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# Milfoil Update 2009

August

## State calls herbicide's risk minimal



*Photo by Dick and Betsy Enright*

DEP proposed herbicide treatment at Kozy Cove after 325 Eurasian milfoil plants were removed from May through July.

By Craig Crosby  
Kennebec Journal Staff Writer

BELGRADE — The chemical the state plans to use to control milfoil in Salmon Lake can pose a risk to people, plants and animals — but when used according to guidelines, those risks are negligible.

That was the message from state officials Monday for residents crammed inside the steamy North Belgrade Community Center August 17 to ask questions (*see Page 11*) about the Department of Environmental Protection's plan to use chemicals against Eurasian milfoil, which has taken root in Salmon Lake.

The state plans to use the herbicide 2, 4 -Dichloro-

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## Lake Arrowhead's milfoil effort 'incredible'

With an average depth of 6 feet, Lake Arrowhead is the perfect habitat for variable leaf milfoil (VLM). The lake, which is in Limerick and Waterboro, has roughly 1,100 acres and more than half of it is infested. That's why the Lake Arrowhead Conservation Council is working so hard to get it under control.

"They have done incredible work," said John McPhedran, coordinator of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Since variable leaf milfoil was discovered it in 2000, the LACC has spent roughly \$50,000 on efforts to control it, using a three-pronged attack. This year its DASH (diver-assisted suction harvester), was launched

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**Dave Sanfason, lead captain of the S.S. Arrowhead.**  
*See more photos on Page 8.*

# How Mainers cope with invasive plants

Mainers are very aware of the “Milfoil Problem” and they always have been. Even boat inspection surveys taken early in Maine’s invasive aquatic plant initiative showed a high degree of recognition of the issue.

One reason for this high level of awareness is a sense of fear that the plants will ruin a favorite lake. Channeling the fear has been the challenge. Assessing risk is usually the starting point for this process.

It is pretty clear that boats are the primary vector for invasives, so the presence of a boat launch is seen as a primary risk factor. If your lake has a launch, the first thing you probably did was to establish courtesy boat inspections. LEA developed this program a couple of years before the “Milfoil Bill” as a pilot project in the Sebago-Long Lake Region. It was well received by boaters then and today we continually hear of boaters throughout the state thanking inspectors for their work.

If your lake is clear of invasive plants, this is the best way to keep them out. If your lake is infested, this is the best way to prevent spread. DEP has provided more than 50 grants this year for CBI programs.

Once this line of defense has been established it’s time to check for plants through a plant patrol. Since few inspection programs have full-time coverage, it’s best to check areas around launch sites first.

DEP funds plant ID workshops conducted by the Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program to allow surveys to be conducted by lay people. A survey establishes a base line for your lake and high-risk areas should be checked at least yearly.

For those who are dealing with an



**LEA  
Executive  
Director**

existing infestation, the challenge is very different. It’s been interesting and inspiring to see how Maine lake groups have dealt with this problem.

In a way, finding an infestation is like discovering a serious illness. There is a period of disbelief, anger and the feeling of hopelessness, but in Maine, this negative energy has been quickly converted to decisive action and innovation. There has been an extraordinary spirit of sharing within the plant control community, so good ideas are rapidly spreading.

My primary concern for the invasive aquatic plant program in Maine is the ability to sustain plant control efforts for the number of years necessary to get control of an infestation. DEP funding is limited to about \$6,000 a year for the most robust of these

projects, so the burden is on lake associations to raise the funds for the bulk of their work. LEA has been most fortunate in obtaining major private funding and our infestation in Brandy Pond and the upper Songo appears to be well under control. But Lake Arrowhead, Little Sebago, West Pond, Thompson Lake and others are facing much more significant infestations and are working extraordinarily hard to maintain their work.

With inflation chipping away at the milfoil sticker funding, it’s my personal opinion that it may be time to think of expanding the fee to non-motorized watercraft or even increasing it. And if infestations are not held in check, a time will come when we have to consider quarantine.

None of these options are going to be easy politically, but it is the State of Maine that owns the lakes and therefore the responsibility to protect their (and our) investment in them. We should be using a 10-year planning horizon to prevent panic and fear from becoming the driving force for lake protection.

