



Bay Lake Improvement Association
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Eurasian Watermilfoil Control in Bay Lake

We are continuing our fight against Eurasian Water Milfoil in Bay Lake as we have for almost 20 years now. The weather the last few years including this year has really worked in our favor. The fall treatments have been aggressive and very successful. Good snow cover and cool, more normal weather patterns have slowed the EWM growth. We are seeing native plant regeneration crowding out the EWM in many areas of the Lake in the last 2 years and hope for the same this year.

Last year we treated about 110 acres of EWM and the fall treatment as mentioned was very successful. This spring the weed growth is way behind normal due to the late ice out and the subsequent cool cloudy weather. We only treated about 8 acres this spring vs 37 acres last spring. With summer finally arriving expect the weeds to take off and try to catch up for lost ground but hopefully the native species will continue to out pace the EWM.

We are in a good spot right now because we were able to be extremely aggressive with fall treatments in 2006, 2007 and 2008. If you remember the EWM was very bad showing explosive growth. We were able to do that because we had the money to do so. Fortunately the weather shifted in our favor. Those hot dry years will cycle back but we have proven we can control the EWM keeping it from taking over the lake. We have been spending more money than we have been taking in the last few years. We just can't stop the fight and continue to need your support building our reserves back.

We are going to have a new Lake Vegetation Management Plan with the DNR in place this summer that will be even more flexible than what we have had. Something new on our agreement is we will be experimenting with several varieties of chemicals to see their effectiveness in areas that have been hard to treat.

We will send a letter, return post card and EWM and Zebra Mussel ID cards asking you to inspect your shoreline then report back by mailing the card to me (David). I go through them all and match the notes to the diver's findings and if they don't match we add treatment sites based on your findings.

Zebra Mussels are now in lakes in our area including Mille Lacs and Gull as well as the Mississippi and it is imperative we keep it out of Bay Lake. Water craft inspections are the only way to keep it out. Phil and Jane Rollins have done a wonderful job of coordinating the access monitoring program so please volunteer and be part of the solution to keeping Zebra Mussels out of Bay Lake

As a reminder signatures authorizing treatment within 150 feet of your property are required and we can't treat if we don't have it. Ask your neighbor if they have signed the form to make sure.

Thank you for your support and I am sorry that I could not be with you today. With your support we will not let up on the control of EWM in Bay Lake keeping it as we know and remember for generations to come.

David Devins
July 2, 2011
BLIA Annual Meeting Report