

Hello Lake Pickett Residents!

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

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

On **December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**, Seminole County Lake Management Staff, Thomas Calhoun, Joey Cordell, and Beth Beals, inspected the aquatic plants within **Lake Pickett**.

**Photo: Bog moss (native) and Hydrilla (invasive).**



Hydrilla was the only invasive SAV found during the inspection. The maximum depth for hydrilla was 7 ft. Hydrilla was found at the new south shore dock, the north side of the east lobe, the south side of the east lobe, and just west of the UCF rowing facility. The hydrilla on the north side of the east lobe has expanded. At this time no treatment for hydrilla is necessary. We will continue to monitor the expansion of hydrilla.

Native SAV found within the lake included: bog moss, lemon bacopa, fanwort, eelgrass, roadgrass to 7 ft, southern naiad to 7 ft, stonewort to 3 ft, and two species of bladderwort to 7 ft. Fanwort has increased since the prior inspection.

Native emergent vegetation observed during the inspection included: buttonbush, sawgrass, rush fuirena, pennywort, american lotus, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, maidencane, pickerelweed, duck potato, carolina willow, and cattail.

**Photo: Maidencane and fragrant water lily.**



Invasive emergent vegetation observed included: wild taro, umbrella grass, water hyacinth, primrose willow, torpedograss, brazilian pepper tree, and cuban bur-head sedge.

**Photo: Torpedograss (invasive).**



The secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 10.2 feet in a depth of 19.5 feet. The water's elevation was 54.17 feet above sea level. This information can be found online at either county's Water Atlas website:

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/?wbodyatlas=lake&wbodyid=7636>

<http://www.orange.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/?wbodyatlas=lake&wbodyid=7636>

### **Recommendations for your lake:**

1. Work together or 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 our findings from this and other surveys to the community. Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program at (407) 665-2439 with questions or to schedule a meeting.
2. Lake Pickett is in need of a LAKEWATCH or Adopt-a-Lake volunteer, who would assist in collecting valuable water quality data for your lake. Please contact Seminole County (Geby@seminolecountyfl.gov) or Orange County (Melissa.Lavigne@ocfl.net) to become a LAKEWATCH volunteer, or for more information.

3. Increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna). Native shoreline plants help absorb nutrients from rainfall/run-off, thereby improving habitat and water quality, and reducing shoreline erosion of sediments/organic matter into the lake. Without management, this erosion and sedimentation will fill the lake over time, creating a wetland-like environment (formally known as eutrophication). Planting native species now can assist in slowing this process. In addition, native plantings can reduce your herbicide costs/needs, thereby providing a savings to you!
4. 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.
5. 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.