

MILFOIL DIVERS WRAP UP BUSY SEASON

Partners Make it Possible

NEWS FROM THE CHATEAUGAY LAKE FOUNDATION, Fall 2015

Milfoil divers were hard at work all summer in the Chateaugay Narrows, removing some 15 tons of milfoil over ten weeks of hand harvesting. The crew harvested about 70 of the 80 acres of infested shoreline, including 25 acres in the middle and lower Narrows that had not been touched previously.

Prior surveys have indicated that about 44 percent of the Narrows shoreline has been infested with milfoil. Work areas this year included dense beds along the shoreline in the vicinity of Light Post Way and the Shuttsville Cemetery; the area by Harris Brook inlet near the Clinton-Franklin County line; the shoreline on both sides along the Hill Road; and the shoreline on both sides by J's Marina.

Divers also harvested the area from the Boat Launch to the Sand Bar, covering about 46 acres of milfoil beds. Milfoil in this area, once the densest on the Lake, has been reduced significantly and is largely under control.

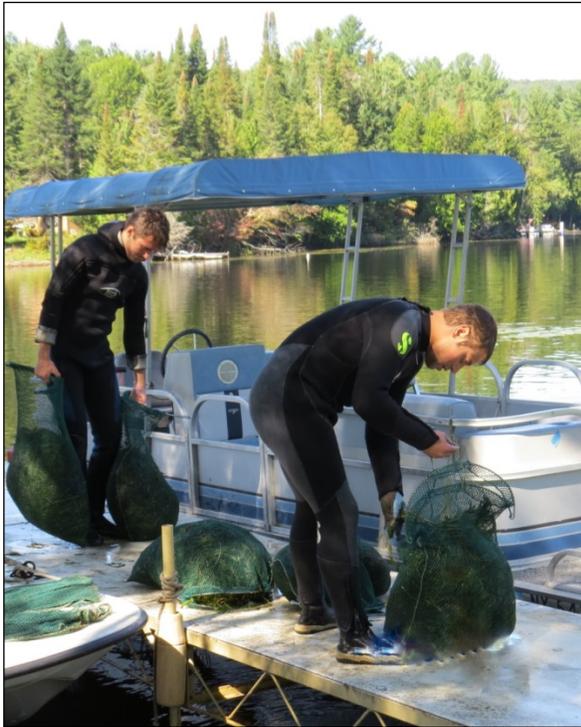
All of the Narrows shoreline is at high risk because it is shallow enough that light reaches the bottom, making it possible for plants to grow. This, plus the heavy boat traffic through the Narrows that cuts up and helps spread the milfoil, is why the Narrows has been the initial target for control efforts.

This year's hand-harvesting project was carried out by the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College. According to AWI Director Dan Kelting, they were able to secure grant funding from the federal EPA for work on several Adirondack Lakes, including Chateaugay. The AWI has been an important partner for us over the years. The Foundation has contracted with AWI for planning, scientific monitoring and milfoil control dive services. We have also benefitted from services they have provided "pro bono" with support from outside sources.

Another important partner is the Chateaugay Lake Association. The CLA has supported the efforts of the Foundation since it was started in 2007 to raise funds and manage the milfoil control effort. The CLA has been a major donor, contributing \$25,500 overall, including this summer's generous \$6,000 contribution for future milfoil control.

While progress is being made, we have only tackled about 25 percent of the Lake's milfoil beds. There is an urgent need to expand control to the rest of the Lake. Two years ago, the Foundation started a "Designated Donations" campaign to give donors the option of targeting their donations. So far, \$52,540 has been raised: \$6,010 for the Lower Lake, \$2,204 for the Narrows, \$6,778 for the Upper Lake, and \$37,548 for "Wherever it is needed most." We are continuing to build our

war chest to launch the next phase of milfoil control as soon as possible. Your support is needed and is making a difference!



Divers unload bags of milfoil harvested from the Chateaugay Lake Narrows. The divers harvested some 70 acres of dense milfoil beds, about 90 percent of the infestation in the Narrows part of the Lake.