

**SPRINGWOOD WATERWAY**  
**DECEMBER 2014 & MARCH 2015 - LAKE BIOASSESSMENT**

Greetings Spring Wood Lake and Springwood Waterway residents,

Please find the latest bioassessment report for your lake below. The next scheduled inspection of your lake will be **May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, weather permitting. Key highlights of this update include:

- Hydrilla update
- Status of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Status of shoreline emergent vegetation
- Exotic apple snail eggs found in Springwood Waterway
- Lemon Bacopa in Springwood Waterway (**FACT SHEET ATTACHED AT END**)
- Recommendations for you and your lake

On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff (Thomas Calhoun, Marie Lackey and Sophia Pengra) surveyed the aquatic plants of **Springwood Waterway**.

One sprig of hydrilla was in the waterway during the inspection. We will continue to monitor to see if any treatment will be necessary.

Native SAV, lemon bacopa, continues to expand along the majority of the banks within the waterway and is reaching the surface in many areas. Native SAV found included: roadgrass, stonewort, southern naiad, and 2 types of bladderwort. Southern naiad is covering the back half of the canal creating competition for space with hydrilla. The water elevation was noted as high. Harvesting is not necessary at this time as access was open and navigable.

**Photo: Lemon bacopa in canal.**



**Photo: Close up of southern naiad.**



Native emergent vegetation continues to be found in good condition, and expanding. Less torpedo grass was found than in the previous months.

**Photo: Pickerelweed expanding along the shoreline.**



On **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff, Thomas Calhoun and Beth Stephens, surveyed the aquatic plants of **Springwood Waterway**.

No hydrilla was in the waterway during the inspection. We will continue to monitor to see if any treatment will be necessary.

Lemon bacopa, a beneficial native plant, continues to expand along the majority of the banks within the waterway and is reaching the surface in many area of the canal. Homeowners are encouraged to remove lemon bacopa if blocking their access to the canal. Native SAV found included: lemon bacopa, roadgrass, stonewort, southern naiad, and 2 types of bladderwort. The water elevation was observed as high. Mechanical harvesting is not necessary at this time.

**Photo: Close up lemon bacopa.**



Native emergent vegetation continues to be found in good condition, and expanding. Less torpedo grass was found than in the previous months.

**Photo: Pickerelweed expanding along the shoreline.**



An increasing amount of exotic apple snail eggs are being found within the waterway. It is recommended that the eggs are crushed and allowed to fall in the water.

**Photo: Close up of exotic apple snail eggs.**



**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 Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available, i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community to reduce 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 storm drains 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 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!

Have a great day!

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Lake Management website: <http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/LakeManagement>

Mosquito Control website: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/pw/mosquito>

[Seminole Education, Restoration & Volunteer \(SERV\) Program](#)



## Lemon Bacopa (*Bacopa caroliniana*): A Florida Native

*Lemon bacopa* is one of at least 3 species of *Bacopa* native to the State of Florida.

### Identification

Lemon bacopa, also known as blue waterhyssop, is a perennial plant found in both fresh and brackish waters. Lemon bacopa rarely exceeds a height of 0.5 feet above the surface of the water and tends to go dormant in the winter. It has small, round, moderately thick and succulent leaves that grow opposite of each other at the same points along a hairy upper stem. The plant can be distinguished by its small blue flowers and the familiar scent of its crushed leaves, which is described as lemony.



### Wildlife Value

Lemon bacopa serves as a host plant for the white peacock butterfly, providing a place for the butterfly to lay eggs and a food source for its larva. The underwater stems also provide shelter and a place for aquatic species to lay eggs.

Native aquatic plants provide habitat for several micro- and macroinvertebrate species, which in turn provide a source of food for fish and other aquatic wildlife species including reptiles, amphibians, and waterfowl. Once aquatic plants die, their decomposing parts provide food (referred to as "detritus") for several aquatic invertebrates.

Additionally, native plants play an important role in the aquatic ecosystem by reducing nutrients within the waterbody and by competing with invasive species for space.



### Control

Although native, lemon bacopa may impede recreational access. For questions concerning control of lemon bacopa or to apply for a free aquatic plant removal permit, please contact your state agency, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, online at: <http://myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants> or by calling 407-858-6170.



#### Sources:

FNPS. (2013). *Bacopa caroliniana*. Retrieved from <http://www.fnps.org/plants/plant/bacopa-caroliniana>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. (2015). *Bladderwort*. Retrieved from <http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/alphabetical-index/bladderwort/>

UF/IFAS. (2014). *Lemon bacopa*. Retrieved from <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/60>