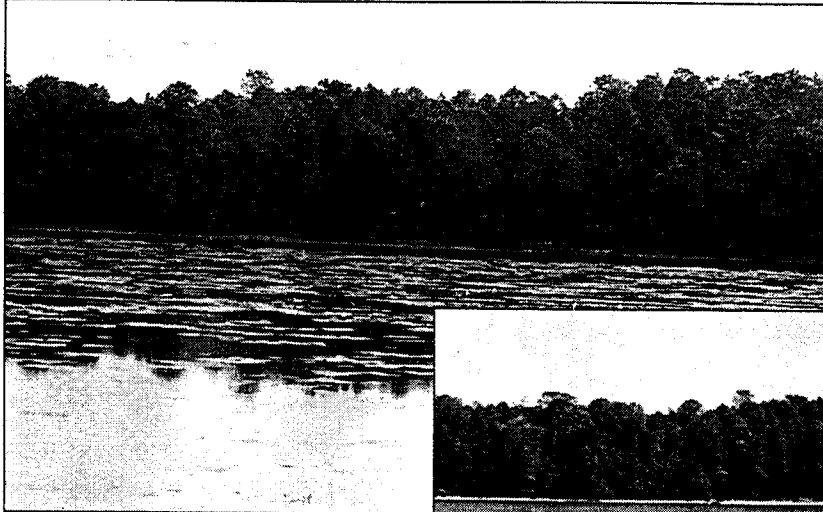
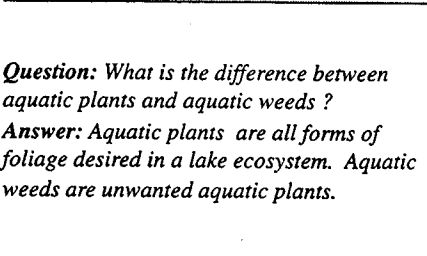


# LAKEWATCH

A Publication Dedicated To Sharing Information about Water Management and the Florida LAKEWATCH Program • Volume VII / Fall '96



*BEFORE: Lake Riley in September 1995, with heavy spatterdock growth.*



*AFTER: Lake Riley in January 1996, after the careful application of a herbicide.*



*Question: What is the difference between aquatic plants and aquatic weeds ?*

*Answer: Aquatic plants are all forms of foliage desired in a lake ecosystem. Aquatic weeds are unwanted aquatic plants.*

## TWO APPROACHES TO A COMMON PROBLEM

A common question asked by many lakefront residents is "how do I get rid of the weeds growing in my lake?"

It can be a delicate subject when you consider that aquatic plants (or weeds) represent an intricate part of a lake ecosystem.

How does one judge whether or not there are too many aquatic plants in their lake? How will we know when we've gone overboard and removed too many plants; and will these changes adversely affect the lake?

Lake use issues come into play as well. Will the lake be used for fishing, boating, swimming, canoeing, or wildlife habitat? How do aquatic plants fit into these scenarios? What changes in aquatic plant growth will the lake endure without negatively affecting the ecosystem?

LAKEWATCH volunteer John Yocum struggled with this lake management dilemma concerning Lake Riley in Putnam County. After quite a bit of research and effort, he developed two very different but successful techniques for controlling aquatic plant growth on his lake.

Technique #1 involved aquatic plant control on a much larger scale including obtaining permits, organizing a group of volunteer helpers, and documenting the entire process in a report complete with before-and-after photographs. His efforts provide us with an example of successful aquatic plant control by lake residents.

Technique #2 involved controlling the growth of milfoil plants around his dock.

The LAKEWATCH program encourages volunteers and lakeside residents to be active participants in lake management decisions such as this one. It's important for lake managers, be they professionals or volunteers, to make decisions based on reliable scientific information, and then use the proper permitting channels. And lastly, it's vital to share information so that others can learn from their experiences.

The following information provided by John Yocum and his co-helpers provides us with a great example of the steps that can be taken to manage aquatic plants in a way that achieves lake management goals.

