

2009 MILFOIL CONTROL PRODUCES RESULTS AT PROBLEM SITES

News from the Chateaugay Lake Foundation

Fall 2009

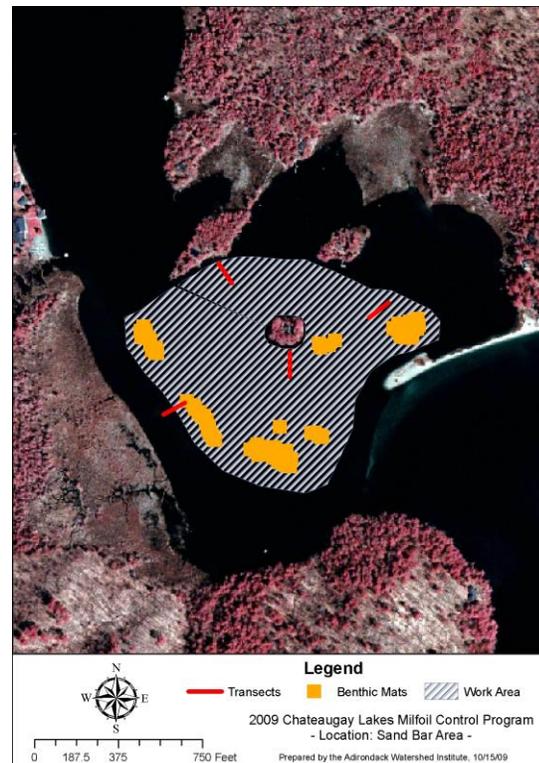
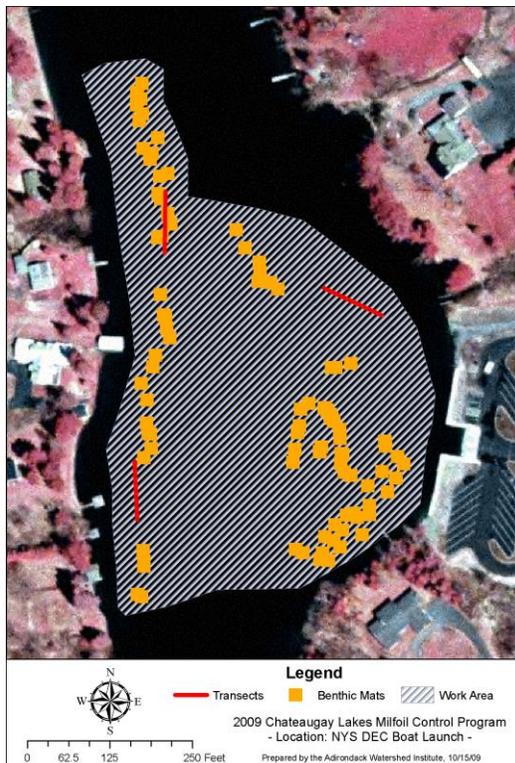
This past summer, the Chateaugay Lakes Foundation contracted with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) of Paul Smith's College for a full season of milfoil control work. The work included placement of benthic mats and hand harvesting by an AWI crew of SCUBA divers.

Three high-priority sites were the focus of treatment: the Inlet to Lower Chateaugay Lake, the DEC Boat Launch site, and the Sand Bar at the eastern end of the Narrows. A fourth site, the South Inlet of the Upper Lake, was targeted for mapping and containment measures. Significant progress was made, with substantial reductions in milfoil density in the treated areas. In total,

27.5 acres were treated by matting or hand-harvesting this season.

Benthic Mats Installed at Three Sites

Benthic mats are placed on the lake bed to smother dense areas of milfoil growth, focusing on heavily traveled boating lanes. In 2008, 100 benthic mats were installed at the DEC boat launch. This past summer (2009), these mats were repositioned twice—once at the beginning of June and again at the beginning of August—to cover the most densely infested parts of the Boat Launch site. In addition, 200 new mats were installed, split between the Sand Bar and the inlet to the Lower Lake. The location of the mats is shown in the accompanying maps of each site.



Aerial view of Boat Launch (left) and Sand Bar (right). Line hatching shows area of focus for hand harvesting and benthic matting in 2009. Benthic mats appear as solid shaded areas. The 100-foot transects for measuring milfoil density appear as straight shaded lines.

Hand Harvesting Removes Over 25 Tons of Milfoil

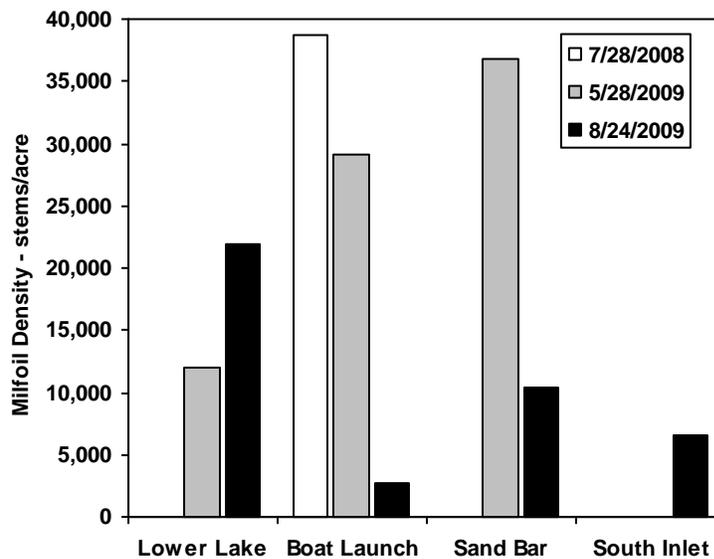
Installing the mats required three weeks—a week of dive time at each site. Thereafter, the dive crew concentrated on hand harvesting, primarily in the Boat Launch and Sand Bar areas. The areas that were hand-harvested are shown by the line-hatching in the maps of the Boat Launch and Sand Bar, above. There was also some limited hand harvesting around the perimeter of the mats placed in the Lower Lake. During seven weeks of hand-harvesting, over 25 tons of milfoil were removed and composted in a nearby field.

