

Pickett 8-23-2011

On **23 August 2011**, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) personnel Gloria Eby, Marianne Pluchino, Kathy Moore (MSBU), and Thomas Calhoun surveyed the aquatic plants in **Lake Pickett** and conducted a Lake Vegetation Index (LVI). The LVI was created by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a rapid screening tool (bioassessment) for ecological condition; it determines how closely a lake's flora (aquatic plants) resembles that of an undisturbed lake.

Lake Pickett is 762 surface acres with a mean depth of 12 feet, maximum depth of 35 feet, located in the Big Econlockhatchee watershed. Historical LVI scores range from 71 to 79; in the healthy and exceptional categories.

<b>LVI Range</b>	<b>Description</b>
78-100	Exceptional
38-77	Healthy
0-37	Impaired

As during the previous survey, 19 May 2010, hydrilla was observed, in both the western lobe and eastern lobe. The plant was observed in depths to 7 feet in small amounts. Native SAV included: road grass present to a depth of 9 feet, southern naiad to 11 feet, stonewort to 9 feet, bladderwort to 9 feet, and fanwort to 5 feet. Bog moss was the dominant SAV species found during the inspection found to a depth of 10 feet. Native SAV is well established from the shallow depths to 13 feet and continues to make it difficult for hydrilla to establish and expand.

Picture: Bog moss found during inspection.



Maidencane continues to be the most abundant emergent aquatic plant, observed to a depth of 5.5 feet followed by rush-fuirena inshore to a depth of 4.7 feet. These native plant populations of emergent grasses, with spatterdock and fragrant water lilies, are being increasingly impacted by invasive cattails and torpedo grass. Torpedo grass was more prevalent in the western lobe where waterfront owners have previously removed native emergent aquatic plants and torpedo grass has invaded the site. Other invasive exotics included two trees; Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) and Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*).

Photo: Maidencane found along shoreline.



Secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 10.1 feet in a depth of 18 feet. The water elevation at the time of inspection was 54.28 feet above sea level. This and other lake information is available on the Seminole County Watershed Atlas web site at <http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/>.