Bear Gully Lake 10/08/2008

Surveyed Bear Gully Lake on October 8, 2008. Hydrilla, a submersed invasive aquatic plant, was noted at all the previously observed locations: inflow ditch adjacent to Goldenrod Drive, discharge canal south of Tigua Island Court, and the inflow ditch adjacent to Dr. Graham's residence. With the recent rains, mostly associated to T.S. Fay, the high density of hydrilla at the Goldenrod ditch seem to have been blown out by excessive water flow. Dragging the lake bottom in and around the site did not produce additional hydrilla in the lake. Hydrilla was still observed in the ditch, but at a much lower density than noted in the past.

Hydrilla was found further into the lake adjacent to the Tigua Island outfall, to a depth of 4.5 feet than previously noted. It has not been observed this far into the lake on previous surveys. A point of concern. Water hyacinth are still present on the eastern side of this outfall, representing 0.1 acres. The submersed native aquatic plants, eelgrass and southern naiad, are expanding in the shallow water, a significant change from previous surveys when very little submersed aquatic vegetation have been observed. This is a significant improvement and will be a key factor in inhibiting hydrilla expansion into the lake in the future. Eelgrass was present to 5.5 feet and southern naiad to 6.5 feet.

Additional grass carp stocking is still not recommended at this time. In the past and presently with few native submersed aquatic plants, grass carp would hamper and possibly prevent establishment and expansion of these plants, most notably eelgrass and southern naiad. As indicated, these plants will not only inhibited establishment of hydrilla, but uptake nutrients and provide fish and wildlife habitat, both highly important to a good aquatic ecosystem. With present frequency of monitoring of the lake, a more opportune time for grass carp stocking can be determined.