

# SUSTAINABLE SEMINOLE

Protecting our Natural Resources through Volunteering & Education



## Newsletter for SERV & Seminole County Solid Waste Management

Fun fall opportunities are right around the corner! Check out the events of the season below, and visit us on social media to see our recent photos and read some fun facts.







## Upcoming Volunteer Events

### Lake Lily Demo Garden

Help start the new Lake Lily Garden on Saturday, 9/7/24! We will be planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers to attract pollinators and other wildlife. Plantings will demonstrate the use of native plants that require less water to maintain. Read more details and signup on <http://SERVProgram.eventbrite.com>.



### Lake Restoration Events

Help Seminole County Lake Management & SERV to plant shoreline vegetation to improve water quality! We'll be working in the water - part of the fun is getting muddy & wet! Fall dates: 9/28/24, 10/12/24, 10/19/24. Read more details on <http://SERVProgram.eventbrite.com>.



## Educational Opportunities

### Eco Paddle Events

Thanks to the generosity of Wekiva Island, we are pleased to offer monthly Eco Paddle events in fall, winter, and spring! These FREE educational outings are held in partnership with Wekiva Wild & Scenic River System. Upcoming dates: 9/25/24, 10/21/24, 11/8/24. Signup (REQUIRED): <http://SERVProgram.eventbrite.com>



### Educational Presentations

Is your school, youth group, community organization, or business in Seminole County looking for a guest speaker? Contact Elizabeth Stephens at [serv@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:serv@seminolecountyfl.gov), 407-665-2457 for watershed management topics (aquatic biology, water quality, conservation, STEM careers). Contact Ademir Dacenay at [dacenay@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:dacenay@seminolecountyfl.gov), 407-665-2265 for solid waste management topics (recycling, hazardous waste, career presentations).





# HURRICANE SEASON

## Yard Waste Prep



- Don't wait until a hurricane is forecasted to maintain your yard. Prepare throughout the summer by cutting back tree limbs and other vegetation.
- If a hurricane is on its way, it may be too late to rely on regular yard waste collection. Drop off yard waste at the Landfill instead.
- After a storm, expect delays for yard waste and debris collection.
- Stay up to date on curbside collection and storm preparation and recovery.



Register for alerts at [AlertSeminole.org](https://AlertSeminole.org)



Follow Seminole County on Facebook, Instagram, and X



For updates, visit [PrepareSeminole.org](https://PrepareSeminole.org)



# LEAF IT OUT!

## No plastic bags for yard waste

Please use paper bags, reusable bins, or tied bundles for your yard waste at the curbside.

Plastic bags damage machinery and contaminate the mulch used at the Landfill.



Learn more at [seminolecountyfl.gov/solidwaste](https://seminolecountyfl.gov/solidwaste) or call 407-665-2260.





## Solid Waste Management Updates

### Cooking Oil

We collected ~ 3,600 gallons of cooking oil last year. The cooking oil that is collected at the County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility is recycled and repurposed into biofuel and other products.



### E-Waste

We collected 275,917 pounds of E-waste last year. E-waste that is dropped off at the County's HHW facility is transported to a contractor that recovers recyclable materials from the waste. The materials recovered from the E-waste is repurposed into new electronic components.



### Rechargeable Batteries

We collected a total of 3,051 pounds of rechargeable batteries last year. Improper disposal / management of rechargeable batteries can potentially result in a fire. Rechargeable batteries collected at the County's HHW facility are sent to a contractor that recovers the recyclable materials from these unwanted batteries.

Seminole County residents that have any of the above unwanted materials can take them to the HHW facility in Longwood for proper disposal.



## Volunteers of the Season: Hoffman Family

**SERV Involvement:** Michael, Erica, and Grant Hoffman have been volunteering with SERV since 2023 (pictured adjacent at Lake Tuskawilla and in middle of group at Wilson's Landing). Michael writes: "We've truly enjoyed our time volunteering with SERV. The volunteer process is straightforward, making it easy for anyone to get involved and contribute. The fact that the whole family can participate has been wonderful. We also appreciate the many event locations throughout the year which have given us the chance to visit and learn about new places in Seminole County that we hadn't been to before. Through these events we have learned about different species of invasive plants and the proper way to dispose of them, various forms of natural water filtration, and supported environmental study areas."

**Background:** Michael has lived in Seminole County his entire life. He graduated from Lake Mary High School, earned a BS and MS in Computer Science from UCF, and works as a Software Engineer. Erica grew up in Vero Beach, earned a BA and MBA from UCF, and currently works in cloud software consulting. Grant attends middle school and hopes to attend UCF in the future. They love spending time outdoors, both for Grant's travel baseball season, and recreationally to visit stretches of the St. Johns River. They also enjoy attending UCF sporting events, maintaining their backyard garden, playing pickleball, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. We are very thankful for the Hoffmans and all of their hard work!