The ***Milfoil Update*** is produced by Lakes Environmental Association with funds generated by the Maine Lakes and Rivers Protection Sticker and support of Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

### **Contact information:**

**Lakes Environmental  
Association**

Roberta Scruggs  
207-647-8580

[Roberta@leamaine.org](mailto:Roberta@leamaine.org)  
[www.mainelakes.org](http://www.mainelakes.org)

**Maine DEP Invasive  
Species Program**

1-800-452-1942  
207-287-3901

[milfoil@Maine.gov](mailto:milfoil@Maine.gov)  
[www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/  
topic/invasives/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/index.htm)

# High Fives for CBIs

## Sam Whittemore



"One thing that's kind of scary," says Sam Whittemore of Readfield, "is that I wasn't scheduled to work that morning – nobody was." Sam, who's 18 and headed for MIT this fall, asked if he could work the morning of August 7 and

was stationed at Parker Pond in Vienna. His first boat that morning was from New Hampshire, but its last water was Belgrade Stream. The owner pointed at a plant fragment lying on the boat launch below his motor and said, "I took it off the propeller." Sam inspected the boat carefully and found several small plant fragments and one big piece. Roberta Hill, of the VLMP, said she's "almost certain" that DNA testing will identify the fragments as variable leaf milfoil.



## Adam Armington

On August 2, Adam Armington, 15, of Lovell, showed up at the Kezar Lake boat launch at 5:30 a.m. to inspect more than two dozen boats heading out for a bass tournament. Adam, who will be sophomore at Fryeburg Academy this fall, found a small, dry plant fragment clinging under the right side of a boat that had last been in Lake Champlain in Vermont. His supervisor Katrina Soucy, who was also at the launch that morning, put the fragment into a little water and decided to send it to the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program for identification. It was Eurasian milfoil. "I think I saved the lake!" Adam said. "I was happy that we caught it."

## Lila Zanuccoli

On June 14, Lila Zanuccoli recorded the first "save" of the summer in the Belgrade region, removing curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) from a boat entering Long Pond. The plant was quite fresh and the boat had come from Greenwood Lake in New Jersey, which is infested with both curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil. Curly-leaf pondweed is one of Maine's "11 most unwanted" invasive plants and is currently in one Maine lake, West Pond in Parsonsfield. Curly-leaf pondweed can rapidly take over a lake if it is introduced.

**FYI:** Peter Kallin, executive director of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, notes that boat fees have been proposed to fund a clean-up of 1,920-acre Greenwood Lake. According to the Bergen County Record, the proposed fee schedule would be based on a sliding scale, starting at \$30 for vessels 20 feet or less.



# CBI Marty Velishka spots gas leak in park

By Rebecca Kurtz  
Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

A few short weeks ago, a potentially dangerous gasoline spill at Rangeley's town park was prevented from entering Rangeley Lake through the combined efforts of a Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT) courtesy boat inspector and the local fire, public works, and police departments.

On Sunday morning, CBI Marty Velishka was teaching boaters how to inspect their boats and trailers before and after they operate their watercraft. Suddenly Marty noticed that gasoline was pouring from one of the vehicles parked near the boat ramp.

The owner of the vehicle had just launched his boat and was several hundred yards off shore. Recognizing the environmental threat posed by the gasoline spill as well as the threat to fire and public safety, Marty immediately contacted the Rangeley Fire Department.

In less than 15 minutes, Fire Chief Rudy Davis and his crew were on site. Using a strategy approved by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) the firefighters began mopping up the spilled fuel. At the same time Chief Davis requested that Public Works respond to the accident with its front end loader and a bucket of sand.

The Public Works employees dumped the sand on the parking area, the boat launch and the park road. Then several firefighters carefully spread the sand over the spill area with shovels to insure the absorption of the fuel and prevent its flow into the lake.

The following day, after all of the toxic fuel was absorbed, the Public Works department scooped up the



Above, emergency personnel work to keep gas from spilling into Rangeley Lake. Left, CBI Marty Velishka (in a photo taken in May) inspects boats in mittens and a winter coat just after ice out.

contaminated sand and removed it for proper disposal.

The Rangeley Police Department also responded to the call for assistance. The department's goal was to prevent the leaking vehicle (and its owner) from leaving the park under its own power.

Using registration information and a description of the boat supplied by Marty, the police began searching the lake for the boater. Upon finding him they advised the boater of his leaking fuel tank and helped him make arrangements to have the vehicle safely towed from the Park.

For more than six years, the RLHT's CBIs have served as the first line of defense against invasive species like Eurasian Water milfoil, Didymo (Rock

Snot) and small mouth bass. They have also served the public by helping boaters safely launch and remove their boats. Finally, they have provided educational materials and advised boaters of safety and angling regulations.

