

Greetings and Burkett Residents!

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

- Hydrilla observations
- Bladderwort blooming
- Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for you and your lake

3/17/2016

On **March 17th, 2016**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff Joey Cordell and Orange County Environmental Protection Division staff Sophia Pengra surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lakes Martha and Burkett**.

Small sprigs of hydrilla were found by the Trinity boat ramp and the south ends of both Lake Martha and Lake Burkett. At the time of inspection no action is necessary. We will monitor the status of these areas closely.

Photos: Hydrilla (invasive) mixed in with eelgrass (native).

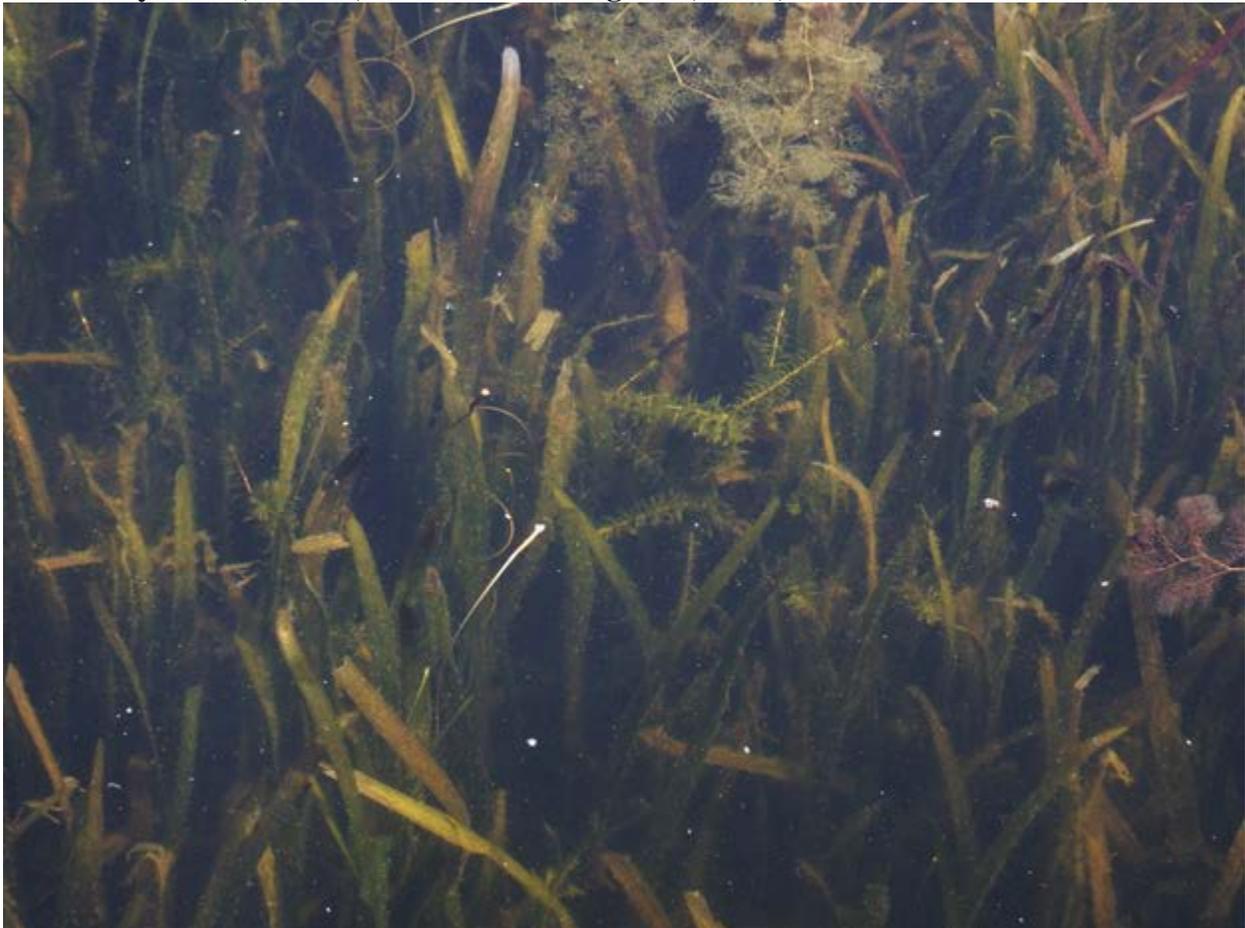


Photo: Hydrilla.



Seven species of native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) were observed during the inspection including: lemon bacopa, smooth water hyssop, roadgrass, milfoil, southern naiad, bladderwort, and eelgrass.

Bladderwort in Lake Martha is currently in bloom. Its yellow flowers can be seen around the entire perimeter of the lake. If bladderwort or other SAV is impeding boat access to the lake you can apply for an aquatic plant control permit from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). To apply for this permit contact Kristine Campbell at (321) 246-0682 or Kristine.Campbell@myfwc.com.

Photo: Bladderwort blooms.



Photo: Bladderwort.



Exotic emergent vegetation observed during the inspection included: wild taro, dwarf papyrus, primrose willow, torpedo grass, salvinia, cuban bur-head sedge, and creeping oxeye.

Native emergent vegetation included: buttonbush, sawgrass, flat sedge, spike-rush, pennywort, hempvine, yellow cow lily, fragrant water lily, banana lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, carolina willow, bulrush, and cattail.

Photo: Sawgrass.



The secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 3.8 feet in a depth of 23.8 feet. No grass carp fish were observed during the inspection. All of this information can be found online at either

3/17/2016

On **March 17th, 2016**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff Thomas Calhoun, Joey Cordell and Orange County Environmental Protection Division staff Sophia Pengra surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lakes Martha and Burkett**.

Small sprigs of hydrilla were found by the Trinity boat ramp and the south ends of both Lake Martha and Lake Burkett in the same amounts as the previous inspection. We will monitor the status of these areas closely.

Photo: Hydrilla sprig.



Seven species of native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) were observed during the inspection including: lemon bacopa, smooth water hyssop, roadgrass, baby's tears, southern naiad, bladderwort, and eelgrass. Eelgrass and bladderwort were both found to a depth of 9 feet and are the dominant species in both lakes.

Photo: The native macro algae stonewort.



Exotic emergent vegetation observed during the inspection included: alligator weed, wild taro, dwarf papyrus, primrose willow, torpedo grass, salvinia, cuban bur-head sedge, and creeping oxeye.

Photo: Example of the exotic invasive torpedo grass.



Torpedograss
Panicum repens
Photo by Ann Murray
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Native emergent vegetation included: buttonbush, sawgrass, flat sedge, spike rush, pennywort, hempvine, yellow cow lily, fragrant water lily, banana lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, carolina willow, bulrush, and cattail.

The secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 4.1 feet in a depth of 10.0 feet. Two grass carp fish were observed during the inspection. All of this information can be found online at either

County's Water Atlas website:

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/waterquality.asp?wbodyid=7521&wbodyatlas=lake>

<http://www.orange.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/?wbodyatlas=lake&wbodyid=7521>

Lake 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 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. Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available to you: Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community to promote the reduction of personal pollution; encourage residents to decrease their overall fertilizer usage, **use only phosphorous-free and slow-release nitrogen fertilizers**, keep a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keep grass clippings out of your lake and the storm drains 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.