



Eurasian Milfoil Removed



Courtesy Jim Evans/Waterville Morning Sentinel

John McPhedran of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection finds a fragment of Eurasian milfoil within a few minutes of setting up a net on Salmon Lake August 8 in North Belgrade. The net is being used to catch any fragments that might be let loose while divers pull the invasive plant from the lake. A heavy rain created spots on the image.

**By Amy Calder
Central Maine Newspapers**

NORTH BELGRADE — Divers scoured the bottom of Salmon Lake, yanking a new and aggressive, invasive-plant species from a cove off Route 8.

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In just more than two hours Friday morning (August 8), they had bagged more than 70 Eurasian milfoil plants and were expecting to spend the day collecting more.

Since the species was discovered in the lake Aug. 1, the state has launched an ambitious program to find and eradicate it.

“It’s the pit bull of milfoil,” said Paul Gregory, with the state Department of Environmental Protection, which was conducting the eradication.

Gregory was one of four people working in a driving rain and stubborn wind to eradicate the

Continued on Page 7

Plant Control It’s a dirty job, but . . .

**By Peter Lowell
LEA Executive Director**

Always wet. Often chilled. Usually peering through water clogged by silt. Plant control teams from 14 lake associations are battling weather conditions as well as invasive species this summer.

Eight years ago when the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program was initiated, the emphasis was on education and prevention. Since then, dozens and dozens of lakes have been surveyed for plants and more than 180,000 boat inspections have been conducted. Program recognition and support from boaters in Maine has been extraordinary. Much has been accomplished to make Mainers and summer visitors aware of the problem.

Continued on Page 6



Youth Conservation Corps workers help Friends of Cobbossee Watershed on Upper Pleasant Pond.

Reports from the Front Lines

Community Lakes Association

BRYANT POND — Last year we had a resurgence of variable milfoil in the cove in Lake Christopher. We controlled much of this outbreak with mats, but in very shallow water and intermixed with pickerel weed, the milfoil escaped in some location around the edges of the mats.

As a result we are focusing on hand-pulling the area before placing mats down again. We will overlap the mats with a bigger margin and make more frequent visits to the site. We also will have the smaller “clamshell” mats (5-foot by 5-foot with rebar all around the edge) available for a local volunteer who can put on a mat over a small outbreak without the need for a diver. This will help us keep up with this infestation. It is still mostly limited to the cove.

So far this season we have hand-pulled about 160 five-gallon buckets of milfoil from this area. We also put screening around the boat house to prevent fragments from leaving the cove.

— *Jim Chandler, CLA project coordinator*

Collins Pond Improvement Association

WINDHAM — On Collins Pond, we are proceeding with building a DASH boat. The pump was ordered in late July and we continue to work on our plan for the trough component.

Our pond seems to have a lot of floating milfoil this year but we have several hard working members who have been canoeing the pond and netting these plants by the boat full.

We continue to move our benthic mats and are pleased to see regular pond grasses filling in areas that were previously covered by the mats. Last time I surveyed, these areas were plain mud.

We expect to make more progress against the milfoil as soon as the boat is completed.

— *Rodger Patterson, treasurer, CPIA*

Friends of Cobbossee Watershed

UPPER PLEASANT POND — Since 2006, the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed have installed “milfoil mats” three times at Upper Pleasant Pond, including 39 in October 2006; 26 in September 2007 and 26 again in July 2008. These mats are “rented” from the Pleasant Lake / Parker Pond folks. The mats are part of the Friends’ plant control efforts associated with their MilFoiler Program, which is designed to limit the spread of invasive aquatic plants (IAP) throughout the Cobbossee Watershed.

The “milfoil mats,” also known as benthic barriers, are weighted fabric tarps that are placed on top of patches of variable-leaf mil-



Jen Chase with a boat load of hand-pulled milfoil in the pump house cove, Lake Christopher, Bryant Pond..

foil in areas that are heavily infested and/or experience high boat traffic. The mats essentially kill the vegetation underneath by blocking sunlight from reaching the plants. After 8-10 weeks, the mats are pulled up, cleaned and repaired and then moved to a new area of infestation.