On this particular day, Marty Velishka, RLHT's senior boat inspector furthered his lake protection efforts while insuring the safety of visitors to the park. Working rapidly and efficiently with Rangeley's Public Safety/Works departments, RLHT's he helped Rangeley Lake, one of the region's most valuable and cherished treasures.

We are indebted to the efforts of these individuals and thank them for their service to the Rangeley community.

## Worthley Pond creates teams

Although it rained for the most part of June and July, it seems that the boat traffic (in and out launches) on Worthley Pond in Peru was still quite strong. Apparently, some brave souls still felt the temperatures warm enough to enjoy the water.

The creation of “teams” to cover a specific time period seems to be working well for our Courtesy Boat Inspections. Four individuals agree to cover a period, Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. This way, each person only has to “stand watch” one time a month for a couple of hours and his creates a little flexibility as who can cover which Saturday slot.

While we have had no plants or portions thereof found on watercraft, we have had a few specimens brought in for question. One sample is of concern and we have been asked to resubmit it in the fall.

The remaining samples indicate that, either there is a larger abundance of native milfoil or people are just more aware of it; as this has been brought in a few times also.

Thankfully, everyone asked to participate in the Boat Inspections have done so very willingly. It seems that the word is out and that people want to continue to protect our Ponds. For that, we are extremely grateful.

—*Kathy Hussey*



**Reggie Arsenault, a CBI at Roxbury Pond, inspects Victor Thibodeau's boat**

## Ellis/Roxbury Pond

Our CBI program is going well. We have been able to staff the Ramp every weekend even though this is our first year. We haven't made any saves but we sure have raised awareness. The program is being embraced by all that we have inspected. There was only one man who said we should spend the money to fix the road rather than inspect boats. With that being said, we wouldn't need to worry about the roads if the pond were infested with invasives. I am sure our boat traffic is lighter than normal simply due to the rain. Attached is a photo and caption that appeared in the Rumford Falls Times.

— *Matt Towle*

## CBI profile: Charlotte Oswald

Charlotte Oswald lives in the watershed of Lake Auburn. She is a sophomore at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. majoring in Environmental Studies. Charlotte contacted the Auburn Water District earlier this summer looking for a job opportunity.

I didn't have a paid position for her but she was interested in the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program. She was excited to learn about invasive plants and Lake Auburn, the twin cities drinking water supply.

She had been involved in Envirothons at the Auburn Land Lab and knows someone who did boat inspections on another pond. She wanted to get trained right away, so after her interview, we went through the training materials. As a volunteer, she began inspecting boats at the Lake Auburn public boat launch.

She enjoys interacting with the people who fish and



boat. She finds the public to be supportive and welcoming of inspections. She also enjoys raising awareness of the problem that invasive species can cause.

She has learned to identify plants, especially white water crowfoot since that shows up on boats coming out of the lake once in a while. She likes this job

because she enjoys being outside where she can sit and read and get thanked for performing inspections.

"It's good for me and good for the lake," Charlotte said. "It's a really good program."

Meanwhile, I have hired her for a couple of weeks. Students can always use a few bucks. She does a great job and I hope she comes back next season.

— *Mary Jane Dillingham*

# Maine CBIs need to keep an eye out for zebra mussels

In late June, a beach worker noticed something the size of a thumbnail attached to a beer can that had washed ashore at Laurel Lake in Lee, Massachusetts.

It was a zebra mussel, the first found in Massachusetts. Shaped like the letter "D," zebra mussels are freshwater bivalve mollusks that look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish shell. Massachusetts officials don't know how the mussel got into the lake, but speculate it may have hitchhiked on a boat that had been in an infested waterway.

Billions of dollars are spent annually across the United States to control zebra mussel infestations. Considered among the country's most significant invasive species, the mussels out-compete juvenile fish for food and cling by the thousands to virtually everything in a water body, including docks, boats, other aquatic organisms, and various water intake pipes and instruments. Microscopic juvenile zebra mussels can get into boat cooling systems and other water intakes and grow, completely clogging these systems.

Typically an inch or less in size, zebra mussels have been found in numbers as high as 750,000 individuals per square meter, according to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Their razor-sharp shells wash up on shore, creating a safety hazard for beachgoers. Once zebra mussels occupy a lake, there is no proven method of eradicating them. The goal is to prevent their spread to other bodies of water.

