

Greeting Lake Mills residents,

Please find the bioassessment for your lake below. Our next lake inspection is scheduled for **March 20th, 2017**, weather permitting Key highlights of this update include:

- Hydrilla update
- Native Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Native emergent vegetation
- Invasive emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for your lake

On **December 22nd 2016**, Seminole County Lake Management Program biologists, Thomas Calhoun and Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake Mills**.

Sprigs of hydrilla were found sporadically in the north east cove to a depth of 4 feet. No treatment for hydrilla in this area is necessary.

Seven species of native SAV were observed during the inspection. These species included; lemon bacopa to 7 ft, roadgrass to 2 ft, baby's tears to 4 ft, bladderwort to 2 ft, milfoil to 4 ft and eelgrass to 2 ft. Both lemon bacopa and baby's tears have expanded since the previous inspection.

Photo: Baby's tears (native) reaching the surface.



Native species of emergent vegetation included: bur-marigold, buttonbush, american swamp lily, rush fuirena, pennywort, spatterdock, maidencane, pickerelweed, duck potato, cattail, and climbing aster.

Photo: Pickerelweed (native).



Seven species of invasive emergent vegetation were observed during the inspection. These species included: wild taro, primrose willow, torpedograss, salvinia, giant salvinia, cuban bur-head sedge, and creeping oxeye. Maiden cane was experiencing “winter die back” browning of the leaves in many areas.

Photo: Grass carp barrier.



The Secchi (water clarity) value was 10 feet in a total depth of 14.1 feet. The grass carp barrier was operational and free from debris. No grass carp were observed during the inspection. The water elevation at the time of inspection was 40.43 feet above sea level.

Recommendations for your lake:

1. Work together and establish a lake association with other lakefront owners to increase native aquatic plantings along the shoreline (such as pickerelweed, canna, and duck potato). Have at least one annual lake association meeting to discuss lake-specific issues.
2. Utilize the valuable educational outreach programs that are available, such as Shoreline Restoration Workshops, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) interactive presentations, and Lake Management Video mail-outs. Implement a media campaign within the community about reducing 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 stormdrains 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. Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list in order to share this information with others. Valuable information is contained within these reports.