

Lake Management Report

In early March I was going to offer my opinion that we would be seeing a repeat performance of last year with one of our two invasive weeds: Curly Leaf Pond Weed getting an early and unusually aggressive hold on our lake. This year however with the mid- March storms, the ice cover of the lake has persisted longer than it had last year, so we may not have to deal with weeds so early in the spring as last year. However if we do, please remember, if you want to deal with the weeds, as we do every July, with our community “weed pull”, call me three days in advance of your work, so I can inform DEC ,to comply with the terms of our permit. I found it interesting to note that our most dreaded invasive: Eurasian Water Milfoil, did not grow to the surface or show its flower spike as it usually does. Perhaps the increased competition for sunlight from the Curly Leaf Pond Weed and the high algae levels last year were a factor inhibiting its growth. I think one thing we can count on going forward, is that we will surely see increased algae levels and even Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) every year in late summer. This I think is due mostly to our inability to remove any significant amount of weeds from the lake and its decomposition provides a huge source of nutrients for algae to grow. The MCA has for some time now been reaching out to the community to let you know how desperately we need to purchase the Eco Harvester, www.ecoharvester.net. It still remains beyond our financial means.

Failing the acquisition of this unique machine, I think we need to consider the only other practice that is within our means, and that is doing a “drain- down” of the lake at the end of the lake’s useable season, which may coincide with the lake becoming unusable due to HAB. Drawing down a lake so that the water recedes 10 to 15 from the shoreline results in the freezing of lake weed roots and they are killed. I know this idea seems drastic and is still only a partial solution for the entire lake, but we need to consider all options available to us.