"We take the threat of zebra mussels very seriously," DCR Commissioner Richard K.

Sullivan Jr. said in July. "We need to determine the extent of the infestation as quickly as possible, and do everything we can to prevent it from spreading further."

Zebra mussels are thought to have been introduced to this country as accidental stowaways attached to hulls or in the ballast water of ships entering the Great Lakes from Europe. Since they were discovered here in 1988,



*Photo courtesy of James F. Lubner, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute*

**This shopping cart was left in zebra mussel-infested waters for a few months. The mussels colonized every available surface.**

they've been found in the entire Great Lakes region as well as lakes and rivers in Connecticut, New York and Vermont. In 2006, a courtesy boat inspector at Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire detected and removed zebra mussels on a boat from New York.

Although they have not been found in Maine, the zebra mussel could represent a major danger to tidewater mucket populations, which are on the state's list of threatened species. Zebra mussels carpet the bottom of lakes and rivers, and out-compete native mussels for space and food. The largest population of tidewater muckets in the Northeast, located in the lower Hudson River, was nearly eliminated by the zebra mussel.

"Our inspectors need to keep their eyes peeled for zebra mussels and other invaders," said John McPhedran, invasive aquatic plants specialist for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Massachusetts officials closed the boat access ramp at Laurel Lake on July 8 and a week later the Quabbin Reservoir was closed to all private recreational boat in what Sullivan called "an excess of caution. Zebra mussels had not been found in the Quabbin, and there is no known threat to the public water supply. Officials said the mussels were unlikely to find home in the water there be-

[More information about zebra mussels in Massachusetts:  
www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/hot\\_topic.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/hot_topic.htm)

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## **Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)**

Zebra mussels begin life as tiny free-swimming larvae, called veligers. It is during this stage that they are most readily transported from one waterbody to another (attached to boating gear, in bilge water, bait buckets etc.) and also most difficult to detect. After two or three weeks, the veligers "settle out" in the waterbody, attaching by way of strong, threadlike filaments to just about any hard surface they encounter. Rocks, sediment, wood, intake pipes, moorings, boat hulls and native mussel beds are all at risk of colonization.

Zebra mussels are small (adults are about 15 mm) but voracious filter feeders, straining out major portions of the phytoplankton population and effectively starving out many native zooplankton species. The gap created in the food web may cascade through the ecosystem.

Zebra mussel infestations may clog power plants and industrial water systems, cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes, and foul boating equipment. Zebra mussels have not yet been detected in Maine.



*Photo credit: Minnesota DNR*

**Many zebra mussels attach to native mussels.**

*Reference: Frequently asked Questions about the Zebra Mussel. United States Geological Survey. Florida Integrated Science Center, Gainesville.*

[http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous\\_Species/Zebra\\_mussel\\_FAQs/zebra\\_mussel\\_faqs.html](http://cars.er.usgs.gov/Nonindigenous_Species/Zebra_mussel_FAQs/zebra_mussel_faqs.html)

## **Zebra Mussels**

***Continued from Page 6***

cause Quabbin has low calcium levels and it's unlikely that a mussel would be able to grow its shell and thus, it would not survive. Juveniles could not grow, and adults could not reproduce successfully.

In the month since the boat ban, dive teams have inspected and tested the Quabbin water and pipes for signs of zebra mussels. No zebra mussels were found.

On Aug. 14, DCR announced it would reopen the Quabbin to recreational boats on Aug. 17, but only for those that have been steam-cleaned at one of two nearby locations, in Belchertown and in Orange, that will be operated by the state at no charge to boat owners. To schedule a decontamination, boaters must call the Quabbin Visitors Center. Walk-ups are not allowed.

Created in the 1930s as the municipal water system for the Greater Boston area, the Quabbin Reservoir holds 412 billion gallons of water and supplies water to more than 2.5 million people. The reservoir also is a popular boating and fishing area. Each year, about 9,000 boat launchings are recorded at the Quabbin.

The decision to close the reservoir to all but the small fleet of rental boats was harshly criticized by many fish-

ing enthusiasts, including some of the more than 600 who have season passes at Quabbin, according to an Aug. 15 story in the *Springfield Republican*.

Roger B. Pyzocha, of Ludlow, who fished at the Quabbin as often as three to four times a week for 30 years, told the *Republican* he was happy the ban was lifted, but said officials "acted irresponsibly" in closing the reservoir when their own research showed the mussels would not thrive there.

