



Florida LAKEWATCH Newsletter

Spring 2022

**Happy Spring from
LAKEWATCH**

This is what's been happening at LAKEWATCH and what to look forward to this coming season.

LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH

POSTER CONTEST



Three posters will win a \$300 cash prize!
\$250 to the artist's school or organization /
\$50 to the artist



July has been Lakes Appreciation Month for the past 24 years! This spring, students of all ages are encouraged to submit posters reflecting how important lakes are to all of us!

Submitted artwork will be a big part of NALMS' celebrations through July across North America.

Show us your love for lakes - send us your artwork!
<https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/poster-contest/>

Instructions:

All grades K -12 welcome to participate!

Send an electronic version of your poster artwork to lakesappreciation@nalms.org

Each entry must include student name, grade, school, and contact information

Prizes will be awarded to the top entry in each grade division

Full instructions available at <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/poster-contest/>

Deadline:

June 1, 2022

July

2022

www.nalms.org

Lakes Appreciation Month

NALMS



Lake Appreciation Month!

In Four Months, July is Lakes Appreciation Month!

“And, It Is Never Too Early To Start Planning And Appreciating Our Florida Lakes”

The North American Lake Management Society
(NALMS) started Lakes Appreciation Month almost 20

years ago 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 sometimes this can result in abuse and neglect. With a little education and work we can all become better stewards of these valuable resources.

We just want to remind everyone to start planning ways to show your appreciation for our Florida lakes. Record any events and send pictures to LAKEWATCH so we can share them with others and especially with you at all of our annual Regional Meetings. There are many ways to show your appreciation for lakes including but not limited to:

Lakes Appreciation Month is a great time to participate in the

- Secchi Dip-In

<https://www.nalms.org/secchidipin/>, as many LAKEWATCH volunteers do every year.

Arrange a lake or watershed clean-up event

- Start a watershed storm drain stenciling program.
 - Bring a Senior and/or youth fishing
 - Develop an educational self-guided lake tour
 - Organize a hike or biking event with a focus on your local lake
 - Reach out to a local restaurant or brewery about hosting a “Lakes Appreciation Night” with a percentage of the proceeds donated to your local lake association
 - Help monitor your local waterbody or watershed
 - Have your septic system pumped if you live close to a waterbody
 - Go birding or take pictures at a lake or pond
 - Tap into your artistic side and draw or paint a lake scene for your home or office. Be sure to send us a copy!
- Organize a lake field trip for students

Need more ideas? Visit the NALMS website,
<https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/>

This year we specifically want you to encourage students (grades 1-12) to participate in the 2022 NALMS Lake Appreciation Month Poster Contest (see flyer). Last year's entries were great, but there were very few from Florida and we know we have the prettiest lakes (over 7,700 of them) and the most talented students. Please spread the word and let's get a good showing from Florida in 2022.

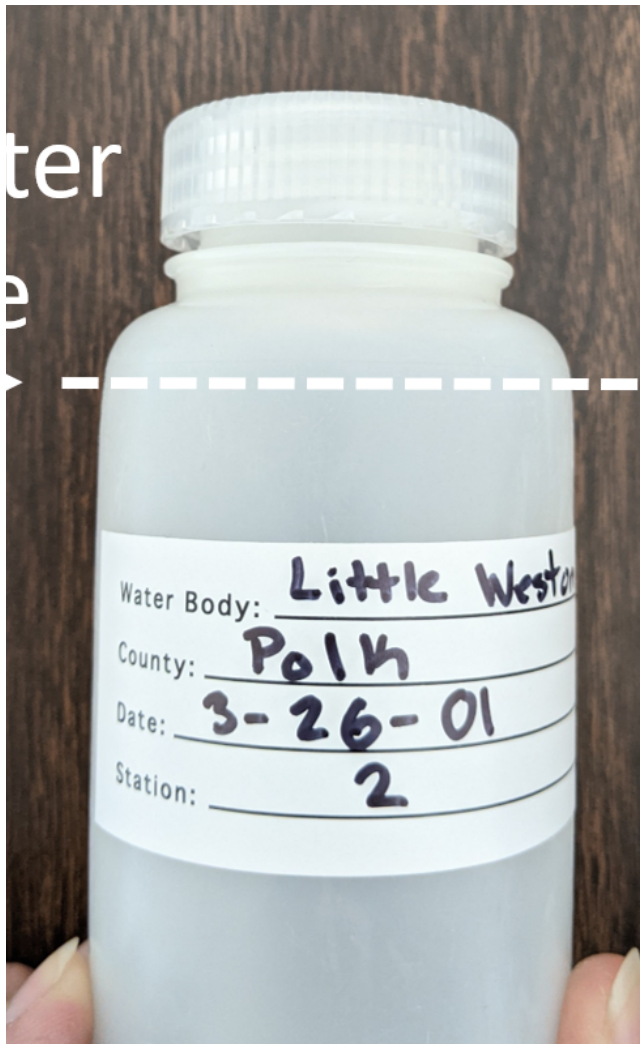
Next newsletter we will focus on Lake Appreciation Month's Secchi Dip-In with some interesting facts about the Secchi Disk. Stay tuned!



