

Staff Directory

Keith Andreu, Aquatic Technician
 William Colon, Aquaculture Technician
 Jeremy Ford, Aquatic Technician
 T. Wayne Gale, Executive Director
 Ernesto Lasso de la Vega, Pond Watch Coordinator
 Kenneth Sonne, Aquatic Technician
 Linda Walstrum, Administrative Assistant
 Kevin Watts, Operations Manager



District staff presenting at the Annual LCHCD Pondwatch meeting

Public Outreach

The LCHCD Pond Watch (PW) program continues to offer Lee County residents solutions to managing their storm water ponds. Our program provides guidance tools with emphasis upon best pond management practices and water quality analysis to determine the source of potential excess nutrients. Volunteers collect water samples on a monthly basis and receive an annual report regarding the condition of their waterbody. The results are examined, evaluated, and a water analysis can be viewed by visiting the Pond Watch Water Atlas at <http://www.chnep.wateratlas.usf.edu/pond-watch-program/>.

Information displayed at this website can indicate graph trends of water quality parameters resulting in a reduction of the impact of their urban ponds on public waters. A scientific study, which emphasized the positive effects of the Lee County Fertilizer Ordinance was recently published. LCHCD contributed to this publication in part with thanks to numerous years of data collected by the PW program and the collaboration from Mr. Jim Ryan from Peppertree Point.

PW has been a consistent participant of the WETPLAN (Watershed Education and Training for Ponds, Lakes and Neighborhoods) initiative, which is an expansion of the outreach mission of the LCHCD program. This partnership with government agencies, educational institutions and private entities help create workshops, and outreach videos to answer questions in which orients Home Owner Associations on the best management practices for storm water ponds.

Top Ten Plant Species Treated In 2015 (acres treated)

1. Spatterdock	237		Spatterdock
2. Muskgrass	67		
3. Cattail	47		Cattail
4. Water Lettuce	37		
5. Torpedograss	35		
6. Tapegrass	35		
7. Illinois Pondweed	33		Water Lettuce
8. Southern Naiad	33		
9. Duckweed	15		
10. Water Pennywort	10		Duckweed

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Lee County Hyacinth Control District

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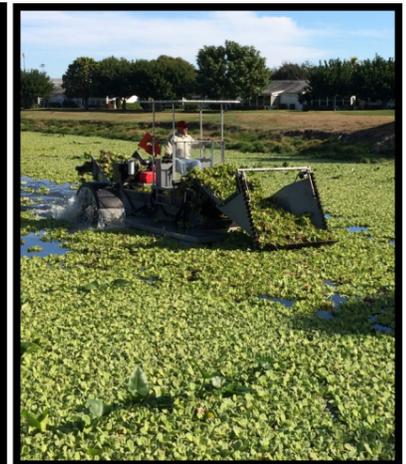
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Lee County Hyacinth Control District

15191 Homestead Road
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Phone: 239-694-2174

WWW.LCHCD.ORG



The Lee County Hyacinth Control District was formed by an act of the Florida Legislature on June 12, 1961.



Operations

Aquatic vegetation is managed by the application of EPA labeled herbicides and with the use of a herbivorous fish species known as grass carp. 2015 summaries are as follows:

Chemical Control

Service Requests 611

Acres Treated 616

The geographical jurisdiction of LCHCD includes all of Lee County, the Caloosahatchee River and its tributaries up to the border of Lake Okeechobee in Glades County (27,658 acres managed). The District defines public waters as any waterbody accessible by the general public, or owned as a public resource. Uses of the water may include, but are not limited to, navigation, recreation, fishing, flood control and water supply.

This year the District has been quite busy and productive controlling various aquatic plant species throughout our local waterways. One of which is Spatterdock, (*Nuphar advena*) a native waterlily to North America. As of recently it has reared its aggressive and productive growth patterns throughout Lee County's waters this season, which is more unusual in years previous. Application methods for reducing this plants proliferation were very effective, due to much diligence and awareness with proper rotation of aquatic herbicide treatments and recognition towards limiting potential

development of resistance on targeted aquatic plant species. Spatterdock is an immensely beneficial plant for freshwater communities and has many positive attributes associated with its function in water quality enhancement. However, it does have a tendency to be very intrusive when conditions are favorable for production and can spread throughout a shallow littoral shelf, especially in the case with The Lee County Lakes Park spreader waterway this year. Fortunately, LCHCD has been able to adequately manage this species and others from developing into a significant downstream issue beyond the designated filter marsh of the park.

