

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

News from the Chateaugay Lake Foundation

December 2012

Thanks to you, our friends and supporters, milfoil control continued on Chateaugay Lake for a fifth season in 2012. Here is a quick recap, with some photos, below.

Dive crews spent two weeks hand harvesting milfoil at the Boat Launch and Sand Bar and a week of work in the Lower Lake, removing benthic mats. Milfoil density surveys at the end of the summer showed that the hand-harvesting, though limited, helped maintain control in the main work site stretching from the Boat Launch to the Sand Bar.

Unexpectedly, milfoil densities were down sharply in two other critical areas—the South Inlet of the Upper Lake and the inlet to the

Lower Lake. Neither area was under active control this year, so natural causes may be at work.

This development will be watched closely, to see if it persists and what is behind it. Causes could include disease or predatory insects such as the milfoil weevil or acentria moth, whose larvae feed on the milfoil plant. The presence of both insects in the lake system has been confirmed by Klara Widrig, a student researcher whose family spends the summer on Chateaugay Lake by Tanager Lodge. Last winter was exceptionally mild and could have fostered expanded populations of insects or lengthened their active season.



Milfoil weevil



Female acentria moth



Male acentria moth

Photos by Robert L. Johnson, Cornell University

Looking ahead to 2013, the Foundation will be seeking to:

- Maintain the control that has been achieved to date
- Research milfoil population dynamics and the potential for introducing insect biocontrols
- Raise funds for next stage of milfoil control
- Get more people interested and involved

If you haven't made a contribution in 2012, now is your chance! Click on the link below to make a donation using PayPal. Or send your contribution to the Chateaugay Lake Foundation, PO Box 222, Lyon Mountain, NY 12952. We need and value your support.

Make a year-end donation today!

MILFOIL CONTROL 2012



Diver unloading milfoil at the Boat Launch. Over 6 tons of milfoil were hand-harvested from the Boat Launch and Sand Bar, keeping the milfoil under control in this heavily used boating area.



Divers removed the benthic mats that had been placed in the Lower Lake because hand harvesting is proving to be a more effective means of controlling large milfoil beds such as the one at the Lower Lake inlet. The mats will be reused in near-shore waters or sold.



During the July 4th Boat Parade, boaters were advised to stop and clear their props before entering the milfoil control work zone. Raising awareness about spread prevention is part of the control effort.



For the first time, a paid steward was stationed at the DEC Boat Launch to advise boaters about preventing the spread of milfoil and other invasive aquatic species. The assignment was coordinated by the Watershed Stewardship Program at Paul Smith's College and supported with federal funds.



The first-ever Rally for the Lake attracted over 120 participants who started from Camp Jeanne d'Arc for a 5K Run or 1 Mile Walk to support the milfoil control project. There were medals for the winners in the adult and youth categories and a cook-out afterwards, with many calls to do it again next year.