

On February 17, 2009, Gloria Eby (Seminole County (SC) Senior Environmental Scientist), Dean G Barber (SC Consultant) and Carol Watral (SC MSBU coordinator) surveyed the aquatic plants in Lake Pickett. Thirty four species of aquatic plants were observed. Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) included: coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), roadgrass (*Eleocharis baldwinii*), filamentous algae, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), ambulia (*Limnophila sessiliflora*), bog moss (*Mayaca fluviatilis*), southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), and eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*). Of these, bog moss was the most abundant, in fact, it was the most abundant of all the aquatic plants observed. Roadgrass, hydrilla and southern naiad were observed to a depth of 2.9 meters (9.5 feet), and bog moss and eelgrass to 2.6 meters (8.5 feet). Hydrilla was healthy, with new growth buds on strands up to 3 feet in length. In most cases, hydrilla was observed in shallow water adjacent to the shore or on the deep side of the other SAV. It was present on 6 of 28 bottom grabs. Other SAV, roadgrass, ambulia, bogmoss and southern naiad were more abundant than hydrilla and well established, making it difficult for the hydrilla to expand. No SAV was observed in depths greater than 2.9 meters (9.5 feet). The most abundant emergent aquatic plant was the native grass maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*) observed coming to the water surface from a depth up to 2.1 meters (7 feet), followed closely inshore by rush-fuirena (*Fuirena scirpoidea*). Most of the invasive torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*) was present in the western lobe of the lake. Less abundant than the torpedo grass and mostly present in the eastern lobe was southern cut grass (*Leersia hexandra*). Less than 0.2 acres of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) were present mostly in the western lobe of the lake. Secchi (water clarity) was 2.1 meters (7 feet) in a depth of 6.7 meters (22 feet).