Sources:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. (2015). Bladderwort. Retrieved from <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/bladderwort/>

Strick, L. (n.d.). Common Bladderwort. U.S. Forest Service. Retrieved from http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/utrularia_macrochaeta.shtml

Wellendorf, N. (2011, April 27). How to Distinguish the Aquatic Bladderworts [PDF]. Retrieved from <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/bioscience/docs/plants/field-id-utrularia-species.pdf>