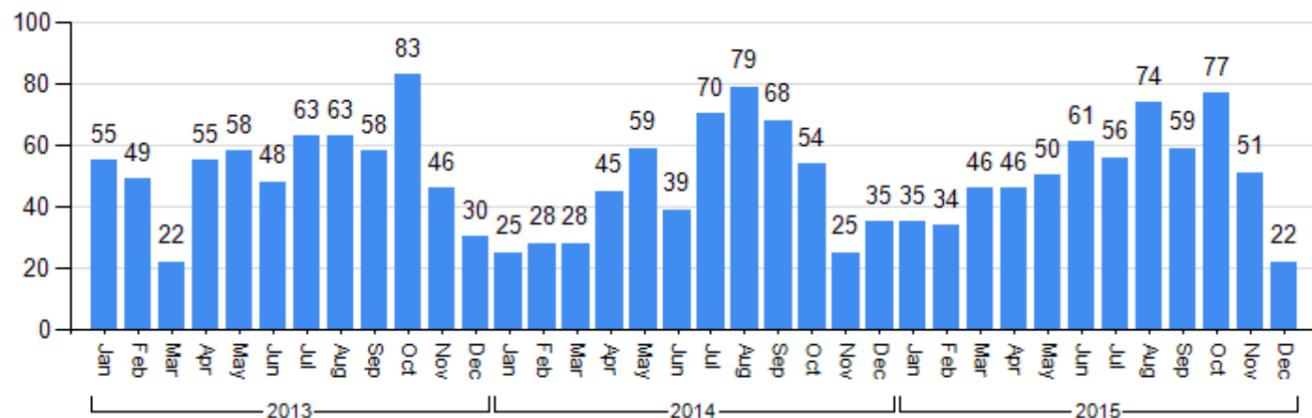


Spatterdock in Lakes Park pre-treatment



Lakes Park post-treatment

Monthly Service Calls by Year



The District and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have been working collaboratively on various methods of control on Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) and Water Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle* spp.) this year. Some of the direct impacts have been upon navigation upstream off the Caloosahatchee River in the Turkey Creek area of Glades County. The likely point source for the abundance of these indigenous and/or naturalized species are comprised near the headwaters of Lake Hicpochee. Efforts to manage the down river implications have had positive results, but other waterway inputs have contributed and exacerbated the problem regrettably as well. Most of the areas of concern have been addressed and answered with an effective aquatic plant management plan to alleviate future concerns.



Aquatic weed harvester removing vegetative tussock

Biological Control / Grass Carp

Acres Stocked 478

Grass Carp Stocked 1191

Cumulative Acres Managed 2,280

The Districts biological program continues to successfully use triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) throughout Lee County's waters where permit restrictions are followed. Grass carp or white amur are native to East Asia, China, and Russia originating from the Amur River. Non-indigenous species such as grass carp are typically regulated for use, each State has different restrictions and only certified triploids are legal for stocking in Florida with the required permit issued from FWC. Grass carp are herbivorous feeders selectively consuming aquatic weeds palatable for their diet. On the occasion, residents from time to time will attempt to catch and/or eat them, this is prohibited by state law because a permit is required to transfer, exchange, or



Before and after treatment of a Labelle oxbow off the Caloosahatchee River inundated with water lettuce this season

LCHCD monitors water quality conditions in the Caloosahatchee River from multiple collection sampling sites. This component of our program helps to determine where point source and urban runoff nutrients are entering Lee County's waterways. Sampling analysis from the District's water quality lab assists with design implementation and pretreatment recommendations promoting an effective plant management strategy. Locating these suspected inputs and non-point source indicators are an essential tool in assessment of where the introduction of aquatic plant species might be indirectly imported from their propagation habitat preferences. Utilization of these quantitative results from analysis continue to provide a significant benefit in the long term success of our program.

remove this species from a stocked site. The intended purpose is for aquatic vegetation control, not human consumption or recreational fishing.

LCHCD manages 2,280 acres with grass carp in Lee County waters. The City of Cape Coral proportionally has one of the largest urban canal systems in our area, roughly 400 miles of waterways conducive to supporting an effective biological management tool. There are a series of grass carp barriers located throughout the Cape's interior waterways suited for containment. Roughly, the Districts grass carp program comprises of 1,236 acres managed in the Cape's freshwater canal system.

Barriers and grass carp stocking in Cape Coral canals

