

Hi Debra and Bethany,

Thanks to both of you for taking the time to speak with me. Congratulations to both of you on your election to Town Supervisor. Per our conversation I indicated that I would share some information with you regarding the continuation of the Town(s) Ti, CP and Eagle Lake Property Owner Inc. (ELPOI) efforts to control milfoil on EL. As indicated I am the project coordinator for this effort, and am also a long time summer resident on the back side or CP side of the lake. Contact information for me is as follows.

Rochester residence 585-647-2514

Eagle Lake residence 518-597-3618

Cell phone 719-201-5576 there is no service at the lake

Mailing address - Rolf Tiedemann, 358 Electric Ave, Rochester, NY 14613

I hope this summary of events provides you with sufficient details so that as we move forward you can feel comfortable about the projects past efforts, its future direction, and provides guidance for decisions that need to be made with respect to future items that will need to be jointly completed.

There is significant project related information located on the [Eagle Lake web page](#). This page is linked to our "test" page as we are in the process of revamping the information on the site. This page is not accessible by a web surf. The information, when corrections, additions, etc. are complete, will be moved to [Eaglelake1.org](#), the location that the public now has access to. I mention this only so that if you bookmark information and then go back to look for it; it may not be accessible because the word "test" will have been removed.

As I think of some of the documents that are of interest and importance as we continue to work toward the mutual goal of control of the invasive Eurasian water milfoil (or milfoil) many come to mind, as this project has been under way for some 20 plus years. I've listed below links and short descriptions to some of the most relevant items. Some of these items are specific documents and some bring you to a page that has an overview with a number of specific documents worthy of note. As mentioned this has been an ongoing process. One event that ELPOI was involved in was being asked to participate in the [NYS Governors' Task Force on Invasives](#). In preparation for involvement with this the following two history documents were prepared [History 70's-2005](#), [History 05-07](#). The key recommendation as it applies to us from involvement with the task force was that rules for invasive control be the same inside and outside the Park. (This is still not true today as the APA has added some additional requirements, these are described later) Since '07 many additional steps towards control have taken place, they are however not yet nicely highlighted in bullet points. They are however spoken about and highlighted in communication newsletters sent to all EL residents on a regular base. Copies of these communications can be found in the [archives page](#) with the most recent of this being [recent newsletter](#). Most notable of our accomplishments was the cooperative effort between the Towns of TI and CP with the support of the ELPOI to obtain a \$110,000 [NYS DEC 2007 Invasive Species Grant](#). This grant is a 50/50 match grant with NYS providing \$55,000 and the applicant providing the match. The total award for this grant was based on the applicant's (ELPOI and the towns) belief and ability to raise the required matching funds.

Both towns were effectively the applicant (see town resolutions [Ticonderoga – Crown Point](#)) but the Town of CP was awarded the honor of being the recipient (see [acceptance letter](#)). To this extent they are responsible for the disbursement of funds and control of paper work associated with the administration of this grant. The Town of Ti in turn agreed to be the named party on any applications for permits. Several of which have already been secured for hand harvesting and matting see [Permits and Supporting Information Page](#). Both towns in accepting responsibility to be part of the grant and meeting the financial requirements for the match agreed to seek the assistance of ELPOI member and project coordinator Rolf Tiedemann to actually complete the paper work and raise the matching funds. To this extent the ELPOI raised the \$55,000 match, and the match requirement has been fully funded by other grants and cash contributions (see funding sources), additionally several thousand dollars worth of volunteer labor and equipment donations, which were to be used to offset actual dollar requirements for the grant, have been

secured. Since the grant is fully cash funded these donation will not need to be used as an “in-kind match” as was originally planned.

For the past two summers ('08 and '09) the ELPOI has been performing hand harvesting and benthic barrier or mat placement in select areas of the lake.(see [photo album page](#) for images of this operation) Matting consists of placing 10' X24' ballasted plastic sheeting on the lake bottom. These mats weigh approximately 50 lbs each and are selectively placed by divers over dense beds of milfoil. Milfoil in these beds grows from the bottom to the surface in water depths between 3' to over 22'. A visual image of swimming into one of these patches can be described as trying to swim, with a blind fold on, into a well filled pot of cooking spaghetti excepting that the strands range from 3' to over 22' in length and have small half dollar size leaves spaced every 6 - 8" along the strand. There is currently some 52,000 sq. ft of mat on the lake bottom. Another 21,000 sq ft of bottom has been matted by removing and repositioning some of these mats ([see Work Sites Page](#)). In addition to the matting, divers have hand harvested around the mats as well as swam large sections of the lakeshore harvesting individual plants. Over 15,000 lb of wet weight milfoil has been removed using this process. The removed milfoil has been composted onsite by a lake resident that uses it for his garden. The 2009 [Work Log and Removal Totals](#) spread sheet details this effort with figures for amount of area worked and basic labor costs. It is noted here that mats need to be left on the bottom for greater than 8 weeks to completely kill the really mature milfoil. It is also noted that the use of mats is a total non-selective kill in the areas where they are placed and it is up to the divers to determine that area and with what percent of milfoil coverage is appropriate for their use The divers and project coordinator have been hired by the Town of CP through a contract with Lycott Environmental, a lake management firm located in Mass. Working with this firm was the only way that local people could be hired to keep expenses down and still provide appropriate insurances for their employment.

