

The next shoreline restoration event for Prairie and Pearl Lakes will be on Saturday, October 1st, 2011. On this date, the Seminole County Lake Management and SERV Programs will bring in volunteers and beautiful FREE aquatic plants to help improve the water quality of your lake. Be sure to contact your liaison Bill Hemphill at brhemphill@earthlink.net or Natalee Almeter (SERV Program) at serv@seminolecountyfl.gov if you are interested in becoming a site location for the next event. We have a few signups already and space is limited!

Lake Observations:

On May 24, 2011, Seminole County Lake Management Program staff Gloria Eby and Thomas Calhoun, joined by county intern Aisha Umar, surveyed the aquatic plants in Pearl Lake. Previous hydrilla treatment was very successful in reducing biomass. Hydrilla was found to depth of 9 feet, sparse and intermixed with native SAV such as southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*). Southern naiad was found breaking the lake surface at several locations making it the dominant SAV.

Other submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) found during the inspection to depths of 9 feet includes: stonewort (*Nitella* sp.), bladderwort (*Utricularia radiata* and *U. inflata*), and eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*) to 4 ft.



Photo of naiad in Pearl Lake:

Shoreline vegetation found during the inspection included; torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*), maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), cattails (*Typha* spp.), fire flag (*Thalia geniculata*), alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoeroides*), pickerel weed (*Pontedaria cordata*), duck potato (*Sagittaria lancifolia*) and bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*).

The Secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 7.4 feet in 12.5 feet of water as compared to previous measurement of 7.2 feet in 14.0 feet of water. One grass carp fish was observed.

Lake recommendations discussed were to continue to monitor the lake's hydrilla population with possible spot treatment of hydrilla at mouth of Pearl leading to Prairie.

Recommendations:

1. Participate in the upcoming Lake Restoration Event on Saturday, October 1st from 9am-1pm. Contact Bill Hemphill at brhemphill@earthlink.net or Natalee Almeter (SERV Program) at serv@seminolecountyfl.gov.
2. Work together or establish a lake association, with other lakefront owners to increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, canna and duck potato). Have at least one annual lake association meeting to discuss lake specific issues.
3. Increase educational outreach programs i.e. Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of pointless personal pollution by using low fertilizer use; phosphorous free fertilizers; keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants; keeping grass clippings out of your storm drains leading to the lake. All these activities aid in protecting your lake! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program Gloria Eby, GEby@seminolecountyfl.gov or (407) 665-2439 for free educational programs available.