On Friday, June 20, the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed removed 26 10-foot by 12-foot “milfoil mats.” Re-surveys of areas around the most recent project were then completed and mats re-installed on July 15. We’re looking to do another removal/clean/repair/install in September.

Funding for the project is provided by revenues from the Lake and River Protection Sticker (“milfoil sticker”) program through the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. For this project, Clark Marine provided a pontoon boat and G&E Roofing provided a rack body for the crews, with Clark Marine also providing their Monmouth facility and equipment for the cleaning and repairing process.

— *Bob Moore, FCWS executive director*

Jordan River Marina Condo Association

RAYMOND — We did two dives so far this year and have one more coming up before the end of September. Hand pulling in our marina has been a true success story. Prior to our beginning this effort all the lagoon and most of the front line sections had plants on top of the water. Now we are in a maintenance mode and have probably eliminated 70 percent of what was there three years ago.

— *Gale Pillsbury, secretary, JRMCA*

Lake Arrowhead Conservation Council

WATERBORO — This year we are building a new suction harvester. It will be 28 feet long and equipped with new, non-skid aluminum decking, spaced ½-inch apart.

We are outfitting two large perforated stainless steel baskets, which we will place on the deck. We hope to eliminate the entire “onion bag” process. The harvester should be in operation in late August.

Additionally we have 100 members (dues \$100 each). The number of members is growing every day. We have received \$20,000 in grants and \$45,000 in donations from Limerick, Waterboro and the Lake Arrowhead Community. We launched an initiative to prove that variable leaf milfoil’s presence warrants a 10 percent property tax rebate in the Town of Limerick and won.

We outfitted Carol Carey, our VLMP Lake Monitor, with a new, state-of-the-art oxygen monitor. We have placed approximately 1,000 square feet of benthic barrier material in the lake and will move it every 10 weeks.

We emplaced a large corridor of tarps (20 by 220 feet) on the north end of Lake Arrowhead where Brown Brook enters the Lake. We had six emplacers/divers, as well as a huge ground support and boat support operation preparing the tarps with rebar and transporting them to the divers.

Our CBI program has already found more than 42 invasive fragments leaving our lake.

— *Dave Sanfason, vice president, LACC*

Lake Auburn and the Basin

AUBURN — The focus for the Basin is to continue using benthic barrier mats in the upper end to smother the dense beds of variable leaf milfoil. Seventeen 10 foot by 40 foot mats have been placed by trained divers. The mats will be moved to other areas in early September.

In the areas covered in 2007, some small patches of milfoil remain and the native plants appear to be recovering in the areas once dominated by milfoil.

Lake Auburn Ice House Wetland – Variable leaf milfoil is interspersed among the native plants along with one area of dense milfoil. The area has been inspected and some smaller 10 foot by 10 foot mats are planned to be placed in dense areas along with hand-pulling.

Lake Auburn Public Boat Launch Area: The area has been checked for new infestations. None have been found.

The problems with this season are entirely due to poor weather conditions. We had intentions of doing many more surveys but have been unable to get on the water on several occasions.

— *Mary Jane Dillingham, Auburn Water District*



Photo by Daniel Bishop

Trevor McKeith of LEA’s milfoil crew works in the murky water of the Songo River.

Lakes Environmental Association

BRIDGTON — LEA’s Milfoil Control Team began its season in Brandy Pond, by surveying the north shore including Naples, Causeway, and Moose Landing marinas. The team found small infestations at each of the marinas as well as lightly scattered plants throughout the adjacent shallows. A later survey revealed a new infestation at Songo Cove. At each location, plants were hand-pulled by divers using a dive bag or, where necessary, with LEA’s suction harvester, the S.S. Libra.

