

DEP Lake Vegetation Index (LVI) and Plant ID Training, April 26-28, 2011

Wekiwa Springs State Park, Youth Camp Recreation Hall

1800 Wekiwa Circle, Apopka, Florida 32712, (407) 884-2008

This training is being provided for DEP LVI samplers, and is open to non-DEP samplers as well. It is not intended to be an introductory course for LVI sampling or plant identification, so if you have no previous LVI experience, **please read the LVI sampling and proficiency testing SOPs** (DEP SOPs FS7310 and FA4330, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/sas/sop/sops.htm>) **and LVI Primer** (http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/sas/training/docs/lvi_primer.pdf) **before the training**. All participants should review these materials (NOTE: Some updates to the Primer will be provided at or shortly before the training). We will conduct LVI sampling at Proficiency Testing lakes on Wednesday. Teams planning to conduct LVI sampling (testing) on Wednesday should notify Nia Wellendorf (nijole.wellendorf@dep.state.fl.us) and bring your own boats and sampling gear. Lake maps and assignments will be provided.

Tuesday, 4/26, 1 PM (Wekiwa Springs Youth Camp Recreational Hall):

1:00 – Minor modifications to LVI quality assurance and discussion, including:

- o Revised lake habitat assessment information to collect with LVI
- o Determination of seasonal high water line up to which plant taxa should be included
- o Potential changes to C of C scores
- o New guidance for lowest practical taxonomic level for plant ID for the LVI
- o New guidance for genera which should be taken back to the lab for species ID

3:00 – Field identification tips – focus on FLEPPC invasive exotics

- o How to identify the invasive exotics (FLEPPC species) in lakes, and distinguish from native look-alikes
- o Field ID of common lake grasses
- o Field ID of small floating plants

5:00 - Logistics for Wednesday field exercise.

- DEP organizers will assign lakes and provide sampling maps and directions for teams conducting LVIs on Wednesday.

Wednesday, 4/27, (morning in the field, late afternoon at Recreational Hall):

8:00 AM (on your own but early start will allow more training in the afternoon) - LVI proficiency sampling for LVI sampling teams (1 site per team). Teams should bring their own boats and sampling gear, but lake assignments, maps, and directions will be provided.

10:30-12 PM (Recreational Hall) – Verifications of live material seen at lakes. Teams should try to resolve IDs of plants they collected in the field. Microscopes will be available, and Nia Wellendorf and Ashley O'Neal from DEP will act as your experts for select unknowns. Any unresolved unknowns will be sent to expert botanists after the training event.

12:00 - Lunch on your own

1-5 PM - Identification training for genera:

- o How to key these out on your own - *Ludwigia*, *Utricularia*, *Polygonum*
- o Tricky submersed - *Myriophyllum*, *Najas*, *Potamogeton*, *Sagittaria*, *Eleocharis*
- o Sedges and rushes, with focus on genus level ID and skills for using keys to ID to species

Thursday 4/28, 8 AM (Wekiwa Springs Youth Camp Recreational Hall and hiking trails):

8:00 – Identification training for woody species commonly encountered during LVI sampling
Classroom and field training

11:30 – Wrap-up