

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

For Lakes Managed by Seminole County with MSBU Funding

December
2017

Seminole County Lake Management Program

Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance

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 are:



- Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous **cannot** be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1st – September 30th. 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 1st – May 31st) 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.

Goal:

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.

Restoration Fun!

Seminole County Watershed Management & the SERV Program invite you to be part of a shoreline restoration event! Consider volunteering your shoreline for restoration, supporting volunteers, or helping to plant! Contact Thomas Calhoun (tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov, 407-665-2459) if interested.





Bladderwort (*Utricularia species*): A Florida Native

14 Species of Bladderwort exist in Florida, all of which are native.

Identification

Bladderworts are annual or perennial plants which lack roots and are free floating. The entire free-floating plant is typically 8 inches tall with yellow, purple, or white flowers that rise above the water's surface. Underwater, the plant has fleshy, inflated stems that are filled with air and allow it to float. The leaves are forked and often have a very fine capillary appearance.

This unique carnivorous plant utilizes small oval "bladders" on its underwater leaves to trap and digest small aquatic organisms. Hairs at the edge of the bladder act as a trigger, causing the trap to spring open and draw in water (and organisms) when contacted.

Wildlife Value

Common bladderwort is used by several insects, waterfowl, and mammals as a food source. The stems also provide shelter and a place for wildlife to lay eggs.

Native submersed 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 submersed 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, bladderwort may impede recreational access. For questions concerning control of bladderwort 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.



Bioinspection Notes



Lake Amory

Ongoing treatments for invasive emergent vegetation have resulted in the reduction of alligator weed and torpedo grass. The submersed aquatic species bladderwort has increased throughout the lake. Access canals have been open and navigable throughout the lake. A small planktonic algae bloom was present in November.



Lake Burkett

An algae bloom was observed on the north and east sides of the lake. Hydrilla was observed under a dock on the north side of Lake Burkett. This patch of hydrilla is scheduled for herbicide application.



Grace Lake

Monthly emergent treatments by the Seminole County aquatic herbicide contractor began in December. The hydrilla treatment will be administered in the winter when water levels resume to normal.

Annual Lake MSBU Meetings dates are in the works! We look forward to meeting with the Liaisons of your lake in February 2018 to go over the budget and lake management activities for the upcoming new year!



Lake Asher

Harvesting of invasive species by mechanical removal from the lake was completed. Monthly emergent treatments by the Seminole County aquatic herbicide contractor began in December.



Buttonwood Pond

A SERV volunteer planting event was held on October 28th. The plantings are having trouble establishing with the high fluctuations in water level. The high water from Hurricane Irma has been receding. A large salvinia bloom covered the pond in October but since has been reduced.



Horseshoe Lake

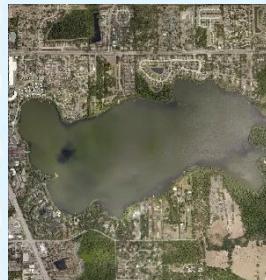
On November 4th Over 2,500 native plants were planted with the help of homeowners and volunteers. Hydrilla was not observed inside the lake. A small patch of hydrilla was treated in the canal in via SeaPro warranty. Lily pads have rebounded from the hydrilla treatment. Water hyacinth and alligator weed were the main targets during recent treatments.

Bioinspection Notes



Howell Creek

The City of Winter Park completed the hydrilla treatment of Lake Waumpi. Hydrilla in Howell Creek was impacted; however, the creek will need subsequent treatments.



Lake Howell

Hydrilla increased slightly and was found sporadically around the lake. No treatments are necessary at this time. Native emergent vegetation planted during this year's restoration event have established and are doing well.



Lake Mills

Baby's tears have continued to expand lake-wide. Hydrilla was found scattered around the lake in clusters. Repairs to the storm damaged carp barriers located in Lake Mills Park are going out to bid for vendor selection. Following the repairs, a request will be submitted to add sterile grass carp fish to the lake.



Mirror Lake

The diversity of submersed aquatic vegetation was very good in Mirror Lake. Bladderwort was the dominant plant and has not been causing any navigational issues. The lily pad corridors have remained open. A patch of American lotus appeared in the middle of the lake.