(continued on pages 4 and 5)

# A Bright Light

by Sandy Fisher, Director

*LAKEWATCH continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and as we struggle with growing pains and so much to do, I find it inspiring to stop every so often to take a fresh look at who we are and what we've accomplished, as well as goals for the future. It is my hope that this newsletter will help us to redefine our mission and emphasize the point that none of this can be accomplished without you. Your commitment continues to be an inspiration.*

Citizens and professional lake managers share a common frustration. In the past few years, much of the news about lakes has been bad. It is said water quality is declining. There are either too few or too many aquatic plants, invasive non-native plants are taking over, funding is always a struggle, and lake management problems are growing along with the mushrooming number of new lakeside residents.

In this atmosphere of cloudy skies, a ray of sunshine beams through in the form of the Florida LAKEWATCH volunteers and their accomplishments.

In the past, the only avenue of participation open to most citizens in lake management has been to exercise their right to complain. They have little or no power beyond that (a frustrating situation for both citizens and lake management professionals.)

Many times, an *us versus them* posture begins to grow, making interaction between citizens and lake management professionals adversarial and disheartening.

The Florida LAKEWATCH Program provides an alternative and the alternative is catching on!

## INVITE A LEGISLATOR TO YOUR LAKE!

Autumn is upon us. You can feel it in the air, and you can see it in the softening light of an evening sunset. As these changes occur, and summer's unrelenting heat subsides, folks find themselves out on their lakes more often, enjoying the sights and sounds along with the mild weather.

What a perfect time to invite your legislators and/or local government officials (city and county commissioners) to your lake, to share the beauty and serenity of a lake ecosystem. What a perfect time to establish

Now the third largest program in the country, LAKEWATCH presently has over 1,800 volunteers that have completed training and are certified to collect samples and data in over 40 counties in Florida.

In 1995, 400 lakes were sampled, and many volunteers have been diligently sampling their lake for more than five years.

This year, enrollment was opened and an additional 200 lakes will have been added to the Program.

Volunteers continue to do a great job in collecting data and water samples and a solid foundation of baseline data is growing along with us.

Florida LAKEWATCH data reports have been published and are available to the public.

Copies of these reports have been distributed to all Florida state libraries and Water Management District offices for easier public access.

It is a goal of

Florida LAKEWATCH:

To improve dialogue between citizens and lake management professionals,

To make life easier and more rewarding for everyone in the lake management arena,

To involve professionals and citizens in a teamwork approach of research, dialogue and problem definition.

As we face the future, we can hope to shed light on lake management questions, enlighten each other, lighten our mutual burden of responsibility, and reach the light at the end of the tunnel by working together.

contact on a positive basis, with no complaints or demands, just quality time.

How about inviting them out to your lake to help you with your LAKEWATCH sampling? You might even let them do the secchi disk reading.

Try it and let us know what their response is to your special lake. It just makes sense. The more they know about you and your lake, the more they will be willing to support and help you in the future.

Good luck and we hope to hear from you!

Many thanks to Mike Kelley, Senior Area Manager/Sales Trainer, with Gelman Sciences for donating and hand delivering 15 filter funnels. Gelman Sciences Laboratory Products specializes in filtration systems and we are grateful to them for making such a donation. They will certainly be put to good use!

## STAFF BOX:

The Florida LAKEWATCH newsletter is generated by the Florida LAKEWATCH program, within the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida (UF). Support for the LAKEWATCH program is provided by the Florida Legislature and through contracts, grants, and donations.

Articles, comments, announcements, news items and other information relevant to Florida lake management will be considered and accepted based on space available and relevance to the LAKEWATCH program. All unsolicited articles, photographs, artwork or other written material must include contributor's name, address and phone number. All submissions shall remain the property of Florida LAKEWATCH and cannot be returned. Opinions expressed are solely those of the individual contributor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Florida LAKEWATCH program. Inclusion does not constitute endorsement, nor does exclusion represent censure of any item, organization, individual, or institution by the University of Florida or the Florida LAKEWATCH program.

For more information about LAKEWATCH, or to submit materials for inclusion in this publication, write to:

Florida LAKEWATCH

7922 NW 71st Street

Gainesville, FL 32653-3071

or call

1-800-LAKEWATCH (525-3928)

352-392-9617 ext. 228

Director	Sandy Fisher
Fisheries Biologist	Dan Willis
Limnologist	Julie Terrell
Laboratory Supervisor	Mary Stonecipher
Limnologist	David Watson
Limnologist	Laura Mataraza
Biologist	Christy Horsburgh
Limnologist	Mark Hoyer
Research Advisor	Professor Dan Canfield
Editor	Amy Richard

About the editor...

