

On **23 July 2009**, Gloria Eby, Dean G Barber (SC Consultant), Thomas Calhoun (SC Assistant Scientist) and Fred Streetman (Lake Brantley Lake Management Association President) surveyed the aquatic plants in Lake Brantley. The major concern still is hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) which was the dominant plant observed throughout the lake to a depth of 23 feet. This is the deepest that hydrilla has been observed in the lake in the last 2 years. Some strands that were taken off the bottom were 14 feet in length. Even though the hydrilla strands are long, no strand was to the surface in deep water. In most cases, hydrilla was at least 4 feet below the surface. This is most likely because the triploid grass carp are eating the new growth hydrilla tips. As much as hydrilla was the most abundant aquatic plant, it was only on the surface in shallow water less than 6 feet depth. Even though hydrilla was up to the surface in shallow water, it was not the dominant plant in this zone. Four native submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) including: water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum laxum*), baby tears (*Micranthemum glomeratum*), stonewort (*Nitella spp*) and eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*) were more prevalent in this area. Baby tears were seen to a depth of 10 feet, thick and healthy. These plants continue to make it more difficult for the hydrilla to expand in the shallow area of the lake. Other native SAV included: lemon bacopa (*Bacopa caroliniana*), fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), and road grass (*Eleocharis baldwinii*). No southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*) or musk grass were observed, but hopefully these natives will be a factor with the other native SAV in competing with the hydrilla for space.

The Secchi (water quality) was 12.2 feet at a depth of 23 feet, compared to the June reading of 11.9 feet. Historic Secchi readings, from 1973 to present, including 100 samples, has been 0.5-17.1 ft. This information and much more is available on the Seminole County Water Atlas at: <http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu>