

MILFOIL CONTROL CONTINUES FOR FIFTH SEASON

News from the Chateaugay Lake Foundation

June 2012

If you visited the Boat Launch in early June, you may have noticed the dive crew of Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) unloading heavy bags of harvested milfoil. The three-man crew focused on the zone from the Boat Launch to the Sand Bar, removing 500 bags of milfoil. At about 25 pounds per bag, over 6 tons of the invasive plant were removed.

The Boat Launch is now largely under control, so the divers also worked on clearing the boating lanes to the north and south. They also spent several days at the Sand Bar, making progress on clearing the channel heading toward the Upper Lake and the main access routes around the outer island. This site, which is a source of infestation for the entire lake, is a top priority for control.

Before work began, divers from the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) measured the milfoil density at key sites. They will return in August to re-measure, as a way to chart the effectiveness of control efforts and the pace of spread in untreated areas.

The AWI's scientific monitoring is helping the Chateaugay Lake Foundation adjust its strategy

for greater effectiveness. This season, the mats that had been placed at the inlet at the Lower Lake have been removed, since measurements are showing that density rebounds within a year or two if there is not sufficient coverage of the whole bed. Hand-harvesting is proving to be much more cost-effective for treating large beds and will be the future strategy for such situations. The mats are better used in near-shore conditions, for spot control.

Over the past five years, the Chateaugay Lake Foundation has learned a great deal about milfoil in the Lake and what works to bring it under control. Most importantly, we're achieving results!

Support from shoreowners is what makes it all possible. This summer, we have an exciting raffle underway, with more than \$3,000 in cash and prizes from local sponsors. Our annual Baked Chicken Dinner will be held Sunday, August 4, at the Lyon Mountain American Legion. And be sure to mark your calendar for a new event—"Rally for the Lake"—a 5K run and 1 mile fun walk that will set off from Camp Jeanne d'Arc on Saturday, August 18. For registration information, send an email to info@chateaugaylakefoundation.org.

Milfoil crew unloads harvested milfoil.