Amy Richard, Senior Information Specialist for LAKEWATCH, will be serving as editor of this publication, as well as other media and public relations communications. News items and/or LAKEWATCH related publicity materials should be forwarded to Amy at the address listed in the Staff Box.

# LAKEWATCH Data At Work

by David Watson

**M**any LAKEWATCH volunteers may not be aware of just how valuable their LAKEWATCH data can be. They know that the hard-earned data they collect are used by many professionals including scientists at the Water Management districts, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, city and county agencies, the University of Florida and even the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But how? And for what purpose?

A perfect example is the Florida Lake Regions project, to be completed by the end of this year.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) initiated a cooperative effort involving the University of Florida Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to define and map Florida lake regions. The goal was to document regional differences in the water chemistry of Florida lakes. As a result, 47 Florida Lake Regions were identified and mapped based on regional characteristics.

As taxpayers, your first question might be, why would we need to document regional differences in Florida lake water chemistry?

The answer is simple even though the work involved in such a task is not.

In order to define and map the 47 lake regions, Professor Dan Canfield and Biologist Christy Horsburgh of the University of Florida worked with cartographer Glenn Griffith and Jim Omernik of the U.S. EPA, to analyze water quality data sets along with information on soil types, vegetation, climate, land use, land cover and

physical features of the earth's surface. When finished, they had grouped lakes into regions based on characteristics such as pH, alkalinity, nutrient contents, water color, and the soils and vegetation surrounding the lakes.

By documenting regional differences in water chemistry, reasonable, realistic and attainable goals for water quality management can be established for each lake. We can also improve our ability to predict the effect of lake management practices on lakes within each region. In addition, lakes that are impacted and have become different from other lakes in their region, can be red-flagged.

For example, let us say we have a lake that is located in the Orlando Ridge Region. This lake region has been identified as an area where soils are naturally rich in phosphorus.

Lakes in this area are then going to be typically high in nutrients, because of the phosphorus-rich soil. And as most LAKEWATCH volunteers know, lakes such as these tend to support large amounts of aquatic plants and/or algae.

This information is helpful, because it tells us that setting lake management goals for the lake to have clear water with a clean sand bottom, with little or no aquatic plants, would be unreasonable and a waste of money.

By using the Florida Lake Regions framework, lake managers would know realistic goals for their given lake regions, and could develop more realistic and economical management strategies.

So now that we know why this project is important, we might ask how LAKEWATCH contributed?

LAKEWATCH was essential to the project in several ways:

- It Provides one of the primary databases for the lake chemical and physical data used in this study.
- It supplied long-term data so that seasonal trends could be taken into consideration, as opposed to collecting one sample from a lake during an extreme period that was not representative of that lake as a whole.
- LAKEWATCH volunteers Provided access to private lakes, where valuable information was collected on aquatic vegetation and water chemistry that otherwise would have been missed.
- LAKEWATCH data from hundreds of lakes was included in this study, data that otherwise would have been too expensive to sample.

I'd like to summarize by saying that LAKEWATCH is making a difference in the State of Florida by providing reliable and useful long-term data that are used for many purposes.

Each of you should be proud of your accomplishments and the contributions you have made to the many projects, such as the one discussed in this article.

Thank you for your efforts, and keep up the good work!

*David Watson, is a Limnologist for LAKEWATCH. He earned his BS in Biology at the University of Alabama, and an MS in Aquatic Ecology from Auburn University. Although his main focus is training volunteers to collect water samples, David specializes in algae identification, and is also involved in an ongoing plant survey project.*

# A Common Problem

(continued from page 1)

## Technique #1

### SPATTERDOCK CONTROL ON RILEY LAKE

*Excerpts from a preliminary report by John Yocum:*

Riley Lake lies in the St. Johns offset division of the central lakes district (approximately six miles southeast of Hawthorne). In 1995, the extensive growth of spatterdock and milfoil made Riley Lake virtually unusable for boating, fishing, and other recreational activities.

