

Lake Tuskawilla 9/11/2013

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

- Submersed Aquatic Vegetation Status
- Native emergent vegetation status
- Torpedo grass expansion

On **September 11th, 2013** Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff; Gloria Eby, Thomas Calhoun, Marianne Pluchino and Beth Stephens surveyed the aquatic plants in Lake Tuskawilla.

Only 3 native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) was observed. The species observed included; baby tears to 2 feet and road grass to 1 foot and smooth water hyssop to 1 foot. The invasive exotic hydrilla was not observed during this survey.

Photo: Example of road grass.



Native vegetation is expanding around the lake especially in the previous restoration areas. Duck potato, fire flag and canna are thriving in the low water conditions. However in other areas of the lake torpedo grass is expanding. It is recommended to treat torpedo grass in these areas.

Photo: Torpedo grass growing around duck potato.



Photo: Duck potato expanding along shoreline.



The secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 4.5 feet in a depth of 13 feet. The lake gauge was 54.47 feet above sea level. This information and much more is available on the Seminole County Wateratlas at:

<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/lake/?wbodyatlas=lake&wbodyid=7672>

Recommendations:

- 1 Treat invasive torpedo grass and other invasive aquatic plants along your waterfront. Either do it yourself by hand removal or obtain the necessary aquatic herbicide (we can provide some sources) or hire a contracted aquatic herbicide application company (we can provide a list of companies). Control of aquatic and wetland plants will in most cases requires a free Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) aquatic plant control permit. Contact Alicia Knecht at (321) 246-0682 or Alicia.knecht@myFWC.com for a permit.

- 2 These recommendations could be managed by Seminole County by establishing a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU); a funding format for aquatic weed control via special assessment. For additional information contact Carol Watral at (407) 665-7164 or cwatral@seminolecountyfl.gov or <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fs/msbu/>.

- 3 Increase educational outreach programs i.e. Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of pointless personal pollution (contact Seminole County Lake Management Program, Gloria Eby, (407) 665-2439 for assistance).