

Greetings Spring Lake Residents!

Please find the latest bioassessment of your lake below. The next scheduled inspection of your lake will be **December 11th**; weather permitting. Key highlights of this update include:

- Nuisance alligator trapped
- Status of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)- an increase in diversity
- Eelgrass access corridor update
- Status of shoreline emergent vegetation
- Recommendations for you and your lake

Bioassessment:

On **November 4th, 2014**, Seminole County Lake Management staff, Thomas Calhoun and Beth Stephens, surveyed the aquatic plants in **Spring Lake**.

In September, an alligator was captured by the FWC nuisance alligator program within Spring Lake. For more information of what is considered a nuisance alligator please visit FWC's website at:

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/alligator/nuisance/> or call 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286).

Photo: FWC Alligator trapper (photo courtesy of Bill Vogel).



Three native SAV was observed during this inspection. These species included: eelgrass to a depth of 6 feet, southern naiad to a depth of 3 feet, and stonewort to a depth of 3 feet. All three species have expanded since the previous inspection with eelgrass still being the dominant species. The eelgrass access corridors were found in mostly good shape. We will be recording eelgrass corridor treatment areas upon next inspection. The invasive exotic hydrilla was found sparsely intermixed with eelgrass to a depth of 3 feet. No action is needed for hydrilla at this time.

Photo: Hydrilla found during inspection.



Native emergent vegetation (including pickerelweed, duck potato, fire flag, and canna lily) continues to thrive in the absence of torpedo grass. Invasive emergent vegetation found during the inspection included alligatorweed, torpedo grass, and elephant ear. There are a handful of shorelines void of vegetation. It is recommended that these shorelines are planted with beneficial native vegetation. Native emergent vegetation plays an important part the lakes ecosystem by filtering nutrients from runoff, protecting the shoreline from erosion and providing habitat for aquatic species.

Photo: Cleared shoreline.



The water elevation during the time of the inspection was 63.00 feet above sea level. The secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 4.4 feet in a total depth of 9.9 feet, which was an increase from the prior survey of 2 feet. No grass carp fish were observed during this inspection.

Recommendations for your lake:

- 1 Work together with other lakefront owners. Have *at least* one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) and discuss lake specific issues, especially nutrients/lake management recommendations. SCLMP staff would be glad to present our findings from this and other surveys. 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 lakes.
- 3 Increase educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (planting days), Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs. Spread the word about reducing personal

pollution through reducing total fertilizer use, using only phosphorous-free and slow release nitrogen fertilizers, keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants, and keeping grass clippings out of your storm drains leading to the lake. All of these activities aid in protecting your waterbody! Contact Seminole County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 to find out about the free educational programs available to you.

4 Help spread the word! Obtain email addresses from neighbors not currently on the distribution list so that these reports can be shared with everyone. Valuable information is contained within these assessments.