In August of '95, a group of homeowners met to discuss the aquatic plant problems and agreed on a course of action to improve the situation.

It was agreed that any necessary permits would be applied for by the residents and removal of aquatic plants would be in accordance with approved practices, procedures and recommendations of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Sandy Fisher, Director of Florida LAKEWATCH, and Dr. Langeland of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) were consulted regarding the plant growth problem.

Mr. Dean Barber, DEP Regional Biologist, was contacted and made a sight visit to Riley Lake in late August. His visit was invaluable in providing advice on how to remove the spatterdock and control milfoil around dock areas. A permit was issued by Mr. Barber in September and a copy of the permit was provided to Riley Lake residents.

A team of lake residents then applied the recommended herbicide to spatterdock plants in designated sections of Riley Lake (where water depth was greater than eight feet). This would provide lakefront owners access to open water and connecting open water areas. Special care was taken to apply the chemicals according to the manufacturers recommended concentrations, in several applications, over a six-week period.

Following permit guidelines, access corridors were cleared manually (by hand) and were not allowed to exceed 30 feet in width. No pickerelweed was sprayed. The total area covered by these applications was approximately 25 acres.

This project would not have been possible without the help of the following lake residents: Jack Bent, Al Dover, Jack Gale, Albert Massey, Bernie McCole and Bill Menard.

#### UPDATE:

As of late September 1996, the spatterdock is beginning to grow back to a very small degree in areas that are ten to eleven feet deep. This was anticipated. Overall, the application of the herbicide was much more successful than we envisioned.



*Above: Using a heavy duty stapler, the plastic sheeting was stapled to the frame. Notice the corners are left uncovered, so that anchors could be attached prior to being put in the water.*

## Technique #2 MILFOIL CONTROL

*Excerpts of a conversation with John Yocum*

In an effort to rid ourselves of very dense amounts of milfoil growing around our dock (making it virtually impossible to swim or fish), we did some experimentation and came up with a solution that is inexpensive and involves a minimum of effort.

Our first attempt (which was unsuccessful) involved stretching a piece of 100-foot X 20-foot black construction-grade plastic sheeting across a designated area and anchoring it to the bottom with eight or ten homemade

anchors. Our theory was that the plastic sheeting would block the sun and prevent the milfoil from growing.

We soon discovered that although it was very effective in removing the milfoil, it also did an excellent job of catching boats. It seems the decaying plants under the plastic were releasing gas bubbles making it impossible to keep it on the bottom, out of harm's way. So even though this technique was meeting our needs of removing the milfoil, we knew we had to come up with a better solution.

The following construction works beautifully at controlling milfoil growth, without creating a boating hazard.

#### The Frame:

Some sort of frame was needed to keep the plastic on the bottom. We used one-inch by two-inch pressure treated furring strips to build eight-foot square panels, with screws connecting the corners. We didn't need any cross-bracing because the plastic sheeting provided the rest of the support.

(continued on page 5)



*Stever Falkner doing the Golf Shoe Stomp to create vent holes in the plastic sheeting. The holes allow gases from the decaying plants to escape, without floating the sheeting.*

Using a heavy duty stapler, we stapled the plastic to the frame. (The plastic sheeting was cut to be larger than the eight-by-eight foot frame and folded over a couple of times before being attached to the frame.) We did leave the corners uncovered, so we could attach the anchors to them.

#### **Anchors:**

Keeping in mind that we were trying to do this as inexpensively as possible, we made anchors by cutting a panel out of empty two-liter soft drink bottles and filling them with small rocks and a tiny amount of cement. A piece of aluminum ground wire was bent (so as to leave an open loop exposed) and embedded in the wet cement/rock mixture. With a length of polyethylene cord tied the loop, we were able to make these anchors at an estimated cost of 15 cents each.

#### **The Golf Shoe Stomp:**

In an effort to keep the plastic from pulling up off the bottom, we developed a technique of walking across the plastic sheeting with golf shoes (also known as the Golf Shoe Stomp.) We figured that by punching holes in the plastic, the gases could escape, allowing the sheeting to stay on the bottom.