Several plant surveys have been completed for Eagle Lake in the past ([see EL plant surveys page](#)) As a result of some observed changes in milfoil density, patch size and patch locations in late 1999, several studies were undertaken; one was to document herbivore activity, another was to document (using GPS data) the size and locations of the existing patches. The herbivore study found significant moth and weevil populations ([see herbivore follow-up](#)) and the GPS survey determined that there was some 8 plus acres of milfoil spreading from fifty plus locations around the lake's shallow water areas. ([See GPS study](#)). At this time the herbivore activity has provided some limited growth control to the “topping out effect” of the milfoil but has not provided any reduction in its spread. Limited follow up GPS surveys in 2009 indicate that the patch size in some locations is between 100% and 500% greater than the 2003 survey results indicated.([see proposed herbicide treatment locations page](#)).

Milfoil removal and lake management are being completed under the [Lake Management Plan](#) that was accepted by the DEC as part of the 2007 Invasives Species Eradication Grant. The EL management plan spells out an integrated approach to milfoil management. In addition to the above items the ELPOI has been actively seeking DEC and APA permits for the utilization of a selective herbicide in a site specific application. As a result of limited control/eradication success and the great cost associated with 2 years of hand pulling and matting, the Towns with assistance from ELPOI stepped up their interest in obtaining these permits. Several prior research items, documents and surveys were gathered to support this direction. Two major items that were researched regarding this interest was types of herbicides registered for use on milfoil in NYS and the results from other lakes that have previously used herbicide control methods. The [Herbicide Information Page](#) has information about these herbicides and the [Pre/Post Treatment Plant Surveys Page](#) provides information about other lakes that have used an herbicide for milfoil control. The herbicide Renovate OTF, active ingredient Triclopyr, was chosen as the most favorable one for control of EL's milfoil. This selection was based on recommendations from DEC staff, certified lake managers, environmental group's member input and in house research. The herbicide Renovate was registered for use in NYS in 2007. This was accomplished with input from various stake holders as to its use requirements, including the APA. To date Renovate has been successfully used in several lakes outside the Park as permitted by the DEC. The APA has been approached on many occasions by EL's project coordinator and others regarding their interest(s) in utilizing Renovate in a manner similar to how it was used outside the Park. In response to these requests the APA has made the statement that they are adding the additional requirement that all proposed herbicide treated areas “be certain contained”. Much dialog regarding this additional requirement, which is not required of treatments outside the park, has taken place. See [Curtain Leakage Testing Page](#) for basic curtaining costs, and leakage testing requirements for EL. The debate between the DEC and the APA over the need and associated cost for curtains is the stumbling

block for the EL project moving forward with an herbicide treatment. Additional costs associated with an curtain purchase/ rental, deployment, removal and storage adds several thousand dollars to the approved method of herbicide use allowed by the DEC outside the Park. DEC staff member Timothy Sinnott, (Biologist 2 (Ecology) Leader, Ecotoxicology and Standards Unit) was the person responsible for gathering data and preparing intermediate and final reports for the registration of Renovate in NYS, as well as the agency lead for the coordination of the Invasive Species Eradication Grant in NYS. He was asked to provide his professional opinion on EL's milfoil control options and if the use of curtains along with the herbicide application would be of any benefit. His opinion was that "...curtains provide little benefit to the protection of the lake from a Renovate treatment..." see [Curtain opinion letter](#) for the full text. After several back and forth contacts regarding this issue, an APA reply letter was received by the project coordinator that in essences indicates; that if this project's application to use an herbicide is to be permitted, a curtain will be required, and that this information had been clearly communicated previously. The APA staff also did not feel that the project coordinator was aware of the potential for plant collateral damage that the APA felt would result if Renovate was used in an un-curtained application. See [APA letter](#). More details on the DEC/ APA difference of opinion can be provided when we meet. The [Essex County Board of Supervisor](#) unanimously passed a resolution supporting ELPOI in their interest for using the herbicide Renovate for milfoil control

In response to the controversy and costs associated with the APA and the APA's unreasonable requirement that curtains be used on all treatment areas, the ELPOI has chosen to retain the services of an attorney in order to obtain permits from the APA that are not contingent on the use of curtains. ELPOI and its attorneys think that there is no scientific basis for the APA's preconditions of curtaining, especially in light of the fact that the DEC has permitted the application of Renovate in several lakes outside the Adirondack Park and has never required curtaining around a treatment area. Only once did the DEC require curtains and that was to curtain around a protected species, not a treatment area.

To date there are several parts of this permitting process that are still in the works between ELPOI and the Towns. As they relate to the Town of Ti, these items are as follows:

- (1) The town serving as the Lead Agent (providing public notice of project, signing DEC/APA permit applications as they apply to both hand harvesting and herbicide use);
- (2) Obtaining a town resolution in support of the first item;
- (3) Providing supplemental other named party insurance coverage under Town's current insurance to cover the DEC and the State of New York (this being required by DEC in their permit application);
- (4) if possible, providing supplemental other named party insurance under the Town's current insurance to cover lake residents that allow their property to be used for product storage and/or lake access prior to and during application by licensed applicator; and
- (5) Supporting CP as funding processor for this project.

Obligations as they relate to the Town of CP are as follows:

- (1) Provide accounting/ bill paying service (completing NYS voucher for Invasive Species Eradication Grant partial payment);
- (2) Serve as the acceptor of funding under future government grants;
- (3) Providing contract renewal between CP and Lycott Environmental (which provides employment coverage for project labor of local divers and crew chief), and
- (4) Supporting the Town of Ti as Lead Agent by being co-applicant on permit documents. The past arrangement for completion of these tasks was that they would be completed jointly by the Towns with assistance of the ELPOI.

I look forward to meeting both of you in mid February; Bethany on the 12th @ 3:00pm and Debra on the 17th @ 10:00am. As we move this project forward I suspect you will have many questions. I look forward to continuing our initial conversations and being able to work with you to move the project for control of milfoil on EL forward.

Rolf Tiedemann
Eagle Lake Milfoil
Project Coordinator