

On February 29, 2012, Seminole County Lake Management Program (SCLMP) personnel, Gloria Eby and Thomas Calhoun, surveyed the aquatic plants in Lake Monroe.

Native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) observed included: coontail to a depth of 3 feet, eelgrass to 3 feet, and bladderwort (*Utricularia foliosa*) to a depth of 3 feet. One exotic SAV, hydrilla, was found to a depth of 6 feet. SAV was found at more shallow depths than in previous inspections due to lower water conditions. Currently, eelgrass is the dominant SAV throughout the lake and found topped out along the perimeter. Hydrilla had been found to be more abundant in the previous inspection than during this inspection. There were many coots observed foraging upon SAV over nearly the entire perimeter of the lake, more so than in previous inspections, with most foraging noted on the hydrilla as the majority of the plants were without leaves.

Water hyacinth and water lettuce were found in small populations within the lake, however a large amount of water hyacinth was found in the river near the Interstate 4 bridge. Bulrush has expanded around the edges of the lake, making a great recovery from the effects of TS Fay.

Secchi reading was 3.2 feet in 4.2 feet of water. The water elevation at the time of the inspection was 0.3 feet below sea level.



*Photo: Hydrilla, without leaves, found along perimeter of the lake.*



*Photo: Topped out eelgrass around Stone Island.*