

Greetings Bear Gully Lake!

Below please find the latest assessment for your lake. Key highlights of this update will include:

- Status of Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)-very good diversity observed
- Status of shoreline emergent vegetation- exotic torpedo grass remains the dominant plant
- Hydrilla found at inflow creek- spot treat hydrilla in this area
- Continued encouragement of planting native aquatic plants along your shoreline
- Next scheduled restoration event will be **Saturday, September 29th, 2012**- contact me if you would like to be a planting location
- Recommendations for you and your lake

On **March 7th, 2012** Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) staff, Gloria Eby and Thomas Calhoun, and CJ Greene with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), surveyed the aquatic plants of Bear Gully Lake.

The diversity of submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) is very good with a total of seven species and only one of those species being invasive exotic. The invasive exotic hydrilla was observed in the inflow creek off Goldenrod Drive. Native SAV diversity consists of six species of which two, eelgrass and southern naiad, are extending to a depth of 9 feet. Other SAV observed included: roadgrass, filamentous algae, bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*) to 5 feet and coontail in shallow water at inflow. Eelgrass continues to be the most observed aquatic plant in the shallow areas with southern naiad intermixed. No SAV was found on the deep side of the eelgrass.

Photo: Eelgrass, bladderwort, and southern naiad.



The most extensive population of emergent aquatic plants continues to be the invasive exotic torpedo grass. Most of the plants from the September 17th restoration event are surviving and expanding. These plants include duck potato, pickerelweed, and canna lily. We continue to encourage residents to plant native plants in place of a bare shoreline or

torpedo grass. **Please note the next scheduled restoration event will be Saturday, September 29th, 2012. We are looking for new planting locations so please contact me if you would like to be a part of this upcoming event.**

Photo: Duck potato planted during restoration event.



Secchi reading (measurement for water clarity) was 2.4 feet in 7.2 feet of water as compared to 2.6 in the previous reading.

Lake Recommendations:

1. Work together or establish a lake association with other lakefront owners to control and if possible, eliminate invasive plants and increase native aquatic plantings along shoreline (such as pickerelweed, canna and duck potato). Have at least one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as county or state biologists) to discuss lake specific issues.
2. Treat invasive torpedo grass and other invasive aquatic plants along your waterfront. Either do it yourself by hand removal or obtain the necessary aquatic herbicide (we can provide some sources) or hire a contracted aquatic herbicide application company (we can provide a list of companies). Control of aquatic and wetland plants will in most cases requires a free Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) aquatic plant control permit. Contact CJ Green at (407) 858-6170 or Carl.Greene@myFWC.com (once pasted into email check hyperlink) for a permit.
3. Increase educational outreach programs i.e. Shoreline Restoration Workshops (**next planting day scheduled; September 29th, 2012**). Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN), Lake Management Video mail-outs, and reduction of personal pollution by: decreasing fertilizer usage; only using phosphorous free fertilizers; keeping a functional shoreline with beneficial native aquatic plants; keeping grass clippings out of your storm drains and the lake. All these activities aid in protecting your lake! Contact Seminole

County Lake Management Program (407) 665-2439 for free educational programs available.

4. Treat or pull all the hydrilla at the inflow canal off of Goldenrod Drive. This will require several timely efforts, but done successfully, this will prevent the expansion of hydrilla within the lake.

Have a great week!