A DCR spokesman, however, defended the ban as "an extreme, precautionary measure." It provided an opportunity to do more comprehensive testing and adjust management plans to protect public drinking water. The state decided to relax the ban after a successful trial run of a boat inspection program during a Special Olympics fishing competition held at the reservoir.

"We appreciate the cooperation and patience shown by the Quabbin's boaters and fishermen as this protocol was developed," DCR Commissioner Sullivan said. "DCR has always respected the public's right to access while recognizing the importance of protecting the public water supply. This new process is a good first step in developing a long-term plan to allow the continued use of private boats on the Quabbin."

*This story was compiled from MDCR press releases and media reports.*

# The battle for Lake Arrowhead



The LACC's DASH has a unique basket system, which eliminates the "onion bag" infrastructure used by other DASH teams in Maine.



The S. S. Arrowhead's pump.



Left, the benthic triangle factory. Above, the finished product.

Want to know which waters are infested in the Northeast? See a state-by-state list at:  
<http://www.mainelakes.org/documents/New%20England-NY%20infested%20waters%202009.xls>



The S. S. Arrowhead operates eight hours a day, six days a week, with one diver and one captain.

## LACC uses 3-pronged approach against variable leaf milfoil

*Continued from Page 1*

for its first full season. The S.S. Arrowhead, the newest design in Maine's DASH fleet, employs large baskets, a pour-through floor and 30 feet of working floor space.

"This design lets us eliminate the entire "onion bag" infrastructure," says Dave Sanfason, the lead boat captain. "We operate eight hours a day, six days a week with one diver and one captain on board each day." Three captains and three divers make up the LACC DASH team.

Dave reports that just halfway into its operating season, the S.S. Arrowhead and its crew is making a difference. The VLM in many of Lake Arrowhead's numerous coves and inlets is coming under control. In Dave's parlance, "under control" means that, though there may be some VLM present, the cove does not have enough VLM to warrant employment of the DASH. In other words, quips Dave, "It's not hose worthy." Six of the fourteen coves and inlets of Lake Arrowhead have been brought under control or will be shortly.

In addition to the DASH project, LACC boasts a vigorous courtesy boat inspection program. Operating seven days a week, the LACC's CBI team has made more than 50



Gino Valeriani is one of three divers on the team.

"saves" of VLM leaving Lake Arrowhead's waters on exiting watercraft this season. With its heavy bass tournament schedule, LACC does not want any new invasive plants entering Arrowhead's waters and is working hard to prevent the spread of VLM to other nearby waterways.

Finally, LACC is in the third year of a benthic barrier program. There are five large benthic barriers in various locations on the lake which get removed or moved every 10 weeks. Additionally, this year, LACC has embarked on a Benthic Triangle Program whereby 40 10'x10'x11' triangles will be emplaced at the Brown Brook Inlet area on the North (Limerick) end of Lake Arrowhead.

Mike Fitzpatrick, the president of LACC is famous for his saying, "The lake belongs to the State of Maine, until you get milfoil. Then it's your problem!" At Lake Arrowhead, the folks there are committed to fighting the beast and saving their lake, no matter who owns it.

— Dave Sanfason

# Q&A about herbicide at Salmon Lake

According to Betsy Enright, a Salmon Lake resident, the following questions were asked at the public meeting Aug. 17 regarding the application of the Herbicide 2-4-D at Salmon Lake. Answers were provided by John McPhedran and Roy Bouchard, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and Gary Fish, Board of Pesticide Control.

**Q.** When would the herbicide application begin?

**A.** DEP received approval of intent on July 30 and would not apply until after the 30-day appeal period. Realistically not before early to mid September. — *McPhedran*

**Q.** What is the chemical and how is it applied?

**A.** It's 2-4-D, trade name Navigate, and it's is applied in granule form and settles to the bottom. Notices have been sent to all outlet cove residents and to those in the lake with in 1000 feet of the cove. — *McPhedran*

**Q.** What restrictions would there be?

**A.** DEP is advising no swimming for 3 days. Do not drink or irrigate with surface water until notified otherwise by DEP. The water in the cove and out will be tested by Health Environmental Testing lab to determine when herbicide levels have reached non-detectible levels. — *McPhedran*

**Q.** Where will I get my water? Will it be safe for my 7-year old to bath?

**A.** This herbicide is primarily taken into the body through ingestion, not through the skin. The three-day advisory is to assure dissipation to a safe level. — *Fish*

