

Office of the Mayor
St. Cloud, Florida

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the land, water and other resources of Florida are being severely impacted by an increasing number of harmful, non-native plant and animal species; and

WHEREAS, these impacts are 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, eradicating established invasive plant populations has proven nearly impossible; therefore, continuous maintenance of invasive aquatic plants is needed to sustain navigation, flood control, and recreation while preserving native plant habitat; and

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

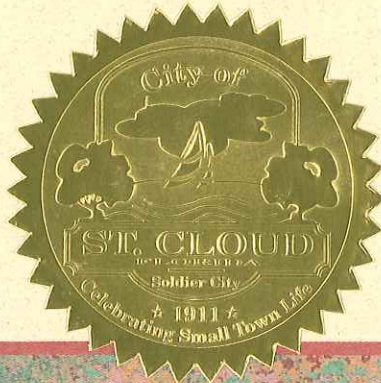
WHEREAS, there is over \$50 million of asset value from recreation at risk in Osceola County if hydrilla is not managed; and

WHEREAS, 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, UF/IFAS Osceola County Extension provides local information to help citizens learn more about preventing and managing invasive plant and animal species locally, and

WHEREAS, the 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, I, Donna Hart, Mayor of the City of St. Cloud do hereby proclaim January 10-14, 2010, as **National Invasive Species Awareness Week**.



In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed

Donna Hart

Attest: Janice P. Jaworski

Date: December 11, 2009