

Greetings Spring Wood Lake and Springwood Waterway residents,

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

- Fertilizer ordinance
- Hydrilla update
- Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Invasive shoreline emergent vegetation
- Native shoreline 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 the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods/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 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](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer).

**6-6-2017**

**Spring Wood Lake**

On **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell surveyed the aquatic plants of **Spring Wood Lake**.

Hydrilla was not observed during the inspection.

Two species of native SAV were found during the inspection. These species were lemon bacopa and southern naiad to a depth of 8 ft. The southern naiad that was topping out on the west side of the lake was recently targeted by an MSBU funded herbicide treatment. This treatment was very successful. The southern naiad was reduced and is no longer a boating nuisance. Nutrient release from the dying vegetation had contributed to the lowered visibility.

Invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, umbrella grass, primrose willow, torpedograss, and creeping oxeye. Some invasive species, such as alligator weed and torpedograss, had expanded since the previous inspection but have begun to die from a recent MSBU funded herbicide application.

**Photo: Invasive vegetation turning brown after being treated.**



Native emergent vegetation included: flat sedge, pennywort, sofrush, hempvine, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, maidencane, pickerelweed, duck potato, bulrush, and cattail.

**Photo: Fire flag (native), pickerelweed (native), and spatterdock (native).**



The water elevation during the time of the inspection was 85.44 feet above sea level. The Secchi disc reading (a measurement for water clarity) was 2.2 feet in a depth of 9.5 feet. This was a decrease from the previous inspection reading of 9.7 feet in a depth of 10.7 ft. No grass carp fish were observed during the inspection.

## **Springwood Waterway**

On **June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants of **Springwood Waterway**.

At the time of inspection the water level was very low.

No hydrilla was observed during the inspection.

Native SAV found included: lemon bacopa, roadgrass, stonewort, and bladderwort. SAV coverage had decreased throughout the entire waterway, but the presence of roadgrass had increased slightly. The waterway was open and navigable.

**Photo: Roadgrass (native).**



Native emergent vegetation found during the inspection included: bur-marigold, spotted water-hemlock, flat sedge, rush fuirena, pennywort, sofrush, hempvine, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, bulrush, blue flag iris, and climbing aster. The shoreline vegetation was very healthy and robust. Many young fire flag plants were sprouting.

**Photo: Healthy native shoreline plants.**



Invasive emergent vegetation included: umbrella grass, primrose willow, torpedoglass, Brazilian pepper tree, and creeping oxeye. Torpedoglass had expanded.

The grass carp barriers were inspected and found to be in good condition.

Three grass carp were observed during the inspection.

7-5-2017

### Spring Wood Lake

On **July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell surveyed the aquatic plants of **Spring Wood Lake**.

Hydrilla was not observed during the inspection.

Two species of native SAV were found during the inspection. These species were lemon bacopa and southern naiad. The southern naiad population is still low.

Invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, primrose willow, torpedograss, creeping oxeye, and barnyard grass. Torpedograss had expanded. Barnyard grass had grown along the East shoreline by the apartments.

**Photo: Primrose willow (invasive) and torpedograss (invasive).**



Native emergent vegetation included: sawgrass, spikerush, pennywort, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, fire flag, and cattail. The spatterdock lilies expanded into deeper

water. The spikerush and sawgrass that was planted during the last shoreline restoration had begun to expand.

**Photo: Spikerush (center left) and sawgrass (center right).**



**Photo: Duck on a treated lily pad tuber.**



The water elevation during the time of the inspection was 87.58 ft above sea level. This was a dramatic increase from June 6<sup>th</sup>'s elevation of 85.44 ft above sea level. The Secchi disc reading (a measurement for water clarity) was 4.7 ft in a depth of 12.0 ft. This was an increase from the previous inspection's reading of 2.2 ft in a depth of 9.5 ft. No grass carp fish were observed during the inspection.

## **Springwood Waterway**

On **July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants of **Springwood Waterway**.

At the time of inspection the water level was high.

No hydrilla was observed during the inspection.

Native SAV observed included: lemon bacopa and roadgrass. Both of these plant populations were low.

Invasive emergent vegetation included: wild taro, umbrella grass, primrose willow, torpedograss, and creeping oxeye. The torpedograss had continued to expand.

Native emergent vegetation found during the inspection included: bur-marigold, golden canna, flat sedge, rush fuirena, hempvine, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, bulrush, fire flag, and blue flag iris. The native plants were very healthy.

**Photo: Fire flag (native).**



The grass carp barriers were inspected and found to be in good condition and flowing.

**Photo: The same grass carp barrier during June's inspection (left) and July's inspection (right).**



No grass carp were observed during the inspection.

**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](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.