**Q.** How do you reduce the concentration in the cove?

**A.** After application, this chemical breaks down rapidly though the water, microbes feed on it and it binds to the sediments. Field studies indicate that it's half life is about 7 1/2 days. — *Fish*

**Q.** How will native plant and fish life be affected?

**A.** Very small fish, those just hatched, can be sensitive to this herbicide. A lot of native plants are resistant to it. Most perennials will come back and annuals will eventually come back. — *Bouchard*

**Q.** Is there a critical time period for application?

**A.** Yes, we want the plant to still be growing so it can absorb the material. — *McPhedran*

**Q.** Could screens be installed in the dam structure to contain fragments?

**A.** DEP has been considering this option. The department already has nets installed just upstream of the dam to prevent fragments from going downstream. — *Bouchard*

**Q.** Can the cove be closed to boat traffic entirely as there have been daily violations?

**A.** DEP is talking with landowners in consideration of this. The Surface Use Restriction has not been effective with voluntary compliance. — *McPhedran*

**Q.** What other methods have been discussed?

**A.** Using beetles is not a proven technology. Dredging the cove would have devastating impact on the ecology and the environment and would place a heavy phosphorous load on Great Pond. Drawdowns have been used when areas can freeze. In Maine, snow comes in layers and there is no guarantee the plant roots will ever freeze. Using carp to eat milfoil plants was mentioned, but it's out of the question because carp are prohibited in Maine waters because of the damage they cause. — *Bouchard*

## ***What they're saying about Salmon Lake***

Dick Enright, camp owner: *"I feel the use of herbicide is the correct choice. This is the most invasive plant species we know of in light of its damage in other states and our knowledge of its tenacity. This plant can take over a lake, destroy the eco-system, real estate values and subsequent area economies. I would treat it as a cancer in the most potent yet safest method, to prevent further infestation of this lake and the surrounding Belgrade Chain."*

Rick Swanson, president, Salmon Lake/ McGrath Pond Association: *" I think it is necessary. People get emotionally over reactive when you talk about the use of chemicals, not that we shouldn't take it seriously. Given the risks we are facing if this gets into Great Pond ' the party is over.' We have to do whatever it takes. If not and in 10 years from now the Belgrade Lake system is infested, we will look back and say, 'We should have done more.'"*

# N. Belgrade meeting

*Continued from Page 1*

phenoxyacetic acid — better known as 2,4-D — to control Eurasian milfoil in Kozy Cove near the Salmon Lake outlet. Eurasian milfoil, a highly aggressive aquatic plant that can form dense mats and congest waterways, was first discovered in Salmon Lake's Kozy Cove by a summer visitor last August. DEP divers began removing plants from the 6-acre cove within a week of the discovery, but the plant population continues to swell.

Since May, divers have removed 325 plants, more than twice the number removed last year. Milfoil spreads readily by fragments transferred via animals, boats and trailers.

Gary Fish of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control said 2,4-D can pose a risk to people, plants and animals but, when used according to guidelines, those risks are negligible and mostly involve drinking water. The chemical does not absorb well through the skin, he said.

"We're not saying it does not have an effect on people," Fish said. "Two, four-D does have an affect on people. It's not a perfect science."

The DEP's Division of Water Quality Management has authorized a permit for the herbicide treatment. On July 30, the division approved a notice of intent, said John

Roger Pillsbury, cove homeowner: *"This is an aggressive form of milfoil. And if DEP feels they can't control it manually and herbicide is necessary to get it under control or down to a point where they can contain it, as a landowner I support that vs. letting it go. We need to trust the biologist's at DEP and let them do their jobs. We also need those people who visit the lake to please stay out of the cove until we get on top of this."*

Mary Ellen and Mike Stein, camp owners near the cove: *"We feel the herbicide should be used in the cove to get rid of the Eurasian milfoil. The other methods such as pulling the plants and benthic barriers have not gotten rid of enough of it. We are also very pleased at the cautious way the State of Maine has been proceeding with this project."*

**For more detailed information about Eurasian milfoil control at Salmon Lake please visit:**

[www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/topics/salmon\\_lake/index.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/topics/salmon_lake/index.htm)



*Photo by Dick and Betsy Enright*

Nearly 100 people crowded the Community Center.

McPhedran, DEP invasive aquatic plants specialist. The 30-day appeal period started July 31.