In the Songo River, a survey and map of the infestation were completed for the area between the Songo Locks and Brandy Pond. We estimate roughly 30 percent regeneration of milfoil in areas cleared with the suction harvester last year. Two sweeps of the river have been completed this summer. We removed the worst infestations first and then worked from the locks to Brandy Pond to remove the remaining plants.

We are happy to note that on the upper half of the river it has become difficult for us to find plants to remove. As a result, we have begun to clear a large patch below the locks at the confluence of the Crooked River and the Songo River. This area is where boats must wait before

moving through the locks toward Brandy Pond. We hope by removing the milfoil patch there, we'll be able to reduce the contact that waiting boats make with milfoil and thus slow the spread of the plants up the river.

Before the summer is out, we plan to conduct another survey in Brandy Pond and to finish removing the patch below the locks. With only a few weeks remaining, it appears that this summer will be another successful one for us. We won't know for sure, though, until we see how many plants come back next spring.

- Adam Perron, LEA invasive plant manager



Little Sebago's crew at the Memorial Day Parade.

Little Sebago Lake Association

WINDHAM — Little Sebago Lake is undergoing its fourth year of concentrated variable milfoil removal. A lot has changed since the inception of the first suction dredge we so lovingly call HIPPO (Hydraulic Invasive Plant Processing Operation). It utilizes divers to hand-pull the roots, which ultimately ends up as compost at our local transfer station. To date, we have removed approximately 25 tons of milfoil in the past two years.

Success? **YES**. Making a difference? **YES**. Costly? **YES**.

We have three "bellies" in our lake on which we initially concentrated. In the upper bay and various shallow coves and dense areas, we took 30 onion bags (about 40 pounds wet and 20 pounds dry) a day. Last year in the upper bay we were pulling 10 bags. (It costs the same to pull, but it's encouraging).

This year we have groomed the area, finding only sparse areas of milfoil. This is encouraging but please do not let your guard down. We had the same sense of accomplishment last year until October, when the cove areas experienced a tremendous bloom. We are now re-grooming the upper area every week or two and hope that this will be the norm to come. Our efforts are now concentrated in the lower lake using two HIPPOs to conquer that area the same way we have done in the upper lake.

This has been quite a learning experience. We are willing to share all information to shorten the learning curve for other lakes with the same infestation. It has become a business-like atmosphere, with insurance, payrolls, schedulers, fundraising, educational outreach, training seminars, keeping close ties with local, state and federal initiatives (or creating our own), developing procedures and protocols, and reports to the agencies. Is it worth it, some may ask? **"You betcha!"**

If we had done nothing at all, then the lake would be consumed, property values would be compromised, town tax evaluations would be impacted, and the most important consideration is that all that exists in, on or around the lake would not be able to exist as it has in the past.

— Pam Wilkinson, LSLA Milfoil Coordinator

Pickerel Pond, MDEP

LIMERICK — A Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) contractor treated **Pickerel Pond** in Limerick on June 20 with an application of fluridone, which is the same herbicide that was used in the last four previous years. Two DEP dive teams surveyed the pond on July 25 and found hydrilla mostly scattered at very low density, yet there was one area of concentrated growth. All hydrilla found was necrotic, i.e., dying due to the fluridone treatment. The DEP contractor conducted a "booster" treatment on July 30 to maintain target concentrations through September.

— John McPhedran, Invasive Aquatic Species

Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond

CASCO — We started off on May 20 pulling 22 of our clam shell barriers and then on June 7 by pulling 23 of our 10 foot by 12 foot barriers. We hand pulled only 12 milfoil plants, or approximately 1/2 bucket. We had done two surveys and found no milfoil.

On July 12 we videoed Lily Brook and found two small plants. We marked them with GPS and went in on July 16 and covered them with two clam shells.

We feel this should keep us in good shape for the summer. We will be monitoring every two weeks so we can keep on top of it. And we'll keep our fingers crossed.



Paul Felker of Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond's crew.