Myrtle Lake

Treatments focused on the "trouble areas" have been successful. Herbicide treatments will continue to push further into these areas as long as the water elevation remains high. Lily pads have expanded in the eastern portion of the lake and will be targeted in future treatments. A large planktonic algae bloom was present.



English Estates Pond

Harvesting of invasive species by mechanical removal from the lake was completed. Monthly emergent treatments by the Seminole County aquatic herbicide contractor began in December.

Bioinspection Notes



Lake Pickett

Hydrilla was increasing around the perimeter of Lake Pickett. Water hyacinth was found at the southwest creek inflow from Lake Drawdy. Maidencane was exhibiting signs of winter impact. Seminole and Orange County staff will meet to discuss treatment options.



Spring Lake

A second alum treatment is currently planned. Because of the lake's low alkalinity, applications will be of a lower dosage and more frequent; this will minimize pH fluctuation. Native vegetation is increasing on the south shore. Repairs to the storm damaged carp barrier are going out to bid for vendor selection. Following the repairs, a request will be submitted to add sterile grass carp fish to the lake.



Spring Wood Lake

Hydrilla was observed along the western perimeter and in a patch on the east side of the lake. A treatment is planned for these areas. Southern naiad has been rebounding. Torpedo grass has expanded from the gap in treatment due to Hurricane Irma. Native plants were healthy, but pickerelweed and fire flag were beginning to display winter die-back.



Sweetwater Lakes

The salvinia bloom has cleared up. Lyngbya has decreased in areas that receive flow. The lobes of lower cove still had a moderate presence of lyngbya. Hydrilla was observed in the upper cove. Hydrilla is not on the scope of services for the Sweetwater MSBU but Seminole County Lake Management Program has been advising the HOA/Utilities Inc. and treatment was swiftly executed



Springwood Waterway

The canal was open and navigable as only a low layer of submersed aquatic vegetation was present. Hydrilla was present in the lower half of the waterway. A treatment for the hydrilla found is planned. There was an increase in roadgrass and stonewort (both native species).



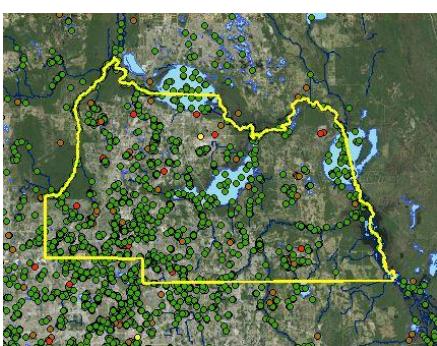
Lake of the Woods

The submersed aquatic species coontail has continued to increase throughout the lake and was observed to a maximum depth of 11ft. A large planktonic algae bloom was observed in December. Repairs to the storm damaged carp barrier are going out to bid for vendor selection. Following the repairs, a request will be submitted to add sterile grass carp fish to the lake.

Recommendations & Additional Info



- Please remember that in order to alter your shoreline or treat exotic vegetation with an herbicide, you must apply for a free aquatic plant removal permit through the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission <http://www.myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants> or contact FWC Regional Biologist, Kristine Campbell (Kristine.Campbell@myfwc.com, 321-246-0682).
- 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. Seminole County Lake Management Program staff would be glad to present their findings from their Bioinspections. Also continue to increase native aquatic plantings along the shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna).
- Water quality and biological information, such as the Lake Vegetation Index (LVI) for each lake, can be found on the Seminole County 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) to watch educational videos and download lake management pamphlets.
- For individual Lake Management Plans: Click on Active MSBUs at www.seminolecountyfl.gov/msbu



LakeWatch

Consider joining Florida LAKEWATCH, a citizen volunteer lake monitoring program that facilitates "hands-on" citizen participation in the management of Florida lakes, rivers and coastal sites through monthly monitoring activities. For more information, visit the website (<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/>), or contact Jason "Mo" Bennett (ipb@ufl.edu, 352-273-3639)



Events & Contacts



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

2018 Events To Be Announced



Contacts

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