

Prairie 12-5-2013

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

- Submersed aquatic vegetation updates- extremely good plant diversity observed
- Some hydrilla observed- recommend spot treating these areas
- No additional grass carp fish recommended at this time
- Invasive-exotic plant removal efforts

On **December 5th, 2013**, Seminole County Lake Management Program personnel, Gloria Eby and Thomas Calhoun, joined by lake resident Bill Hemphill, surveyed the aquatic plants of **Prairie** and **Pearl Lakes**.

Extremely good plant diversity was observed in Prairie and Pearl Lakes which consisted of 10 species of submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV); 9 of which were native species. This is a very important factor for the health and water quality of your lake as these plants aid in absorbing nutrients from the local watershed keeping Prairie and Pearl Lakes clean and healthy.

A small amount of hydrilla was found in Prairie Lake. These areas included the canals, the cove at the VFW, and the cove off of Robin Rd. Pearl Lake only contained hydrilla in the canal.

The native SAV consisted of: coontail to a depth of 3 feet, southern naiad to 7 feet, the macro-algae stonewort to 7 feet, pondweed to 6feet, 3 bladderwort species (*Utricularia radiata*, *inflata* & *gibba*) to 7feet, and eelgrass to 6feet. Stonewort and bladderwort were the dominant SAV plants observed during this inspection. Pearl Lake contained native stonewort, southern naiad, bladderwort, and eelgrass. Eelgrass has expanded throughout Pearl Lake.

Photo: Bladderwort.



Photo: Stonewort.



The native SAV pondweed can cause reduced access to the lake (as observed). To remove or treat these plants you will need to obtain a free aquatic plant permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) which can be located at <http://www.myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants> or by contacting your FWC regional biologist, Alicia Knecht, at Alicia.Knecht@myfwc.com or 321-246-0682.

The dominant emergent aquatic plant continues to be the invasive-exotic torpedo grass, which was present along most resident's waterfront. Other invasive species found included cattail, primrose, and Carolina willow, although there were many native emergent plants as well. Some of these beneficial native emergent plants included pickerelweed, duck potato, bulrush, maidencane grass, and golden canna. In the restoration areas planted natives such as pickerelweed and duck potato are doing well. However torpedo grass is beginning to invade these areas. It is recommended to treat or hand remove torpedo grass in these areas to allow the native species to continue to expand.

Photo: Torpedo grass in canal to Pearl Lake.



Photo: Duck potato growing along shoreline.



The Secchi (water clarity) in Prairie Lake was 9.5 feet in a depth of 26 feet, and 10 feet in a depth of 14 feet in Pearl Lake. 5 triploid (sterile) grass carp were seen during the inspection. More information on Prairie and Pearl Lakes can be found on the Seminole County wateratlas at: <http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/>.

Recommendations:

- 1 Continue to work together with other lakefront owners to control and if possible, eliminate invasive plants observed during this survey and increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed and duck potato). 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. Contact Gloria Eby at (407) 665-2439 for assistance.
- 2 Increase educational outreach programs i.e. Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of personal pollution. Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program, Gloria Eby at (407) 665-2439 for assistance.
- 3 These recommendations could be managed by Seminole County by establishing an MSBU, Municipal Service Benefit Unit, for aquatic weed control/enhancement. For additional information contact Carol Watral at (407) 665-7164 or cwatral@seminolecountyfl.gov or <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fs/msbu/>.
- 4 Control of aquatic and wetland plants could require a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) aquatic plant control permit (such as the pondweed in Prairie). Contact Alicia Knecht at (321) 246-0682 or Alicia.Knecht@myfwc.com for a permit and recommendations.