Tracking Progress

Before undertaking any matting or harvesting work, the AWI conducts an aquatic plant survey at each work site and

installs “transects” (marked-off areas of the lake bed) to measure and monitor plant densities. These areas can be used to measure reductions in density or re-growth over periods of time. The transects are shown on the accompanying maps as thin, shaded lines.

Transects were installed at the Boat Launch in 2008 and prior to beginning work at the Sand Bar and Lower Lake Inlet in 2009. Milfoil densities were measured pre- and post-harvesting. The results are shown on the chart below, along with initial density measurements at the South Inlet of Upper Chateaugay, where transects were installed in late August.



The results for the Boat Launch and Sand Bar show substantial reductions in milfoil density as a result of hand-harvesting. Milfoil density at the Boat Launch has been reduced 90 percent from pre-harvesting levels after two seasons of work. Milfoil density at the Sand Bar was reduced by over 70 percent as a result of hand-harvesting this season alone. At the Inlet to

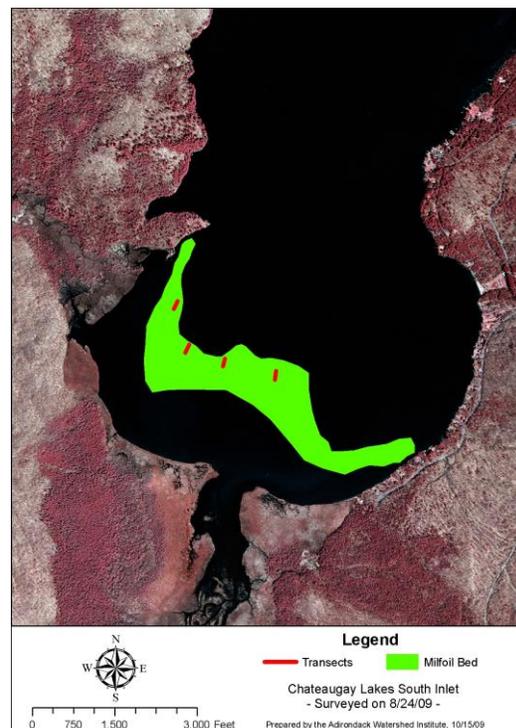
the Lower Lake, where hand-harvesting was limited to the perimeter of the mats, milfoil densities almost doubled over the course of the summer. This reflects the natural growth that occurs in the absence of treatment. The results strongly support continuation of hand-harvesting as a project component.

South Inlet

The survey of the South Inlet found a 103-acre milfoil bed of variable density. Though very large, this bed was less dense at the end of the summer than either the Sand Bar bed (post-treatment) or the inlet to the Lower Lake.

To help contain the South Inlet bed until it can be treated, the Foundation has installed

15 “milfoil hazard” buoys to mark the outer perimeter so that boaters can avoid the area. This will reduce fragmentation of the plant, which is the main way it spreads. A postcard explaining the buoys and requesting cooperation was distributed to many shoreowners and boaters over the summer.



Aerial view of inlets to Lower Chateaugay (left) and Upper Chateaugay (right). Eurasian milfoil beds are shown as solid shaded areas within the lake waters. The 100-foot transects for measuring density appear as thin straight lines. The area where benthic mats were placed in the Lower Lake in 2009 is shown by cross-hatching. The northern perimeter of the milfoil bed in the South Inlet was marked with hazard buoys, so boaters can avoid this area to reduce fragmenting and spreading the plant.

Fundraising Progress

As the Chateaugay Lakes Foundation nears the end of our third season of fundraising, the amount raised is almost half-way to our initial \$500,000 goal. To date, the campaign has raised \$205,000 in contributions with another \$25,000 pledged for the future, bringing total commitments to \$230,000. Unfortunately, the most significant grant

program for eradicating aquatic invasives—funded through New York State’s Environmental Protection Fund—has been put on hold as a result of the state budget crisis. In the past, grants of up to \$100,000 have been available to nonprofit organizations such as the Chateaugay Lakes Foundation. Without this grant opportunity,

it will take more time to reach our fundraising goal.

At the current rate of fundraising, the Foundation foresees a five-year time frame for raising and deploying resources at the \$500,000 level, rather than the three years originally contemplated. Clearly, private support will continue to be critical. Funding is sufficient to carry us through the coming

season, which is in the planning stages, and fundraising will continue for future years.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support received from contributors including shore-owner families and other private donors, local businesses and nonprofit organizations, the three Towns that share jurisdiction over the Lake area, and New York State's Senate Initiative Program.