— Fred Cummings, project coordinator

Sebago Cove

NAPLES — This season was very interesting. During our first spring survey, it was very difficult to locate milfoil in the previously marked areas. We did several more surveys with the same results. In approximately mid July we started seeing signs of the growth that we had been expecting. It seemed to us that the unusually high water level and lack of good weather, appearing to be at least a month behind schedule, might have had an impact on the growing season. Also the water level in Sebago was drained to a level that we haven't seen in about seven years. We could have had some winter kill. We might have the answers at the end of this season when we can see all growth due to shallow water.

We installed 20 yellow milfoil buoys, clearly marking the mature dense areas of milfoil. Our goal is to keep boaters in the middle and not driving over these areas and creating fragments. We installed signs on the Route 114 bridge explaining the milfoil buoys. Milfoil disposal receptacles have been installed at cove marinas, beaches and boat ramp.

We are very happy to report that we were easily able to remove and relocate our mats, which measure 25 feet by 16 feet. We now have two mats, 94 feet by 27 feet, which will soon be ready. We are confident that removal and relocating mats of this size will be possible.

— *Ed Lapham, president, Save Sebago Cove*

Thompson Lake Association

OXFORD — In the summer of 2007, the Thompson Lake Environmental Association made its first placement of benthic tarps in the Otisfield Cove, where an infestation of variable leaf milfoil had existed for perhaps as many as 20 years. The tarps performed well but it was obvious that tarps alone were not going to cope with the increasing number of areas on this 11-mile long lake that were becoming impacted by this insidious invader.

Thus, under the direction of Dr. Scott Bernardy, TLEA formed a Milfoil Steering Committee, whose responsibility was to acquire a milfoil harvesting machine and a crew to operate it. By early June of 2008 a 22-foot pontoon boat, a 12-foot aluminum sluice box and the necessary components had been assembled to create the "HIPPOBOTOMUS" shown in the accompanying photos.

The three-man crew pictured is Rob McVety, crew chief, in the kayak; his brother Chris McVety in the water wearing scuba gear, and on board the Hippo, Chris Wight, a summer resident of Thompson. The crew has now operated some six weeks and has removed an estimated 18-20 tons of milfoil from four areas.

In the pictures, they are seen working in the Pine Point Cove where they actually created a channel through dense infestations, allowing some lakeside residents unimpeded access to the main



Thompson Lake's crew has removed an estimated 18-20 tons of milfoil.

water body for the first time in many years. In the background can be seen State Route 121 at the point where Greeley Brook crosses under the "causeway". This portion of the roadway was significantly upgraded by the Maine Department of Transportation three years ago, thanks largely to a TLEA-initiated SWQPP (Surface Water Quality Protection Program).

It is expected that TLEA's Hippo will be used for several years in an attempt to reduce and control milfoil in one of Maine's premier water bodies.

— *Bob Tracy, TLEA*

West Pond Association

EAST PARSONFIELD—We have been busy with the harvest of the Curly-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton Crispus*). We began May 10 with the harvest of growing plants. Weed Infestations cover about 6 areas of West Pond, with the heaviest concentration in the northwest section of Pond. The plants grew from 3 inches in height on May 10 to six feet on June 20, to 12 feet on July 25.

Turions (thick fleshy young shoots or suckers) started to develop in mid June. The resulting harvest equaled 238 laundry bags. We spent 41.5 hours of actual dive time and probably 552-plus hours of volunteer labor to make it work.

We harvested 14 sites through July 25. With the permission of the DEP, we will begin harvesting the weed as it is lying down to die off in August. We will pull the DASH boat out of the water and begin repairs and updates for the fall harvest beginning sometime after Labor Day. This is when the weed begins to sprout and we harvest plants free of turions.

Each dive includes one diver in the water at a time and one to five topside tenders and harvesters. Twenty-two volunteers have been trained on the operation of the diver-assisted suction harvester (DASH) boat as of July 25. The DASH boat harvesting method is superior to any hand harvesting methods we have tried on this particular invasive weed. We are glad we made the investment.

