

Greetings Lake of the Woods residents!

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

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

Bioassessment:

On **December 5th, 2016**, Seminole County Lake Management staff, Thomas Calhoun, Joey Cordell, and Beth Beals, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake of the Woods**.

Hydrilla was found at several locations around Lake of the Woods including: the Spartan Dr outfall, the Summerwood Trail boat ramp, and the south boat ramp. The hydrilla was sparse in these locations. 2 ft. was the maximum depth that hydrilla was found.

Native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) found during the inspection included coontail and eelgrass to 8 ft. Eelgrass was the dominant species of SAV.

Photo: Eelgrass (native) and pickerelweed (native).



Native emergent vegetation observed during the survey included: bur-marigold, pennywort, duck weed, hempvine, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, torpedograss, water paspalum, pickerelweed, duck potato, carolina willow, bulrush, fire flag, cattail, climbing aster, and golden rod. Several of the native species of vegetation have begun to die back, as they do every year when temperatures drop and light hours shorten.

Photo: Treated topedogross (invasive) in a stand of pickerelweed (native) and duck potato (native).



Invasive emergent vegetation observed included: alligator weed, para grass, exotic canna, wild taro, umbrella sedge, primrose willow, torpedogross, salvinia, chinese tallow, brazilian pepper tree, cuban bur-head sedge, creeping oxeye, papyrus, and morning glory.

The canal was clear and open with the exception of a small stand of bur-head sedge.

Photo: Bur-head sedge in canal.



Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was 6.3 ft in a depth of 12.9 ft. The lake gauge level was 74.78 ft above sea level. One triploid (sterile) grass carp fish was observed.

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 would be glad to present findings from this and other surveys. Continue to increase native aquatic plantings along the shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna).
2. 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.

3. Control of aquatic and wetland plants could require a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) aquatic plant control permit (such as eelgrass). Contact Kristine Campbell at Kristine.Campbell@MyFWC.com or 407-858-6170 for permit and recommendations.