

Milfoil Control Off to Early Start in 2011
News from the Chateaugay Lake Foundation
 Spring 2011

This summer will be the fourth season of Eurasian milfoil control on Chateaugay Lake. Experience in the Adirondacks is showing that it takes three successive seasons of treatment—or three treatments in the same season—to reduce a milfoil infestation to a low maintenance level. This guideline is reflected in control plans for this summer, which will again focus on areas of high public use that are major sources of milfoil spread.

The Boat Launch site, where treatment began in 2008, will be targeted for maintenance hand-harvesting. The Sand Bar site, where there has been hand-harvesting and matting for two years, will be targeted for two weeks of hand-harvesting beginning on May 23rd (early this year, to avoid summer boat traffic). The connecting bay in between, at the South end of the Narrows, was hand-harvested last year for the first time and will be hand-harvested again this summer beginning in mid-June. This area is a high priority because boats traveling through this area can readily transport milfoil to re-infest the Boat Launch and Sand Bar sites.

Matting will continue at the inlet to the Lower Lake for a third season in an ongoing effort to control a large milfoil bed that

stretches across the entrance to the Narrows. The infestation is most abundant in the western half, which is where the matting will be concentrated.

Once again, milfoil hazard buoys will be installed at the South Inlet of the Upper Lake to mark off the large milfoil bed there. While large, this bed remains less dense than other problem areas. The near-term goal is to discourage boaters from entering this area to avoid fragmenting and spreading the milfoil plants. Those who fish this area should only proceed at idle speed and be sure to collect clumps of milfoil that snag on fishing lines or propellers so they can be disposed of on dry land.

New Survey Results

At the end of last summer, the Adirondack Watershed Institute surveyed the shoreline waters from the Boat Launch north through the Narrows and along the shore of the Lower Lake. This provided updated information since the last comprehensive survey in 2002. The survey mapped the location of aquatic plant beds and the prevalence of milfoil in the different locations, with estimates of coverage as shown in the table below.

Aquatic Plant Survey, 2010

	Narrows North of Boat Launch (Acres)	Lower Chateaugay (Acres)
Eurasian Milfoil Coverage		
Rare <5%	1.1	5.4
Occasional 5 - 15%	6.0	7.2
Present 15 - 25%	1.9	4.0
Common 25 - 50%	17.1	24.0
Abundant >50%	6.6	14.8
TOTAL MILFOIL COVERAGE	32.7	55.4
TOTAL LITTORAL SHORELINE	100.0	325.0
INFESTED SHORELINE (%)	33%	17%

Be Part of the Solution

Chateaugay Lake is one of the largest lakes in the Adirondacks to be infested with milfoil. Of 75 infested Adirondack water bodies, Chateaugay is the tenth largest (seventh largest if the “giants”—Lake Champlain, Lake George, and Great Sacandaga—are excluded). Our milfoil problem is also large and of long-standing. It will take persistence to bring it under control. Nevertheless, we are making progress. About a fifth of the infested acreage, including the worst areas of infestation, has been treated to date. Results are starting to show. As one shore owner in the Sand Bar area noted in sending in a donation, “The progress *was* visible near our camp!”

Please keep the momentum going by taking the following actions:

- **Send us a donation in whatever amount you can afford.** Although we seek grants from government and foundation sources, we depend on shoreowner contributions as our major means of support. Our first three-year capital campaign raised about \$261,000 toward our \$500,000 goal. We

are continuing the campaign for another three years, with the goal of dedicating at least \$75,000 per year for milfoil control in 2011, 2012, and 2013. We need your help to reach this goal! Send donations to the Chateaugay Lake Foundation, PO Box 222, Lyon Mountain, NY 12952. Donations of securities (stocks, bonds) are welcome.

- **Practice Milfoil Control.** The major way that milfoil spreads is when fragments settle to the bottom and create new plants. Milfoil “hitch-hikes” by clinging to boats and equipment, so collect and remove fragments from your boats, trailers and equipment and dispose on dry land. Take protective measures by scooping up milfoil that collects around your dock and boat houses. Don’t give it a chance to root along your shoreline.

- **Join our Email List.** There are new informational and educational activities in the works and we want to make sure the word gets out to everyone on the Lake. We will be making greater use of emails to keep in touch. If you haven’t already provided your email address, contact us at info@chateaugaylakefoundation.org and we can add it to our list.