— *Joseph Howes, president, West Pond Association*

Water chestnut caught at Lovewell



Cyndi Broyer

An investment Mainers made eight years ago paid off big July 26. Cyndi Broyer, a courtesy boat inspector, prevented the seed pod of a water chestnut, a terribly invasive aquatic plant, from getting into Lovewell Pond in Fryeburg.

“My find on Saturday made me feel victorious and horrified, simultaneously,” Broyer said.

The fact that Cyndi Broyer was standing on that boat launch to take that seed pod off a Massachusetts boat trailer was a victory

for those who care about Maine’s lakes and a testament to the power of public awareness.

Surveys have shown more than 90 percent of Mainers are now aware of milfoil. That finding is echoed by courtesy boat inspectors, who are present this summer at nearly 80 boat launches around the state. Inspectors logged a total of 26,534 inspection hours in 2007. They’re trained to inspect boats entering and leaving lakes, a service they provide only with boater permission. They also promote a self-inspection ethic, encouraging boaters to inspect their boats and trailers for invasive plants that may “hitchhike” from lake to lake.

“It’s the hard work by local lake stewards – mostly volunteers – that makes the courtesy boat inspection program a success,” said Paul Gregory, an environmental specialist for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.



Water chestnut seed pod found by Broyer.

with variable milfoil, 99 with Eurasian milfoil and 24 with water chestnut.

Maine’s invasive aquatic species program is funded by requiring freshwater boaters to purchase milfoil stickers (\$10 for residents, \$20 for non-residents). The stickers provide slightly more than \$1 million annually and countless dollars are raised by local groups to prevent and control invasive aquatic plants.

Some call it a hopeless battle, because inspectors can’t catch every plant, so new infestations are inevitable. Once an invasive plant gets into a water body, it’s nearly impossible to eradicate. But how many more waters would be infested today if Mainers hadn’t started fighting back in 2000? Last year alone, Maine inspectors found more than 1,000 plant fragments on boats entering or leaving Maine waters and 170 were invasive species.

There’s certainly an element of luck involved, but the real investment is faith. Maine has boat inspectors and plant control teams working hard to protect our lakes. They know the odds, but they try to beat them. And sometimes, as Broyer did on Lovewell Pond, they win.

Plant control is a tough, but vital job

Continued from Page 1

It’s vital to keep these programs active, but it’s becoming very clear that more resources are needed to deal with current infestations.

This year, the maximum DEP support for plant removal and control was increased from \$3,000 to \$6,000. The average grant for 2008 is \$4,300 and the total budgeted for plant control this year is \$60,005, a 53 percent increase over the \$32,000 in 2007. Yet, as welcome as the increase was, the cost to local lake associations for plant control far exceeds the state support. Some associations have already been forced to raise more than \$100,000 for plant control, which is a constant drain on association budgets and a challenge for fundraisers.

Gaining support from towns is increasingly difficult since municipal budgets are stressed now more than ever.

The \$3.4 million federal earmark initiative, organized by the Little Sebago Lake Association, is one possible answer, though its probably a bit of a long shot.

There is something troubling about the burden placed on local non-profits for clean-up work on state resources. If these control and eradication efforts are to be sustained, more outside help will be needed. These 14 water bodies are breeding grounds for infestations in all Maine lakes. Control of in-state infestations is essential if we are to protect our clean lakes throughout Maine.

Clean-up work is also a very effective public education tool which generates publicity and public awareness. Thousands of Maine boaters and visitors see this work going on each year on the Songo River alone. Let’s hope it can be sustained and that Maine will continue progress on eliminating its infested lakes.

Eurasian is 'the pit bull of milfoil'

Continued from Page 1

the Eurasian milfoil, which has been found only at one other site in Maine — a Scarborough gravel pit. (Despite an application of a herbicide in 2006, an MDEP survey in July revealed that the plant is growing again in at least two locations in the Scarborough pond. DEP has determined that treatment with fluridone is needed again in 2008 and 2009.)

