

Lake Tuskawilla 01/13/2009

Observations:

On January 13, 2009, Gloria Eby (Seminole County (SC) Senior Environmental Scientist), Dean G Barber (SC Consultant), Cindy Susi (Lake Tuskawilla resident) and Thomas Calhoun (SC Assistant Scientist) surveyed the aquatic plants in Lake Tuskawilla. All submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) has been reduced. This includes: hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), muskgrass (*Chara spp.*), southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), baby tears (*Micranthemum glomeratum*), stonewort (*Nitella spp*) and road grass (*Eleocharis baldwinii*). Most of the hydrilla observed was last year's stems with few new growth buds and these buds were not very healthy. It was apparent that the July 7, 2008 herbicide (Sonar) treatment with the August 5th follow up treatment is still impacting this submersed invasive aquatic plant. As spring approaches, native SAV should expand and with the recent addition of triploid grass carp, should continue to impact any hydrilla re-growth.

No additional Sonar damage on the lilies, spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*), banana lily (*Nymphoides aquatica*), and fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) was apparent. These should expand in the spring encompassing their previous habitat.

Remnants of a significant surface algal bloom was noted at several locations on the lake. It is not unusual to see these blooms during fall as the herbicide treatment on the large biomass of hydrilla has released nutrients into the water column, however it is unusual the duration of bloom for this lake. It is anticipated that the bloom will disappear soon and naturally.

Several lake residents have observed "jelly" like masses submersed in the water or attached to vegetation adjacent to the shore. These are actually colonies of invertebrates, bryozoans. Here is a web site with more information of this organism:

http://www.magma.ca/~syatabe/water_brains/water_brains.html