

# **Buttonwood Pond MSBU Update**

**June 2015**

Greetings Buttonwood Residents,

Please find the latest bioassessment report for your lake below. Key highlights of this update include:

- Shoreline Demonstration Site- installing beneficial native aquatic plants!
- Water level gauge installed
- Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Native emergent vegetation
- Exotic emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for you and your waterbody

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 several 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.

April gauge reading: 31.3 ft.

May gauge reading: 30.23 ft.

June gauge reading (June 22<sup>nd</sup>): 30.05 ft.

## **Bioassessment**

On **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, SCLMP personnel, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell surveyed the aquatic plants in **Buttonwood Pond**.

**Photo: Buttonwood Pond**



Native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) observed during the inspection included southern naiad. Since the last inspection, the southern naiad has receded greatly.

Native emergent vegetation found during the survey included: slender spikerush, pennywort, pickerelweed, duck potato, and bulrush. Native vegetation was found to be in good health but low quantities.

**Photo: Pickerelweed (native)**



Invasive emergent vegetation included: torpedo grass. The torpedo grass was hit hard with treatment and has died off. Some young torpedo grass returning in patches.

**Photo: Sample restoration site (before clearing)**



In the next few weeks, dead torpedo grass will be hand removed and a small plot of shoreline will be prepared for restoration planting. Planting will occur as soon as September. This sample

site will serve to demonstrate a functional, and aesthetically pleasing, shoreline for Buttonwood Pond.

The water elevation at the time of inspection (June was 30.29) ft above sea level.

**Recommendations for your waterbody:**

- 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 nutrients/lake management recommendations. SCLMP staff will be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys. Continue to increase native aquatic plantings along shorelines (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna).
- 2 Consider increasing street sweeping services during times of peak leaf fall to ensure that this debris does not enter waterways. Leaf debris contains high levels of phosphorous that can negatively impact your lakes.
- 3 Increase educational outreach programs, i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of personal pollution by: decreasing fertilizer usage, using only phosphorous free and slow release nitrogen types of fertilizers, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and by keeping grass clippings out of your lake and the stormdrains that lead to the lake. 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 so that these reports can be shared with everyone. Valuable information is contained within these assessments.

Have a great weekend,  
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