Of 5,700 ponds and lakes in Maine, only 29 contain an invasive, aquatic-plant species, but the Eurasian milfoil is of particular concern because it is more aggressive than other species such as the variable-leaf milfoil found in Messalonskee Lake.

Gregory said Eurasian milfoil has been found in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Canadian provinces. It hitchhikes from one place to another on boats, fishing gear and related equipment.

“This is an unfortunate byproduct of globalization,” Gregory said. “People move around a lot.”

Salmon and Messalonskee lakes are part of the Belgrade Lakes chain, which include Great, North, East, Long and McGrath ponds.

DEP biologist John McPhedran and Denise Blanchette, a diver contracting with DEP, pulled Eurasian milfoil plants and their root balls from Salmon Lake Friday, placed them in netted bags and sent them to the surface. Gregory and DEP biologist Ray Bouchard hauled the bags into boats.

“It sounds primitive, but hand removal is a very effective method,” Gregory said. “We’re going to give it our best.”

The crew had accessed the shallow cove, which is about five feet deep, from the nearby Spaulding Point boat landing. They erected a 40-foot net in the water near the dam connecting the cove with an outlet stream that goes to Great Pond to prevent milfoil fragments from entering the outlet.

But a resident on Friday presented the DEP workers with a jar of milfoil he said he found in that stream.

“The fragments have gotten by us,” Gregory said. “We’ll survey the stream right away.”

As the team worked, landowner Sam Bouchard of Cozy Cove Cottages stopped to talk with officials and helped erect the net in the cove. He said he was glad they moved quickly to eradicate the plant.

“Hopefully, they get it all so it doesn’t spread,” Bouchard said of the milfoil.

Don Borman, president of the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association, also was on hand, snapping photographs for the association’s newsletter. The group has been staying abreast of the milfoil situation and updating members. Borman said the association’s goal is to help protect the environment and water quality and maintain it for future generations.



Photo courtesy of Dick and Betsy Enright

Eurasian milfoil is removed from Salmon Lake on August 8.

He said about 40 people have volunteered to help survey particular areas of the shoreline of Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond for milfoil, but more volunteers are needed and should call the DEP at 287-3901 and ask for Bouchard.

“Also, anyone who knows of private launch areas should let the DEP know,” he said.

Gregory said in about three weeks he will probably be able to release information about other areas of the pond and lake where milfoil may be located. The spreading of milfoil into Salmon Lake likely occurred from the boat landing, as the plant is carried from one body of water to another by boats, canoes, paddles and fishing tackle, Gregory said.

People are being asked to inspect their boats, particularly propellers, for even small amounts of milfoil.

“That’s all it takes to start a new infestation,” Gregory said.

Blanchette spent much of the morning collecting milfoil from an area in the cove identified as having a dense accumulation of the plant. McPhedran surfaced frequently near the dam, producing a five-foot-long section of plant at one point.

He also garnered smaller fragments which, if containing leaves and nodes, can reproduce quickly.

“That little root right there is the adventitious root,” McPhedran said. “It’s the root coming off of the above-ground stem of the plant. I don’t know if this root is coming off of Denise’s (plants Blanchette was collecting nearby), but it’s not very encouraging.”

The crew expected to complete milfoil eradication in the cove on Friday but visibility was poor because of a silty lake bottom, Gregory said. The equipment will remain another couple of weeks, he said. The milfoil collected Friday would likely be composted, he said.

Milfoil, when identified, must be eradicated quickly to prevent infestation, said Gregory.

“Speed is of the essence,” he said.

What's next? Salmon Lake surveys

By Maggie Shannon,
Executive Director,
Maine Congress of Lake Associations

History: A plant biologist found and identified Eurasian Water-milfoil in Salmon Lake on July 31 or August 1. The identification was confirmed by the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants and the BRCA Lake Trust on Monday, August 4. On August 5, DEP biologists Roy Bouchard and John McPhedran surveyed the infestation, and returned with trained divers to hand-remove plants at Salmon Lake on August 8

Findings: One large plant (approx 4' in diameter), 2 smaller plants, and approximately a dozen rooted single strands of EWM were found in the area between the Salmon Lake public boat landing and the outlet dam to Hatchery Brook. Also, the owner of the fish hatchery property, below Salmon's outlet dam, has found floating fragments in Hatchery Brook which Roy Bouchard positively identified as EWM. A quick check of Hatch Cove, Great Pond, by Bouchard didn't reveal any invasive plants, but visibility was poor the day of the survey.