Photo Credits: Mark Hoyer

Water Sample Bottle Filling

LAEWATCH Volunteers, We have seen a rise in the number of broken sample bottles due to overfilling. To help protect the integrity of your sample and all your hard work, as well as help us save the bottles for reuse, only fill them to the "shoulder" of the bottle as shown here. Thank you for your continued service to the LAKEWATCH program!



Water bottle fill line (left) Overfilled and broken bottles (right).

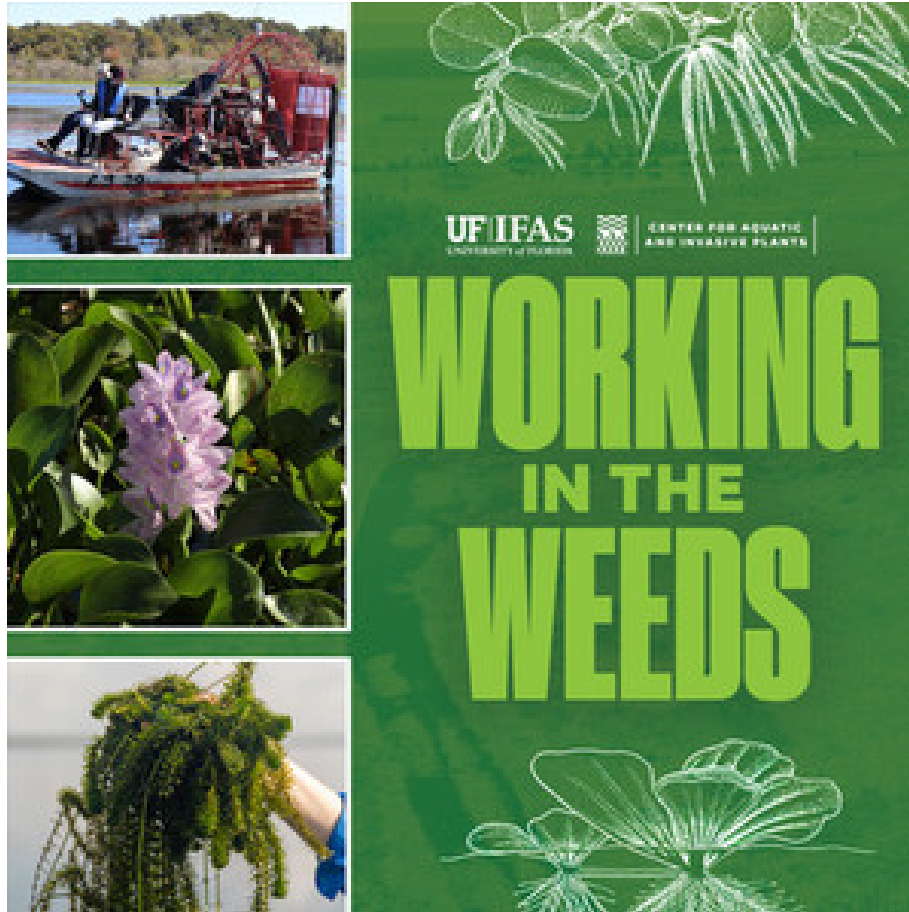


Have You Heard?

The UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) is a multidisciplinary research, teaching, and extension unit. CAIP is excited to announce its new podcast:

Working In The Weeds

This series will connect scientists with stakeholders to clarify and discuss issues surrounding aquatic and invasive plants, while also highlighting the research being conducted at the Center.



Make sure to check out their episode on Florida's Lakes and Landscapes!

[Learn More and Listen Here](#)

Celebrate TrophyCatch's 10th season with 10 tags & thousands of dollars in prizes!

Florida's iconic trophy bass are special – and right now there are some extra special bass swimming in the Sunshine State! To celebrate Season 10 of the TrophyCatch program, biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) tagged and released 10 largemouth bass with bright pink tags in 10 different locations across the state. If caught and entered in TrophyCatch, each tagged bass could be worth **thousands** of dollars in prizes!



Bass Pro Shops, a proud partner of TrophyCatch since the program's inception in 2012, is providing up to \$50,000 in gift cards in honor of the company's 50th anniversary celebration this year. Anglers who catch the pink-tagged bass can also receive gift cards for AFTCO merchandise and cash award money.

The freshwater locations of these high-value fish started out as a mystery, but all 10 locations will be revealed by April 5! So far, four lakes with swimming pink-tagged bass have been disclosed: Newnans Lake, Lake George, Lake Talquin, and Lake Walk-in-Water. Make sure to bookmark the TrophyCatch website and follow the TrophyCatch Facebook page for more waterbody hints and announcements.

To claim their prize, lucky anglers landing a bass with a pink tag must follow the submission instructions on the TrophyCatch 10-TAG webpage, which includes entering the bass in TrophyCatch. Bookmark the 10-TAG webpage to stay updated on this special promotion and to plan your fishing adventure!