It takes at least three people to carry the panel and place it out in the water. The homemade weights (anchors) were tied to the panel just before sinking it. For larger areas, we connected two or more panels to each other. We are currently using these panels to clear a 32-foot X 64-foot area in the immediate vicinity of the dock. Our experiment proved to be extremely effective at controlling milfoil.

#### **A Fish Story:**

It also provides for some outstanding fishing, as fish seem to congregate along the edge of the cleared area. One neighbor recently noticed fish breaking the surface along this weedline. He grabbed his fishing gear and paddled out to the spot in a floating chair. His efforts were rewarded when he hooked up with a five-pound bass! The bass then proceeded to drag him further out into the lake, at which time the angler decided to land the bass, and then held the fish in his lap while paddling back to shore. The grateful fish was released and the excited angler promptly indulged in a repeat performance.

Obviously, this localized lake management scheme is effective, inexpensive, and requires a minimum of effort...except for the fishing part!

# VOLUNTEER BULLETIN BOARD

**LAKEWATCH Hats Are Off to Charlie Darling** who was recently honored with an Award of Merit (of which only one is given each year) by the Friends of Moccasin Lake Nature Park and the City of Clearwater for his LAKEWATCH participation. The inscription on the award says it well:

*"Since he completed certified training in February 1994, Charlie Darling has faithfully and consistently volunteered for the LAKEWATCH program at Moccasin Lake Nature Park and Cliff Stephens Recreational Park. Nearly every month he has paddled onto the lake to take water samples and has processed certain specimens to be analyzed later. The data he has helped gather is invaluable to determine the health of the lake. LAKEWATCH volunteers work alone and often don't get the public thanks that more visible volunteers receive. Charles is a loyal and dedicated volunteer. We thank him for his contributions."*

**LAKE HICKORY NUT  
FAMILY YARD SALE**  
November 2 & 3 / 9 am - 5 pm  
Address: 9017 Lake Hickory  
Nut Drive / Winter Gardens, FL  
**Refreshment sale proceeds to  
benefit LAKEWATCH ...**  
Come on out for some fun on  
Lake Hickory Nut and support  
LAKEWATCH too!

**NOTICE:**  
**Clean Lakes Coalition of  
Central Florida**  
General Fall Meeting  
**October 26 / 10 AM**  
Downtown Orlando Public Library  
Discussion Topic:  
**Storm Water - Whose  
Responsibility?**

## VOLUNTEERS This Space Belongs To You

This newsletter is devoted to sharing information about the Florida LAKEWATCH program, and that includes you! Your volunteer efforts are important to us and we would like to share them with our readers in this space. Some of you are involved in special projects in your region, or are communicating with local government officials, or even using the information you have collected to document specific concerns about your lake. The insights you can share with us are invaluable.

We welcome any LAKEWATCH related ideas, stories, amusing (or even unamusing) thoughts and observations, sketches, poems, and/or photographs that you might have to share with us. Send inquiries and/or submissions to:

**EDITOR - Florida LAKEWATCH**  
7922 NW 71st Street  
Gainesville, Florida 32653  
1-800-LAKEWATCH (1-800-525-3928)  
or (352) 392-9617 ext. 228

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



# TIPS FROM THE LAB:

Everyone is doing a superb job! You all work very hard collecting and processing your algae samples, and you want them to be accurate. It's a good idea to check your supplies a few days before you plan to sample your lake and make sure that you have enough algae filters on hand.

Folks have run out of algae filters and have substituted the 'wrapper' filter papers for the small algae filter papers or even cut circles out from coffee filters, but alas, none of these samples could be analyzed.

The algae filters are really not paper at all. Instead, they are made of glass fibers woven and bound together, and they have a very specific pore size. They are made to filter out the very

small algae cells that would pass through coarser paper filter materials.

So, please check your supplies, and if you need algae filters, bottles, or anything else, just call us at 1-800-LAKEWATCH (1-800-525-3928), or call the LAKEWATCH lab directly at (352) 392-9617, etc. 257 and let us know what you need. We will get the items in the mail promptly, so that you will have all the material you need to sample successfully.

Thank you!  
Mary Stonecipher  
Lab Supervisor

## ATTENTION ALL BOATERS! Florida Boater Education Law Effective October 1

A new boating law went into effect October 1 that requires *all* Florida boat operators sixteen years of age or younger (anyone born after September 30, 1980) to complete a NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Administrators) approved boating education course before operating any vessel with a motor of ten horsepower or more.