Implications: The plants are young but have been in place one season at least. DEP is hopeful they can eradicate the growths in the outlet cove, but since they haven't yet surveyed the rest of Salmon Lake (or McGrath Pond) they don't know the full extent of the infestation. This summer's high water levels raise the risk level of plant transfer from Salmon Lake to Hatch Cove in Great Pond via Hatchery Brook, especially since the Salmon dam lets water flow out at its bottom and not over its top. Also, hand removal fragments plants – inevitably – and although DEP had staff with nets in the water and installed a net to catch floating fragments upstream of the dam, the risk of fragments slipping under the dam is real. For Great Pond, the threat of infestation is imminent and very real. Residents are urged to be actively look for any new plants in shallow shore waters.

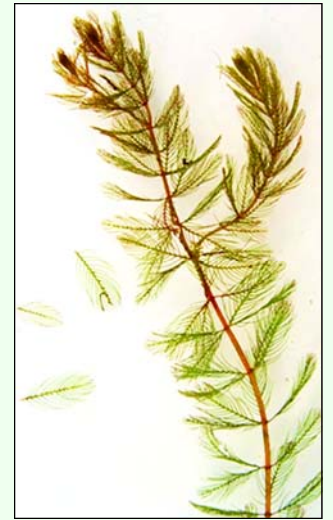
Action for Salmon Lake: DEP and IF&W have imposed a temporary Surface Use Restriction on the outlet cove. DEP divers will return next week and again in 2-week intervals to remove all plants they find in the outlet cove this summer. Salmon lake residents and others who want to help spot plants will be searching for plants by kayak the week of August 18. Roy Bouchard has gotten some volunteers but he needs more. If you can help, please call him at work at 287-7798, or John McPhedran at work at 287-6110

Action for Great Pond and Long Pond: All lake residents are urged to familiarize themselves with the appearance of this distinctive-looking plant and take time to kayak or

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Adapted from Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants, Project Manager, Roberta Hill, Pages 28-29

Eurasian Water-milfoil is well-adapted and able to thrive in a wide variety of environmental conditions. It grows well in still and flowing waters, tolerates mild salinities and can survive under ice. EWM grows in water depths from 1 to 10 meters, generally reaching the surface in depths of 3 to 5 meters. Adaptable to a wide variety of lake bottom types, it seems to favor fine-textured, inorganic sediments. Plants grow rapidly, branching profusely at the surface to form dense floating mats, choking and shading out all other plants. Infestations render waters unsuitable for recreational uses.



EWM grows under water. Its leaves appear in clusters of 3 to 6 (called whorls) which are openly spaced (meaning there is room between whorls on stem), with between 1 and 5 cm of stem between whorls. Each leaf in the whorl will have 12 to 24 pairs of thread-like leaflets presenting a feather-like appearance. The ends of these feather-divided leaflets *may* look blunt, as if snipped.

In late summer, flower stalks emerge in an upright posture from the water surface. Flowers are nestled in the join of the stem and emergent leaves. Emergent leaves (called bracts) are not divided, but simple, and have smooth margins. Flowers are generally larger than the bracts as shown in the inset at "L".

Please visit the website of the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants to see a more crisp drawing and full description. www.mciap.org/herbarium

paddle in near-shore areas to search for growths. Folks with time, interest, and if possible kayaks are urged to join the scheduled Plant Patrol Surveys on August 19 and 21. Call Bruce Fenn at 397-2731 to volunteer or write spbfenn@embarqmail.com. Information is posted on the BLA website:

<http://www.belgradelakesassociation.com/news.asp?id=202>