

Greetings, Myrtle Lake Residents!

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

- New herbicide contractor
- Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance
- October Restoration Event
- Low water elevation and shoreline maintenance
- Invasive vegetation
- Emergent vegetation
- Treatment schedule
- Recommendations for your lake

New Herbicide Contractor

Myrtle Lake will be switching over to Applied Aquatic Management (AAM) as its herbicide contractor beginning in June. AAM will be using an airboat to service the lake in an effort to gain better access and achieve better control of the invasive species in the lake. The new herbicide contractor will be pushing the invasive species back over the next several treatments. Treatments will continue monthly through November.

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. The 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.

October Restoration Event

Our annual Myrtle Lake restoration event will be held on Saturday, October 7th, at 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Please contact Thomas Calhoun 407-665-2459 or tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov if you would like to participate as either a restoration site or volunteer.

JOIN THE MYRTLE LAKE RESTORATION



**OCT 7,
2017**
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM

Seminole County Watershed Management & the SERV Program invite you to help us plant shoreline vegetation to improve ecosystem function, habitat, and water quality! There will be 3 fun ways to participate:

- H** **HOST**
Sign up as a site host, and receive free plants!
- S** **SUPPORT**
Help with event logistical support.
- P** **PLANTING**
Assist in shoreline planting during the event.

KICK OFF LOCATION:
1000 Twin Lakes Rd.,
Longwood, FL 32750

CONTACT:
Thomas Calhoun
tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov
407-665-2459



Bioassessment 5/16/2017

On **May 16th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff, Thomas Calhoun, surveyed **Myrtle Lake**.

Water elevation was low. Barnyard grass along the northern shoreline of the lake was showing signs of treatment. Also, the spoil islands were showing treatment of invasive vegetation. Not all of the lake could be serviced due to the low water elevation.

Photo: Treated barnyard grass (invasive) along the northwestern shoreline.



The submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) southern naiad was observed during the inspection. This was the first observation of this species in several years.

Photo: Southern naiad (native).



Native species present included: buttonbush, canna, yellow cow lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, fire flag, and cordgrass. Although the water elevation was low, much of the native emergent plant community was doing well.

Photo: Pickerelweed (native).



During the survey the water level was 42.76 feet above sea level. A Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was not taken during this inspection. No triploid grass carp were observed during this inspection.

Bioassessment 6/10/2017

On **June 10th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff, Thomas Calhoun, surveyed **Myrtle Lake**.

Invasive species present during the inspection included: alligator weed, torpedo grass, rattlebox, primrose, willow and barnyard grass. All areas of the lake had an increase in these species.

Photo: Southern lobe of the lake.



No submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) was observed during the inspection.

Native species present included: buttonbush, canna, swamp lily, yellow cow lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, fire flag, flat sedge, maidencane and cordgrass.

Photo: Crowder Canal area.



During the survey the water level was 43.76 feet above sea level. A Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was not taken during this inspection. No triploid grass carp were observed during this inspection.

Bioassessment 7/17/2017

On **July 17th, 2017**, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff, Thomas Calhoun surveyed **Myrtle Lake**.

The lake is showing signs from the June herbicide treatment. The new herbicide contractor will be pushing the invasive species back over the next several treatments. Also as the water elevation increases the airboat will be able to reach new areas. The access canal on the north east side of the lake will be treated by ATV in the month of July.

Invasive species present during the inspection included primrose willow, torpedo grass, alligator weed, and barnyard grass.

Photo: Western shoreline of Myrtle Lake.



No submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) was observed during the inspection.

Native species present included: buttonbush, swamp lily, canna, yellow cow lily, pickerelweed, duck potato, fire flag, flat sedge, maidencane and cordgrass.

In the Crowder Canal area, a few invasive species were observed, including: torpedo grass, alligator weed and primrose willow. Native species including duck potato and pickerelweed were found to be in good condition

Photo: Crowder Canal area.



During the survey the water level was 44.04 feet above sea level. A Secchi disk (water clarity) reading was not taken during this inspection. No triploid grass carp were observed during this inspection.

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.