And it's no accident that this law includes all Personal Watercraft (PWCs), commonly known as Jetskis. For years now, these increasingly popular watercraft have made their presence known on Florida lakes and waterways.

In 1995, there were over 58,000 PWCs registered in Florida, an 18% increase from 1994. And although they comprise only 8% of the total number of watercraft, they happen to be associated with the highest boating accident rate (38%) in the state. In Florida, 503 PWC accidents resulted in twelve fatalities last year - grim statistics for all boaters, including responsible PWC users. \*

It's no wonder PWC activities aren't covered under standard life insurance policies (according to the Florida Insurance Commissioner's Office).

The new boating safety law works in conjunction with an existing Florida law that forbids persons under the age of 14 to operate a PWC. (Persons under the age of fourteen may ride as passengers, but cannot legally operate a PWC.)

In addition, persons must be 16 years of age to rent a PWC. (In 1995, 46% of all PWC-related accidents occurred on rented watercraft, with that statistic reaching as high as 60% in some Florida counties.)\*

That's why the new law also requires that PWC rental facilities (liveries) display appropriate information on how to safely operate a PWC before individuals are allowed to use the watercraft.

There's more. The age requirement for boating education certification will increase by one year, each October, for five years following 1996. This one year (per year) increase, will extend to the year 2001, when all persons 21 years of age and younger must comply with the law.

Persons affected by the law will be required to carry photo ID and a Boating Safety ID card issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), certifying that the operator has completed a NASBLA or state approved safe boating course. (All NASBLA and state approved safe boating courses will be certified through the FDEP.)

These courses are available through the Florida Marine Patrol (FMP), the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the US Power Squadron and other privately run enterprises. There is also an approved take-home competency exam published by the FDEP and available at local FMP, FGFWFC, and tax offices, as well as any Florida state park.

It is hoped that this new law will help raise awareness of boating safety (in all types of watercraft) and lower the startling number of boating accidents. There are a few exceptions to the new boating safety law. For more information call the FDEP Office of Waterway Management at 904-488-5757, ext. 28.

Violations of this new law or irresponsible use of PWCs can be reported by calling your local law enforcement agency.

\* Statistics courtesy of the Florida DEP, Office of Waterway Management.

Editor's Note:

*The use of motor-powered boats (especially PWCs) on small bodies of water such as lakes and ponds has been controversial for some time now. (Although a concern for safety is something we probably all agree on). LAKEWATCH is interested in hearing all sides of the issue including the opinions of lake residents, boaters and PWC owners/users. With today's growing waterfront populations, we need to work together to find solutions to safety issues, as well as user conflicts. Communication of differing ideas, opinions, experiences, or workable boating safety solutions that have been successful on your own lake would be of interest to our readers. We hope to hear from you concerning this issue. Thanks! AR*

# MERCURY TESTING IN PROGRESS

With information in the media lately about high concentrations of mercury found in fish (and other wildlife) in Florida, many LAKEWATCH volunteers have expressed a desire to know more about mercury levels in fish in their lakes.

Currently, the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (FHRS), the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FGFWFC) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) have been working together on a task force charged with determining which waters are safe and which should be placed under health advisories due to high mercury levels.

Although health advisories are available to the public concerning mercury in the more heavily used lakes, there are still many gaps. (When you consider that Florida has over 7,700 lakes, 30+ acres in size, it is easy to see why the state might have trouble collecting data on every lake.)

Like everything else these days, there are too many lakes and not enough time or dollars to accomplish this goal.



*Vanessa Febre, Missy Prelog, and Ashlee Farmer ready themselves to net fish samples for mercury testing. The fish are stunned with an electric current and only fish in a certain size range are selected. The others are left to revive and swim away. (Photo by Mellie Chen)*

## A Solution?

LAKEWATCH is proud to announce that it will be working with the FGFWFC in a cooperative effort to do sampling in LAKEWATCH lakes, starting with Highlands County.

Beginning in September and continuing in the months ahead, staff from the Florida LAKEWATCH program will be collecting largemouth bass from up to four lakes each month and delivering them to the FGFWFC lab in Eustis, Florida where the mercury analysis will be done.