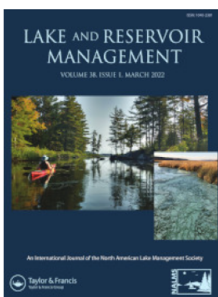
The TrophyCatch program rewards anglers who provide documentation of their catch and release of largemouth bass weighing 8 pounds or heavier in Florida. To be eligible for prizes, anglers are required to submit photos or videos of their catch to TrophyCatch.com, showing the entire fish and its weight on a scale, before releasing it back into the water. FWC biologists use TrophyCatch data for bass research to make informed decisions about the

management of Florida bass fisheries and to promote the catch and release of trophy bass. The associated TrophyCare program promotes best handling practices for trophy bass to ensure that each TrophyCatch bass is released alive.



For the latest news about the TrophyCatch 10-TAG Celebration subscribe to the program's Topic Email (select "TrophyCatch" under "Freshwater Fishing"). For more information about the TrophyCatch program or the 10-TAG Celebration, email KP Clements at Kp.Clements@MyFWC.com

Another publication in the books!



Lake and Reservoir Management

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ulrm20>

A Limnological Yardstick based on phosphorus limitation

Mark V. Hoyer & Daniel E. Canfield Jr.

Florida LAKEWATCH, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, School of Forest Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida/IFAS, 7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL, 32653, USA

ABSTRACT

Hoyer MA, Canfield DE, Jr. 2022. A Limnological Yardstick based on phosphorus limitation. Lake Reserv Manage. XX:XX-XX.

A new tool called a Limnological Yardstick was developed using long-term (15 to 35yr) lake chemistry data collected by volunteers of the Florida LAKEWATCH program. This yardstick can assist managers of aquatic systems with identifying where there is a great probability that phosphorus is not only the limiting nutrient, but the limiting environmental factor. When a lake's phosphorus–chlorophyll data lie below the yardstick's lower 95% confidence interval, phosphorus may be the limiting nutrient but not the limiting environmental factor, indicating where phosphorus control strategies will most likely fail. The Limnological Yardstick cannot directly identify the limiting environmental factor(s), as this requires a thorough limnological study of the lake because each lake has unique properties. Limiting environmental factors discussed are nitrogen, true color (Pt-Co units), nonalgal suspended solids, flushing rate, and aquatic macrophytes. The potential impacts of limiting environmental factors on the classification of lake trophic state and eutrophication are also discussed.

KEYWORDS

Chlorophyll; eutrophication; nitrogen; phosphorus; Secchi depth; trophic state; water quality

“Lakespert” – Urban Lakes are Overused and Under Appreciated. Do Something about It.

By: Steve Lundt, CLM

There are urbanized lakes (Lake Washington and Lake Mendota) and then there are urban lakes (small, sometimes nameless lakes in city parks). Any “lakespert” will tell you that lakes in populated areas are important to the community and at the same time are neglected and underappreciated.

Urban lakes dotting our cities and towns are typically small, shallow, murky, afterthoughts that are lined with seawalls, choked with overfertilized lawns, and lost to city politics and departments. My local urban lake near downtown Denver doesn't even allow canoeing! These waterbodies have so much potential but are typically over utilized or completely forfeited by the community. Here's a list of pressures and expectations that urban lakes run into:

1. Storm water (treatment, trash collection, and flood control)
2. Aesthetics (high natural lake expectations plus a fountain)
3. Fishing (recreational and subsistence)
4. Boating (dragon boat races to water skiing)

5. Wildlife habitat (connectivity to wildlife corridor and birding)
6. Therapeutic relief from daily stresses (think outdoor yoga or a place to picnic)
7. Water quality standards (Clean Water Act)
8. Safe place for people experiencing homelessness (sanitation issues)
9. Economic driver (local businesses, real estate, and tourism)
10. Commons (farmer markets, charity runs, fireworks, and open-air concerts)
11. Backdrop for outdoor exercising (jogging, biking, and walking)
12. Outdoor classrooms and summer camps (some kids never get out of the city)



A popular urban lake in Denver, CO. How many lake issues can you find in this photo? (Photo by, Steve Lundt, CLM).

Now imagine your local urban lake and how it is trying to meet all these competing needs. It's no wonder there are more residential geese than actual residents enjoying the lake. In my "lakespert" opinion, I recommend three action items that would improve any urban lake: 1. Allow appropriate boating – get people on the water, 2. Stock heavily with appropriate, catchable fish – get kids excited about lake fishing, and 3. Organize an annual Lakes Appreciation event in July – educate the community about what an urban lake is and can do. If those three items can happen successfully, then most other lake related topics and issues will be addressed along the way.

Ever wonder why we have so many urbanized and urban lakes around the world? People are drawn to water for safety, food, excitement, comfort, and relaxation. Urban lakes need a better chance to fulfill these core desires. Do something about it. Start planning your Lakes Appreciation celebration now.

Want more from Florida LAKEWATCH?

[Check out our Website](#)