



**Marion County  
Board of County Commissioners**

Office of Public Information

601 SE 25th Ave.  
Ocala, FL 34471  
Phone: 352-438-2300  
Fax: 352-438-2309

Contact: John Linhoss, Extension Agent, UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service  
Office: 352-671-8400 ▪ Email: [john.linhoss@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:john.linhoss@marioncountyfl.org)

**UF/IFAS MARION COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS  
FOR FLORIDA LAKEWATCH PROGRAM**

Immediate Release

**MARION COUNTY, Fla.** (Sept. 16, 2011) – UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service is looking for Marion County residents who are ready to roll up their sleeves, get their elbows wet and make a valuable contribution to the future of Florida lakes by participating in the Florida LAKEWATCH program. If you have a boat – almost any kind – and a few extra hours every other month, you may be a candidate for this volunteer lake monitoring program.

“Florida LAKEWATCH trains volunteers across the state to collect water and algae samples and water clarity information that can be used to document a lake's nutrient levels,” said David Watson, Marion County Regional Coordinator for Florida LAKEWATCH. “Over time, baseline data are established, providing citizens and water managers with a useful tool for managing lakes.”

So far, Florida LAKEWATCH program volunteers have collected samples from 35 lakes, rivers and streams in Marion County.

Volunteers receive individualized training in monitoring procedures, sampling materials and periodic reports of their monthly data, including an annual report on their water body. They also receive supplies, quarterly educational newsletters, access to aquatic sciences experts at the University of Florida and invitations to regularly scheduled LAKEWATCH activities and annual county meetings.

If you already enjoy Marion’s lakes but want to learn more about them, the Florida LAKEWATCH program is the perfect opportunity. For more information, contact John Linhoss at 352-671-8400.

Florida LAKEWATCH is coordinated through the Program of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Florida.

###

*“Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations”*