LAKEWATCH volunteers will be called upon to help if their lake is chosen for study. LAKEWATCH mercury project coordinator, Julie Terrell, says that volunteers don't have to be present to have their lake sampled, but the opportunity will be offered, schedules permitting.

*Editor's Note: LAKEWATCH would like to hear from volunteers interested in their lake being added to the mercury testing list. This program is in progress and although no new lakes will be added immediately, we are surveying those volunteers that are interested. Please send written requests to the address listed on page 8.*

## IS THERE A NEW COLLECTION CENTER NEAR YOU?

More collection centers have been opened recently and there may be one closer to you than you think. Extension offices in **Hamilton, Madison, Suwanee, Taylor, Columbia, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, Osceola, Brevard, Clay and Highlands** Counties have all offered their facilities as collection centers for LAKEWATCH water samples. Additional new collection centers include:

**Tomoka Heights Realty Sales Office**  
in Lake Placid  
Contact: Mary Carter  
813-465-6411

**Walker Memorial Junior Academy**  
in Avon Park  
Contact: Gordon Davis  
813-453-3131

**Altamonte Springs**  
Fire Department #12  
Contact: Raul Palenzuela  
407-830-3857

**City of Casselberry**  
Stormwater Utility  
Contact: Max Storm  
407-696-4753

**Melrose Fire Department**  
Contact: Michael Heeder  
352-475-2005

## Thank You!

Lake Hickory Nut volunteers for their delectable collection of recipes that are now available in the form of a cookbook...with proceeds benefiting our very own LAKEWATCH program! Anyone interested in obtaining one of the few remaining copies of the cookbook should contact Louise Branom at 407-656-1039. Bon appetite!

Nate Hart of Keystone Lake in Hillsborough County for purchasing the LAKEWATCH toll free number 1-800-LAKEWATCH (1-800-525-3928) and then saving the number for us until the piles of paperwork could be waded through to establish the number. We couldn't have done it without you!

Gerre Jaillet for making hundreds of secchi disk key chains. It was ingenious idea and now they are the rage of LAKEWATCHers. Thanks!



Marley Moynahan, age 7, poses with her much deserved LAKEWATCH hat. Marley's parents began sampling their lake when Marley was five months old, and have always taken her along on their sampling excursions. That means that Marley has been a LAKEWATCHer her whole life!

## Dear Friend Of Your Lake,

Do you have a concern about your lake and an interest in its future? You deserve help in your efforts to learn about and manage your lake's precious ecosystem. If you have access to any type of boat, can spend two hours each month on your lake, and are willing to monitor for at least a year, you might be eligible for the *Florida LAKEWATCH* volunteer program.

*Florida LAKEWATCH* is currently the only research program gathering monthly data to study such a large number and a wide variety of Florida's lakes. However, without the help of volunteers, it would not be possible.

In return for your participation in *Florida LAKEWATCH*, you will receive:

- \* a newsletter subscription
- \* supplies and the use of sampling equipment
- \* training in monitoring procedures
- \* periodic reports on your monthly data, including an annual report
- \* access to lake experts (limnologists) at the University of Florida
- \* invitations to local LAKEWATCH seminars.

For more information about how you can become a LAKEWATCH volunteer, call or write:

*Florida LAKEWATCH*  
7922 NW 71st Street  
Gainesville, Florida 32653  
**1-800-LAKEWATCH**  
(1-800-525-3928) or  
(352) 392-9617 ext. 228

# LAKEWATCH

has a new number!

## 1-800-LAKEWATCH

(1-800-525-3978)

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE MAKE A NOTE  
OF OUR NEW NUMBER

P.S. All 1-800-LAKEWATCH calls are charged by the minute, so we do ask that callers anticipating lengthy calls please leave a message and we will call you right back. Also, LAKEWATCH still has the original number (352-392-9617, ext.228) for those callers that don't mind calling on their *nickel*. Thank you!



# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences



*Eagle Eye, Inc. students in a close encounter with a bass captured for mercury testing. From left to right: Billy Rodriguez, Mike Asidro, Seg Lim, Aimee Hausinger. See the story on page 7. (photo by Mellie Chen)*