

**Upper Saranac Lake Foundation
Milfoil Control Program
2010**

Mid-Summer Update

With the summer half over, the Foundation's 2010 Milfoil Control project is on target and on budget. The 8 diver crew completed their scheduled 4 week swim and harvest of the entire Lake in three weeks. During the fourth week, they returned to the denser beds for a second round. The 2 diver team was on the Lake for three of those four weeks, harvesting the smaller areas and many of the islands. The two teams removed about 975 lbs of Milfoil.

The two diver teams returned for the two middle weeks in July to begin their full-Lake management, harvesting the areas previously mapped by GPS. They removed approximately 135 lbs of Milfoil. Interestingly, almost all of the plants harvested were young, single stems, indicating the effectiveness of the earlier full-Lake swim. Their age and size also indicated that their future re-growth will be less, since the divers will be able to remove the entirety of the smaller root system. More mature plants have more intricate root systems that break easily during harvesting. It is those remaining roots that produce the young, single stems the divers recently found.

The two dive team will be on the Lake for another 3 weeks, beginning August 2nd, away for 2 weeks, and then back for 3 weeks beginning September 5.

Our Lake Manager, Guy Middleton, provides invaluable help to the divers. To date, he has covered about 75% of the shore line and has marked 74 Milfoil sites for the divers. This is more than last summer, primarily because he has covered more territory, the Lake water is much clearer than last year and there have been more days for good viewing, with a sunny and calm surface.

Guy has received far fewer "Rapid Response" calls so far this year. If you see or suspect Eurasian Milfoil, please report it to Guy Middleton (CONTACT INFO BELOW) Divers cannot always see what can be spotted from above the water. Your help with this makes the program more efficient and effective.

Recently, Dan Kelting, Executive Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's, and monitor/advisor of our Milfoil Program, made the following observation on viewing this year's data to date:

"I think the transect data plus the operational data clearly show the persistence of milfoil and the need for management in perpetuity. The transect data also shows how quickly milfoil can re-grow when it is not harvested (strengthening the case for continued management, in my opinion).

I think the data needs to be viewed in the proper perspective. The fact is that milfoil density in Upper Saranac Lake has been dramatically reduced to the point where it is now a rare plant through most of the lake. But, it can go from rare to common again fairly quickly if you stopped or significantly reduced your level of effort, putting you back at 2003/04 levels in just a few years.

I have visited many lakes in the Park with milfoil infestations. I have observed that shoreline property owners tend to galvanize their support for addressing the problem when the level of infestation is far beyond what Upper Saranac Lake ever had. Most people just don't see the problem until it is nearly too late, which I guess is human nature. It seems that you are experiencing the same issue now in reverse, people saw the problem and dealt with it, now others don't see it as a problem.

Perhaps taking some folks on a field trip to a heavily infested lake would be instructive? The visual lesson would be "this is where we would be if we did nothing and where we will be if we stop".

A cogent observation from one the Country's top experts on Milfoil. We cannot do a cost effective job without the active participation of the entire Lake Community.

Thank you for the help you have given already, and thank you in advance for your continuing support.

If you have questions, suspected Milfoil sightings etc., please contact the Lake Manager, Guy Middleton, at: 518-796-1052, or www.lakemanager@uslf.org.

See www.uslf.org for more information.