

# O S C E O L A C O U N T Y



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, land, water and other natural resources of Florida continue to be severely impacted by an increasing number of harmful, non-native plant and animal species, resulting in damage to Florida's environment and causing economic hardships; and*

*WHEREAS, invasive, non-native plants such as hydrilla, hygrophila and water hyacinth pollute 95 percent of Florida's public lakes and rivers; and*

*WHEREAS, it has proven nearly impossible to eradicate invasive plant populations; therefore, continuous maintenance of invasive aquatic plants is needed to sustain navigation, flood control and recreation while preserving native plant habitat; and*

*WHEREAS, the State spent over \$10 million managing hydrilla in Florida's public waters in fiscal year 2007/2008, with over \$5 million spent in Osceola County alone; and*

*WHEREAS, over \$50 million of asset value from recreation in Osceola County is at risk if hydrilla is not managed; and*

*WHEREAS, the University of Florida/IFAS Osceola County Extension provides information to help citizens learn more about preventing and managing invasive plant and animal species locally, as awareness of the issue and preventative actions, such as proper boat inspection and cleaning, can greatly reduce the chances of invasive aquatic species being spread in Florida; and*

*WHEREAS, National Invasive Species Awareness Week will be held in Washington, DC, January 10-14, 2010, to bring together diverse organizations and agencies from across the country to focus attention on the severe impacts caused by invasive species.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim January 10 - 14, 2010 to be known as*

### **NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK IN OSCEOLA COUNTY**

**DONE AND ADOPTED** by the Osceola Board of County Commissioners on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010.

#### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**



*Fred Hawkins, Jr.*  
Fred Hawkins, Jr., Chairman

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Brandon Arrington, Vice Chairman

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John Quiñones, Commissioner

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