Below please find the latest bioassessments for your lake. The next bioassessment will be conducted on August 20th (weather permitting). Key highlights of this update will include:

- Herbicide treatments are scheduled for the last week of each month for this fiscal year
- Rising water elevations and herbicide treatments
- Species targeted during herbicide treatments
- Exotic snails
- Lake recommendations

On June 18th, 2013, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff Thomas Calhoun and Watershed Management intern Joey Cordell surveyed Myrtle Lake’s south pool.

Due to low water conditions, the south pool of Myrtle Lake was inspected on foot. The south pool contained no SAV that could be seen from the shoreline. The water level has increased over 2 feet since May’s inspection.

Herbicide treatments will continue on a monthly basis for the remainder of this fiscal year (which ends on September 30th, 2013) and are generally scheduled for the last week of the month. Upon the new fiscal year (October 1, 2013), herbicide treatments will commence during optimal growing season. The MSBU funded herbicide treatments are budgeted to allow up to 6 treatments per year with limited reserve funding being utilized for additional treatments (generally 1-2). Lake Management Program inspects Myrtle Lake to determine when these treatments will be best utilized to ensure adequate maintenance coverage for the entire fiscal year.

Water elevation plays a key role in how much the MSBU funded herbicide contractor can treat due to boat access. As water elevation rises, greater areas can be accessed and treated. Invasive emergent plants that have been targeted during the previous herbicide treatments included: alligator weed, fennel, barnyard grass, torpedo grass, and primrose willow. These treatments have been successful but further treatments will necessary.

Photo: Treated vegetation (as seen brown) from May’s services along perimeter of wildlife spoil islands.
The wildlife island along Twin Lake Blvd has been performing well with minimal treatments required within the native plantings. The cordgrass has expanded to compete naturally with invasive plants reducing the need for chemical herbicide dependence.

**Photo:** Wildlife spoil islands showing effects of treatment.
Also observed during the inspection were several of the exotic Island applesnail egg clusters. It is recommended to remove the adults and eggs from the waterbody when possible. More information on these exotic snails can be found here: [http://myfwc.com/media/673720/FWC_applesnails_FLMS_handout.pdf](http://myfwc.com/media/673720/FWC_applesnails_FLMS_handout.pdf)

**Photo:** Exotic snail egg clusters shown on left with adult on right.

Secchi disk reading (measurement for water clarity) was not taken during this inspection due to low water elevation. The lake elevation during the inspection was 44.78 feet, an increase from
the previous month’s reading of 42.45 feet. No triploid grass carp fish were observed during this inspection.

7-17-2013

On July 16th, 2013, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff Thomas Calhoun and Watershed Management intern Joey Cordell surveyed Myrtle Lake’s south pool.

Due to low water conditions, the south pool of Myrtle Lake was inspected on foot. The south pool contained no SAV that could be seen from the shoreline. The water level has increased almost 1 foot since June’s inspection bringing the total to 3 feet in 2 months.

Herbicide treatments will continue on a monthly basis for the remainder of this fiscal year (which ends on September 30th, 2013) and are generally scheduled for the last week of the month. Upon the new fiscal year (October 1, 2013), herbicide treatments will commence during optimal growing season. The MSBU funded herbicide treatments are budgeted to allow up to 6 treatments per year with limited reserve funding being utilized for additional treatments (generally 1-2). Lake Management Program inspects Myrtle Lake to determine when these treatments will be best utilized to ensure adequate maintenance coverage for the entire fiscal year.

Water elevation plays a key role in how much the MSBU funded herbicide contractor can treat due to boat access. As water elevation rises, greater areas can be accessed and treated. The large amount of rainfall in the month of June has allowed the contractor to reach further areas. Invasive emergent plants that have been targeted during the previous herbicide treatments included: alligator weed, fennel, barnyard grass, torpedo grass, and primrose willow. These treatments have been successful but further treatments will necessary.
The west side of the southern pool was found in good shape with both the shoreline and wildlife islands showing signs of treatment. Also, the canal connecting both sides of Myrtle Lake finally has a small amount of water in it but remains unnavigable. If water levels continue to rise providing a navigable trail for passive recreation, a path will be chemical treated as part of the MSBU contracted services.

**Photo: West side of southern pool.**
Photo: Canal connecting each side of the lake.
Crowder canal area was in good shape as well. Invasives found in this area included torpedo grass and dog fennel with most occurring along the extreme western edge of the canal. Residents in this area have been doing a good job of mowing invasives back when water elevation allows.

Photo: Crowder Canal area.
Secchi disk reading (measurement for water clarity) was not taken during this inspection due to low water elevation. The lake elevation during the inspection was 45.65 feet, an increase from the previous month’s reading of 44.78 feet. One triploid grass carp fish was observed during this inspection.

Lake Recommendations:

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 our findings from this and other water quality surveys. Continue to increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato and canna).

2. Increase educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of personal pollution by decreasing fertilizer usage; using only phosphorous free fertilizers; keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants; keeping grass clippings out of your lake and storm drains leading to the lake. All these activities aid in
protecting your waterbody! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for free educational programs available.

3. Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list. Valuable information is contained within these assessments.
Greetings Myrtle Lake!

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

- Success of herbicide treatments
- Lake recommendations

On December 28th, 2012, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff Thomas Calhoun and Water Quality intern Devin Whitney surveyed Lake Myrtle’s south pool and the Canal Point Road waterway.

Due to low water conditions, the south pool of Myrtle Lake was inspected on foot. The south pool contained no submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) that could be seen from the shoreline. Water levels were again dropping slightly. However, the herbicide contractor was able to reach much of the shoreline on December 12th and treat primrose willow with success. The water lily, Nuphar, is expanding once again in the open water of the lake.

Photo: Primrose willow treated
Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was not taken during this inspection due to low water elevation. The lake elevation during the inspection was 42.95 ft, which was lower than the previous inspection reading of 43.28 ft. No triploid grass carp were observed during this inspection.

On November 29th, 2012, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff Thomas Calhoun and Water Quality intern Devin Whitney surveyed Lake Myrtle’s south pool and the Canal Point Road waterway.

Due to low water conditions, the south pool of Myrtle Lake was inspected on foot. This area contained no submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) that could be seen from the shoreline. Water level has returned from the summertime low. Most of the barnyard grass treated at the end of the summer has died and fallen out.

Photo: Barnyard grass to be treated over multiple treatments.

During the next scheduled treatment, the herbicide contractors will focus on the shoreline of the lake. They will target species such as primrose willow, alligator weed, and torpedo grass.
Secchi disk reading was not taken during this inspection due to low water elevation. The lake elevation during the inspection was 43.28 ft, which was higher than the previous inspection reading of 42.84 ft. No triploid grass carp were observed during this inspection.

**Lake Recommendations:**

1. Work together to establish a lake association 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 lake management recommendations. Seminole County Lake Management staff would be glad to present findings from this and other surveys to the community. Contact Gloria Eby at (407) 665-2439.

2. Increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna). Native shoreline plants help absorb nutrients from rain-fall/run-off, improve habitat and water quality, and reduce shoreline erosion which transfers sediments/organics into the lake. Over time, this process will fill the lake, creating a wetland type of environment. Planting natives now can assist in slowing down this process (formally known as eutrophication). In addition, native plantings can reduce your herbicide costs/needs, providing a savings to you!
Increase educational outreach programs, i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of pointless personal pollution by using low amounts of fertilizer, using phosphorous-free fertilizer, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keeping grass clippings out of your storm drains that lead to the lake. All these activities aid in protecting your waterbody! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for available, free educational programs.

Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list. Valuable information is contained within these assessments.