

Greetings Spring Lake Residents!

Please find the latest bioassessment of your lake below. The next scheduled inspection of your lake will be **August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**; weather permitting. Key highlights of this update include:

- Fertilizer ordinance
- Alum treatment
- Hydrilla
- Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Native shoreline vegetation
- Invasive 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. The key highlights of the Fertilizer Ordinance are:

- Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous cannot be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 Florida Yards Neighborhood/Florida Friendly Landscape Program).
- Fertilizer containing nitrogen that is used during the **non**-restricted season (October 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>) must contain *at least* 50% or more slow release nitrogen. This slow release nitrogen content 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.
- Use of 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 lawn 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 Workshop, please call 407-665-5575 or visit [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer).

### **Alum Treatment**

The second dose of Alum will be applied when the alkalinity level reaches a desirable level. The alkalinity has been increasing over the past weeks with the heavy rains but has yet to reach appropriate levels.

On **July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management staff, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Spring Lake**.

No hydrilla was observed during the inspection.

Eelgrass was the only species of submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) observed during the inspection. This shows a decrease in diversity from the previous inspection in which three species of SAV were observed. Eelgrass was found to a maximum depth of 4 ft. The eelgrass coverage was consistent with last month's coverage, an amount less than the spring time coverage.

Native shoreline vegetation is very low on Spring Lake. Vegetation found during the inspection included: golden canna, flat sedge, pennywort, hempvine, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, carolina willow, bulrush, fire flag, and cattail.

**Photo: Pickerelweed (native) and duck potato (native).**



Invasive emergent vegetation found during the inspection included: alligator weed, wild taro, umbrella grass, barnyard grass, primrose willow, torpedograss, brazilian pepper tree, and creeping oxeye. Torpedograss and alligator weed have both expanded.

The grass carp barrier was inspected and found to be clogged with debris. A work order was submitted to clear the debris from the barrier.

**Photo: Debris in carp barrier.**



The water elevation during the time of the inspection was 64.02 feet above sea level. The secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 3.3 feet in a total depth of 10.6 feet. This was a decrease of clarity from the previous reading of 2.2 feet in a total depth of 9.2 feet. No triploid (sterile) grass carp fish were observed during this inspection.

### **Recommendations for your lake:**

- 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 would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys. 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 lakes.
- 3) Increase outreach programs, i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL), Lake Management Video mail outs, and reduction of personal pollution by: decreasing fertilizer usage and following the “New” Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance guidelines ([www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer)), by using only phosphorous free fertilizer, at least 50% or more slow release nitrogen, no nitrogen or phosphorous during June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, and utilizing no fertilizer within 15 feet of any waterbody, including wetlands. Also, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants along with keeping grass clippings out the stormdrains and your lake will help aid in protecting your lake. Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program at 407-665-2439 for more information about 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.