



Florida LAKEWATCH

Fall Newsletter

Let Us Appreciate Our Lakes Year-Round and Not Just in July!

By Mark Hoyer



The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) started Lakes Appreciation Month (July) to focus attention on the value of lakes and reservoirs to society and the threats they face. Lakes and reservoirs are used for a variety of purposes: water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural use; recreation; flood control; and aesthetic enjoyment. However, they are often considered “free” resources by users and this can result in abuse and neglect.

July is a great time to set aside some time to celebrate and help your favorite lake or reservoir. It's a time when many folks are vacationing and enjoying lakes and reservoirs. Hopefully everyone was able to participate in some lake activity during Lake Appreciation Month.



Residents of Moon Lake

To help celebrate July's Lake Appreciation Month, Florida LAKEWATCH and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff joined forces with the local lake stakeholders from Moon Lake to examine water quality and the fish population. Moon Lake's water clarity was inline with historical LAKEWATCH measurements and we found a healthy fish population with abundant sportfish comprised of all year classes. As is usual in a Florida July it rained on everyone during our activities creating some smiles and chuckles from most everyone concerned.



Left - Jason Dotson using a Secchi Disk. Right - Jason and Mark Hoyer electrofishing

The Lake Appreciation Month event also added a new experience to my 40 + years of lakes sampling in Florida, which is pretty hard to do! The rain made our improvised boat ramp soft and slick making it necessary to get another vehicle with a tow rope to help pull us out of the lake, not really a new experience. However, the new experience was the only vehicle available to do the job was a four wheel drive Mercedes-Benz SUV. Never before have I been towed by a Mercedes-Benz! Watch the action [here](#).

Please take time to enjoy your lake all year long and thank you Volunteers for your sampling continued sapling efforts!

Florida Lake Management Society Symposium 2022

2022 was the first year back to the live and in person format of the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) Symposium. This year's theme was Turning the Tide: Springs to Estuarine and from August 30th - September 2nd LAKEWATCH staff enjoyed many talks given on the connectivity of Florida water bodies, lake management tools, and current and upcoming research!



Florida Lakewatch Director, Mark Hoyer was presented with this year's President's Award for his years of contribution and stewardship to Florida's water bodies and FLMS. Mark has played an integral role in furthering the research and interaction with Florida lakes, rivers, and streams for over 30 years! Thanks, Mark!

FLMS Symposium photos. Top- groups of conference attendees seated at dining tables. Bottom - Presenters giving talks at the microphone. Photo Credit: FLMS Facebook

Residential Fertilizer Ordinances Impact Water Quality

A new study by the University of Florida has shown that fertilizer ordinances can effect the Nitrogen and Phosphorus levels in water bodies, especially when timed correctly. The authors state that

"Residential fertilizer ordinances are widely adopted in populated coastal regions as a best management practice for mitigating nutrient loading to prevent toxic algal blooms, groundwater contamination, and other ecosystem disruptions. However, few studies have analyzed the impacts of these ordinances, leaving a critical knowledge gap between ordinance design/implementation and their impacts on environmental systems"

By using long term water quality data before and after the implementation of residential fertilizer ordinances, they were able to assess the impacts on nutrient loads and help direct future best management practices.

This work was done using LAKEWATCH data and reminds us of the importance of the work of our volunteers in contributing to the science that supports our Florida waters!

You can access the full article [here](#) or check out this IFAS Blog by Samantha Murray.

Welcome our new lab technician!



Deanna Linn is a Laboratory Technician II for Florida LAKEWATCH. She performs chlorophyll and nitrogen analysis for the lab. Deanna has been with Florida LAKEWATCH since August 2022.

Deanna grew up in central eastern Idaho and graduated from the University of Idaho in Moscow with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics.

Deanna loves the outdoors. In Idaho, she mostly went backpacking, camping, skiing and ice skating, but she looks forward to doing more water activities here in Florida. She also enjoys dancing including east coast, west coast and country swing, Argentine tango, salsa and casino.

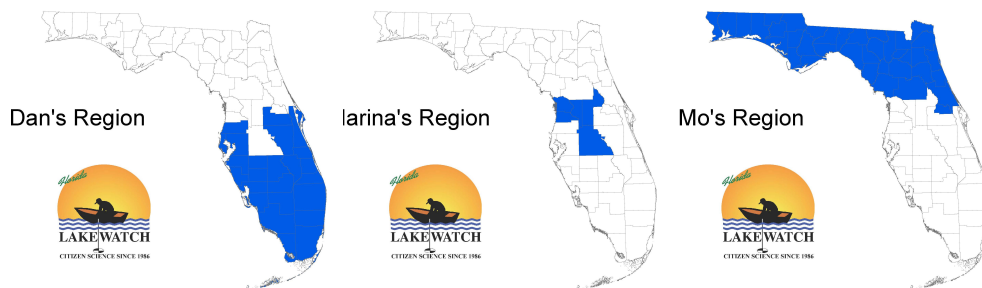
You can contact Deanna at: dlinn@ufl.edu

Where Will We be Next?

Our upcoming Annual Volunteer Appreciation meetings are set for September 21st for Orange County, September 29th for Citrus County, October 13th for Seminole County, and October 19th for Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. Your Regional Coordinator will be in touch with your invitations! See you there.

Who you gonna call?

Make sure you are getting in touch with the right person for your region. The contact information for each Regional Coordinator can be found below and on our website [here](#). We look forward to assisting you!



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