

Greetings Lake of the Woods residents!

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

- Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance update
- Hydrilla update
- Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for you and your lake

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners approved a NEW Fertilizer Ordinance, effective February 28, 2017, that regulates fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous and provides specific management guidelines for fertilizer application in order to minimize negative impacts to our natural waterbodies. Enforcement of the Fertilizer Ordinance will not begin until October 1, 2017. They key highlights of the Fertilizer Ordinance are:

- Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous cannot be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1st – September 30th. Fertilizer containing Iron, Manganese and other “micronutrients” also referred to as “summer blends” can be applied during the restricted season to keep lawns healthy and green (as recommended by the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods/Florida Friendly Landscape Program).
- Fertilizer containing nitrogen that is used during the **non**-restricted season (October 1st – May 31st) must contain *at least* 50% or more slow release nitrogen. This slow release nitrogen content requirement will increase to 65%, three (3) years after adoption (March 1, 2020).
- Fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be applied to turf or plants unless a state certified soil or tissue test verifies that there is a phosphorus deficiency. For more information about soil & tissue testing, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office at 407-665-5560.
- Deflector shields are required when applying fertilizer if you are using a broadcast or rotary spreader.
- No fertilizer may be applied within 15 feet of any pond, lake, stream, canal, or other waterbody, including wetlands.
- No grass clippings or other landscape debris should be washed, swept or blown into stormwater drains, ditches, canals, lakes, sidewalks or roadways. Grass clippings can be blown back onto lawns or collected for proper disposal.

The overall goal of this ordinance is to minimize excess fertilizer runoff and protect the County’s natural water resources. If you would like someone to speak at your Homeowners Association meeting or you would like to attend one of our Fertilizer Workshops, please call 407-665-5575 or visit www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer.

Bioassessment:

6/6/2017

On **June 6th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management staff, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake of the Woods**.

Hydrilla was found at the west boat ramp.

Native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) found during the inspection included coontail to a depth of 11 ft., southern naiad to 5 ft., bladderwort to 5 ft., and eelgrass to 8 ft. Eelgrass continues to be the dominant species. Southern naiad was noted to be expanding around the lake and was seen mixed in with eelgrass.

Photo: Example of southern naiad (native).



Photo: Eelgrass and southern naiad mixed together (native).



Native emergent vegetation observed during the survey included: golden canna, buttonbush, hempvine, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, maidencane, pickerelweed, duck potato, Carolina willow, bulrush, fire flag, cattail, and blue-flag iris.

Photo: Tall stand of fire flag (native).



Observed invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, wild taro, umbrella grass, primrose willow, torpedograss, salvinia, Chinese tallow, Brazilian pepper tree, creeping oxeye, and papyrus.

Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was 5.7 ft. in a depth of 14.3 ft. The lake gauge level was 75.00 ft. above sea level. Two triploid (sterile) grass carp fish were observed.

7/5/2017

On **July 5th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management staff, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake of the Woods**.

Hydrilla was found at the west boat ramp and sparsely around the lake to a depth of 11 ft.

Native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) found during the inspection included coontail to a depth of 11 ft., southern naiad to 4 ft., bladderwort to 4 ft., and eelgrass to 9 ft. Eelgrass continued to be the dominant species.

Photo: Coontail (native).



Native emergent vegetation observed during the survey included: water hemlock, golden canna, buttonbush, hempvine, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, maidencane, pickerelweed, duck potato, Carolina willow, bulrush, fire flag, cattail, and blue-flag iris.

Photo: Golden canna (native).



Observed invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, wild taro, umbrella grass, primrose willow, torpedograss, salvinia, Chinese tallow, Brazilian pepper tree, creeping oxeye, and papyrus.

Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was 7.4 ft. in a depth of 13.8 ft. The lake gauge level was 74.85 ft. above sea level. One triploid (sterile) grass carp fish was observed.

Recommendations for you and your waterbody:

- 1 Work together with other lakefront owners. Have *at least* one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as Seminole County or state biologists) and discuss lake-specific issues, especially nutrient/lake management recommendations. SCLMP staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys. Also continue to increase native aquatic plantings along the shoreline (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 your waterways. Leaf debris contains phosphorous that can negatively impact your waterbody.

3 Take advantage of free educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and presentations on decreasing “pointless personal pollution” by reducing fertilizer use and only using phosphorous-free fertilizers. New Fertilizer Ordinance presentations can now also be scheduled! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 to inquire about the availability of these programs. You can also visit the Water Atlas (<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/>) to read interesting information about your specific waterway, and our website (http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/pw/roadstorm/wq_lakemgt.aspx) to watch educational videos and download lake management pamphlets.

4 Share what YOU know with your neighbors! Encourage fellow residents to keep a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and to keep grass clippings out of the stormdrains that lead to the lake. All of these activities aid in protecting your waterbody! Please share this newsletter with any new residents or those not currently on our email list. These assessments contain valuable information.