Greetings Sweetwater Residents,

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

- Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance
- Lyngbya status
- Lack of submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Native emergent vegetation
- Exotic emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for you and your waterbody

Seminole County recently passed a Fertilizer Ordinance in an effort to reduce nutrient loading of waterbodies like Sweetwater Cove's lakes. The new ordinance places restrictions on the type of fertilizers used, time of fertilization, and placement of fertilizers. For more information about Seminole County's Fertilizer Ordinance please visit Seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer

Bioassessment

4/10/2017

On **April 10th, 2017**, SCLMP personnel, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Sweetwater Cove.**

Lyngbya, an invasive blue-green algae, was present in all 3 of Sweetwater Cove's lakes. The abundance of lyngbya was low. Algae was thickest in the East and West lobes of Lower Cove. These are the most stagnant areas in the system.

Photo: West lobe of Lower Cove.

No submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) was found during the inspection.

Native emergent vegetation included: golden canna, pennywort, soft rush, pickerelweed, duck potato, spatterdock, fire flag, and false lily. These native species were very healthy and continuing to grow. Pennywort had expanded the most. Middle Cove had an excess of lily pads that will be treated by the MSBU funded herbicide contractor.

Photo: Pennywort (native).

Invasive exotic vegetation included: alligator weed, wild taro, torpedograss, and salvinia. Salvinia had increased in Upper Cove. This area also had an island of invasive vegetation that will be treated by the MSBU funded herbicide contractor.

Photo: Torpedograss (invasive).

5/6/2017

On **May 6th, 2017,** Sweetwater Lakes held its 7th lake restoration event. Together 51 volunteers, Sweetwater residents and Seminole County staff planted 6,500 native shoreline plants (2,600 duck potato, 2,600 pickerelweed, 650 canna, 325 soft rush, 325 fire flag). Volunteers from the following groups joined residents and County staff: Boy Scout Troop 787, Hagerty High School SNHS, Lake Brantley High School SNHS, Lake Brantley High School Key Club, Lake Mary High School, Rock Lake Middle School, Trinity Prep, Troy Services, Walter P. Moore, and Winter Park Ecology Club.

Photo: Volunteers working to plant the shoreline in the Lower Lake.

6/5/2017

On **June 5th, 2017**, SCLMP personnel, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Sweetwater Cove.**

Lyngbya was present in all 3 of Sweetwater Cove's lakes. The east and west coves of the Lower Lake showed an increase of the algae. Recent rains should help break the algae up and send it down stream. The Seminole County herbicide contractor will continue to treat lyngbya bi-monthly.

Photo: Thick lyngbya mat found in the east lobe of Lower Cove.

No submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) was found during the inspection.

Native emergent vegetation included: golden canna, pennywort, soft rush, pickerelweed, duck potato, spatterdock, fire flag, flat sedge, spike rush, bulrush and false lily. Native vegetation had expanded well along many shorelines.

Photo: Restored shoreline Middle Lake.

Invasive exotic vegetation included: alligator weed, wild taro, torpedograss, and salvinia. The Upper Lake had an island of invasive vegetation that will be treated by the MSBU funded herbicide contractor.

Photo: Upper Lake.

Photo: Lower Lake.

Recommendations for your waterbody:

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 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 Country Fertilizer Ordinance guidelines (www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer), by using only phosphorous free fertilizer, at least 50% or more slow release nitrogen, no nitrogen or phosphorous during June 1st – September 30th, 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.