"We are not going to treat that cove during the appeal period," McPhedran said.

The Board of Environmental Protection will consider any appeal filed during the board's next regular session, scheduled for early September, McPhedran said. DEP officials spent much of Monday's session explaining 2,4-D and its potential side effects.

Bruce Trumper — who lives along Salmon Stream, which flows out of Kozy Cove — cited research indicating the chemical is toxic at a 75 parts per billion. The level during the treatment could reach 3,500 parts per billion, according to DEP officials.

Roy Bouchard of the DEP's Lake Assessment Program said field studies show the chemical has a half-life of seven days and is undetectable in less than a month. Those Bouchard spoke to in other states who have used the herbicide reported no fish die-off or collateral plant devastation.

"Aquatic systems are extremely resilient and they have a large biomass to regenerate," Bouchard said.

Fish said the U.S. EPA re-registered 2, 4-D for use in 2006 after exhaustive tests; but resident Terri Trumper said those tests are suspect because they are funded or conducted by chemical companies.

"I think that's why it's constantly re-registered," Trumper said.

Jim Wilber, who also owns property along Salmon Stream, said milfoil calls for drastic action; but he asked why the dam could not be closed to limit the herbicide from carrying into the stream.

"The collateral damage is what I'm worried about," Wilber said. "I think that's something that needs to be considered."

# Youth Plant Patrol is on the job

By Shannon Brown

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed AmeriCorps Intern

If prevention efforts including Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) are the “first line of defense” against the threat of invasive aquatic plants, early detection efforts such as Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP) are a close second. Though there are no real success stories for eradication once a non-native plant takes hold, early detection and rapid response can go a long way towards limiting an infestation.

Until this summer, early detection efforts have been a critical component lacking from our area’s overall IAP efforts. Now, building on the highly successful Youth Conservation Corps program, the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed have established a Youth Plant Patrol (YPP).

This year’s YPP team consists of Katie Jennings, a senior majoring in Biology at the University of New Hampshire and Cameron Dufour, a sophomore majoring in Rural Public Safety Administration at the University of Maine-Fort Kent.

“Being able to enjoy the serenity and beauty of the lake as my work environment has given me a greater appreciation for both the complexity and the fragility of the watershed ecosystems,” Katie said.

She and Cam spent six weeks surveying and mapping vegetation at 18 of the 28 lakes and streams that comprise the Cobbossee Watershed, including 12 public launch sites and the majority of inlets and outlets for each water body.

“I like knowing that we are designing the YPP program from the bottom up, and having the challenge of making the program work well,” Cam said.

Spending the summer on the “L’il OTTER”, a 10-foot jon boat powered initially by a 30 lb. trolling motor and later supplemented by a 2½ h.p. gas engine, has also produced some memorable moments.

Cam recalls “the first day of YPP, when Katie and I got all the way to the end of Torsey Pond, only to have the only battery for the electric trolling motor die, and having to row for two and a half hours back to the boat launch!”

Katie will always remember “being at the mercy of an electric 12 volt trolling motor to tote Cam and I around an entire lake. Cam and I knew we were really in trouble when kayakers passed us going at our maximum speed!”

Cam and Katie attended plant identification training provided by the VLMP’s Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic



**Cameron Dufour and Katie Jennings tell the kids on Tadpole Patrol about the YPP’s work.**

Plants, and their work is overseen by Toni Pied, Program Director of the Friend’s MilFoiler Program.

“In conducting the plant surveys, the lakes get a yearly check up to make sure that they are still invasive-free,” Cam said. “If they do fall victim to an invasive plant, early detection can be vital in limiting the spread. The Youth Plant Patrol provides a critical check and information about the lakes, and allows trained eyes to watch over our lakes.”

The YPP project was made possible due to funding provided by the Davis Conservation Foundation of Falmouth, ME; support from the Four Towns Watershed Association and Maranacook Lake Association; and local business sponsors Downeast Energy, Knowlton-Hewins-Roberts Funeral Services, Kristie Rowell Insurance and Lipman, Katz & McKee.

“The Youth Plant Patrol has been a great experience for me,” Katie said. “I have been able to see countless lakes, observe the similarities and differences in their plant life, shore line, and water quality. There are very few opportunities for summer positions out there where you can get hands-on with your job, see results from what you are doing, and learn at the same time. The YPP project is constantly teaching, and allows us to see parts of lakes that most never see.”