

Greetings Lake Amory Residents!

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

- Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance
- Low water elevation and access for herbicide treatments
- Hydrilla status
- Recommendations for you and your lake

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. They key highlights of the Fertilizer Ordinance 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.

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.

Observations:

On **June 20th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program biologist, Joey Cordell, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake Amory**.

Due to the low water elevation, the waterway was not navigable by boat, and herbicide treatment will be performed by a backpack application until water elevations return to normal. Not all areas of the lake will be accessible for the backpack application.

No hydrilla was found during this inspection.

Native emergent vegetation included: buttonbush, flat sedge, spikerush, pennywort, hempvine, spatterdock, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, Carolina willow, bulrush, and fleabane.

Invasive exotic vegetation included: alligator weed, wild taro, barnyard grass, primrose willow, torpedograss, and creeping oxeye. Invasive emergent plants were prevalent in The Cove, Bird Island, and the Lake Proper.

Observed native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) included: spikerush and bladderwort.

Cactus Canal and **Outfall Canal** were found to be in fair condition. Cactus Canal had a thick band of barnyard grass and primrose willow growing on the west shoreline. The SAV bladderwort was present but not topping out.

Photo: Barnyard grass and primrose willow on Cactus Canal.



The **Bird Island** area was found to be in fair condition. Native plants were healthy but crowded by invasive species. This area will be treated by a backpack application of herbicide.

Photo: Duck potato (native).



In **The Cove**, invasive species covered most of the shoreline. This area will be treated with a backpack application. However, not all of the emergent vegetation will be reached by this application.

Photo: The Cove.



The **Lake Proper** area was found to be in poor condition due to lack of access to treatment. Low water elevation had decreased the extent of the open water, and vegetation had begun to grow on the exposed banks.

Photo: Lake Proper.



The grass carp barrier was found to be in good condition and free of debris. No triploid (sterile) grass carp fish were observed during the inspection. Water elevation at the time of inspection was 37.1 ft above sea level.

7/18/2017

On **July 18th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program biologist, Thomas Calhoun surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake Amory**.

Water elevation was still low; however, the herbicide contractor was able to access all areas of the lake via airboat.

Hydrilla was not found during this inspection.

The **Cactus Canal** and **Outfall Canal** were found to be in fair condition. Invasive emergent vegetation included: alligator weed, elephant ear, salvinia, barnyard grass and torpedo grass. The native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) bladderwort was also present in this area.

Photo: Cactus Cove.



The **Bird Island** area was found to be in good condition. Native emergent vegetation, including spikerush, canna and duck potato, was doing well. Invasive vegetation, including torpedo grass, dog fennel, barnyard grass and primrose willow, was showing signs of treatment from last month's herbicide application.

Photo: Bird Island.



Low water conditions were found in **The Cove** during the inspection; fortunately, the airboat was still able to access and fully treat this area. No SAV was present in The Cove. Emergent vegetation was showing signs of impact from the previous month's backpack treatment.

Photo: The Cove.



The **Lake Proper** area was accessed by airboat and treated this month. As water elevations return to normal levels, the emergent vegetation will be treated and pushed back. Observed emergent vegetation included: canna, buttonbush, rush fuirena, pennywort, yellow cow lily, fragrant water lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, Carolina willow, and bulrush. Invasive species included: alligator weed, elephant ear, torpedo grass and salvinia. The native SAV species, bladderwort, was present.

Photo: Bladderwort (native) found in the Lake Proper.



The grass carp barrier was found to be in good condition. No triploid (sterile) grass carp fish were observed during the inspection. The water elevation at the time of inspection was 38.5 feet above sea level.

Recommendations for you and your waterbody:

- 1 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. SCLMP staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys. Also continue to increase native aquatic plantings along the shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna).
- 2 Consider increasing street sweeping services during times of peak leaf fall to ensure that this debris does not enter your waterways. Leaf debris contains phosphorous that can negatively impact your waterbody.
- 3 Take advantage of free educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and presentations on decreasing “pointless personal pollution” by reducing fertilizer use and only using phosphorous-free fertilizers. New Fertilizer Ordinance presentations can now also be

scheduled! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 to inquire about the availability of these programs. You can also visit the 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.

4 Share what YOU know with your neighbors! Encourage fellow residents to keep a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and to keep grass clippings out of the stormdrains that lead to the lake. All of these activities aid in protecting your waterbody! Please share this newsletter with any new residents or those not currently on our email list. These assessments contain valuable information.