

# Understanding Your Lake

## “Our Lake Was Never Like This Before”



A lake is a living, and ever evolving thing. Many people think a lake is static and unchanging like a swimming pool. Often, we hear “I’ve lived on this lake for years and it’s never been like this before. What’s going on?” The simple answer is: You’re lake is getting older and as it matures it’s going to go through changes. This is especially true in South Florida since most of our lakes are manmade, shallow and quite new in comparison to the natural lakes that occur in other parts of the country. To add to the situation, our lakes are connected directly to storm water drains and canals, increasing sources of input. Community lakes may provide nice scenery but their primary purpose is to catch and hold rainwater from storms so our neighborhoods don’t flood. That water carries with it anything it picks up as it flows across our properties, down the streets, and through our developments. Items such as dirt, fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, leaves, and petroleum products are carried into our lakes via storm flow and accompanying winds where they begin to accumulate. Everything from lake depth to water chemistry is changed (ever so slightly) every rainy season. Year after year the subtle changes build until finally, the cumulative result becomes visually obvious. Another source for change that often goes unnoticed is the constant barrage of new weeds and plants introduced to our lakes by wildlife. Waterways provide an oasis and convenient habitat for migrating water birds. Every season they travel great distances, hopping from lake to lake; carrying new weeds and transferring them to each water body as they go. Therefore, if the observation is “Our lake wasn’t like this 5 years ago.” The response is “That’s because it’s not the same lake it was 5 years ago.” The long standing relationship Allstate has had with many of its customers has given us tremendous experience in handling the changes that naturally occur with community lakes over time. Feel free to contact us and let our staff work with your specific waterway needs.