

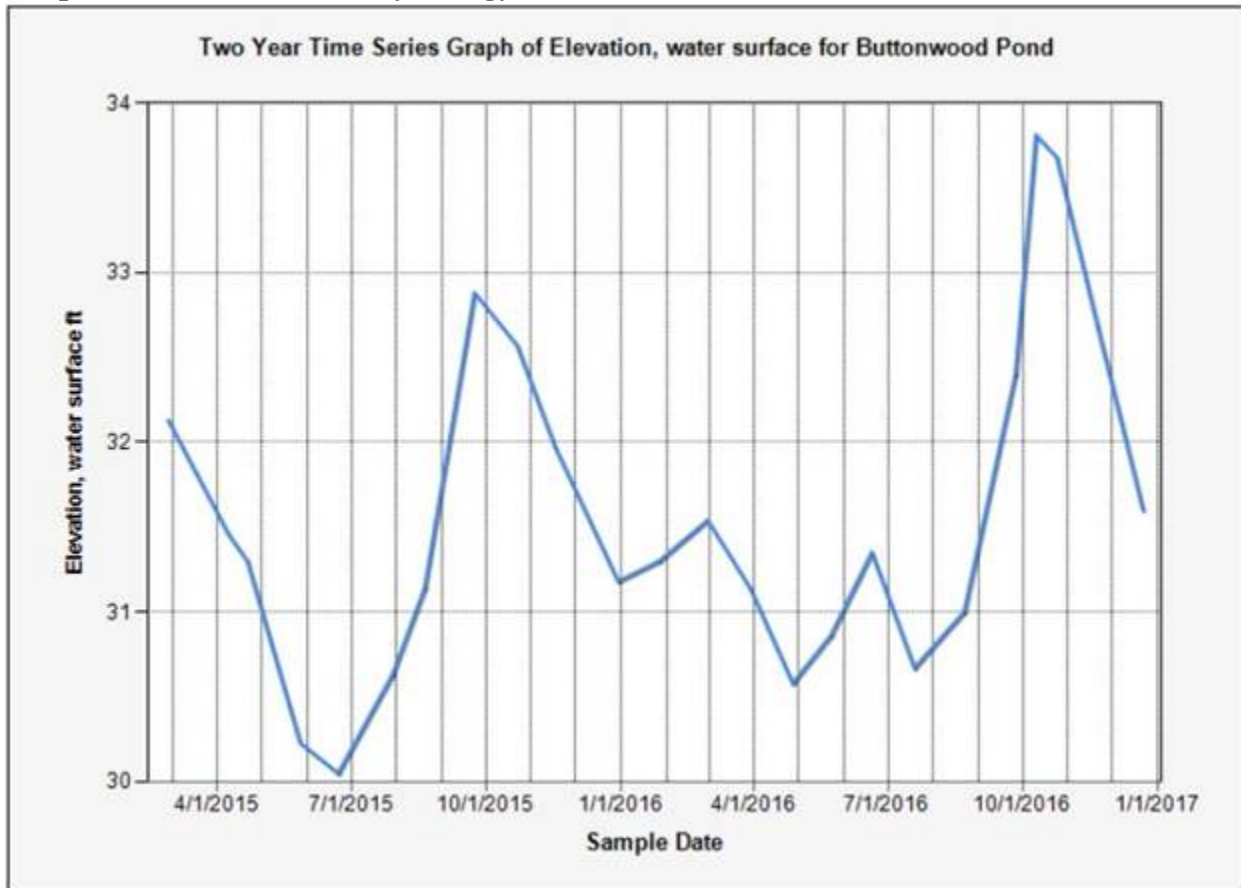
Greetings Buttonwood Pond Residents,

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

- Buttonwood Pond hydrology
- Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Native emergent vegetation
- Exotic emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for you and your waterbody

On **December 7th, 2016**, SCLMP personnel, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Buttonwood Pond**.

Graph: Buttonwood Pond hydrology.



Native emergent vegetation found during the survey included: golden canna, buttonbush, spike rush, pennywort, softrush, hempvine, pickerelweed, duck potato, smooth water hyssop, cordgrass, and fireflag. Fireflag was showing signs of “winter die back” browning leaves and will remain in this state until spring. Smooth water hyssop has expanded along the shoreline in many areas of the pond.

Photo: Example of smooth water hyssop (Native).



smooth water hyssop
Bacopa monnieri
Photo by Vic Ramey
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Photo: Fireflag with leaves browning (Native).



Invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed and torpedogras. Torpedo grass has been reduced since the previous inspection.

The water elevation at the time of inspection was 32.05 feet above sea level.

Lake Recommendations:

- 1- Work together to establish a lake association 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. Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program at (407) 665-2439 with questions or to schedule a meeting.
- 2- Increase native aquatic plantings along the 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. Without management, this erosion and sedimentation will fill the lake over time, 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, such as Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community about reducing 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 stormdrains 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.