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**Subject:** Eagle Lake Curly Leaf Pondweed discovery update

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**From:** Dianne Tiedemann (dteaglelake@yahoo.com)

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**To:** edward.snizek@apa.ny.gov; john.bennett@dec.ny.gov;

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**Date:** Saturday, October 4, 2014 4:30 PM

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Hi Ed and John,

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. Thank you both for your rapid response to our announcement of the discovery of Curly Leaf Pondweed in Eagle Lake, Essex County. We appreciate your review and comments on the status of our permits as they apply to moving forward with future management efforts for this new-to-us invasive. As requested by Ed, the plant photos we sent to Scott Kishbaugh will be sent to you in a separate email.

With regards to the status of the distribution extent of our infestation, I will share with you what little we know at this point. On the central northern shoreline of Eagle Lake, far away the Rt 74 Causeway/Bridge and from any public or private boat launch areas, approximately 6-8 suspect plants were observed, and subsequently fully removed on 9/1/14 by surface snorkel diving. The plants were found at a measured depth of ~ 4 meters, ~ 45' out from shore in front of our boathouse, in soft substrate at 2 different sites located approximately 50' apart, both in areas that are surrounded by deeper water ledge rock, making them both relatively isolated locations. These 2 sites are annually hand harvested for Eurasian watermilfoil by Tiedemann family members, and were addressed for milfoil removal by our son as recently as the third week of July this summer. He is 100% sure that the pondweed was NOT present at these sites in July. He also covered additional shoreline areas that pertain to our land parcel's shoreline and saw no presence of the curly leaf pondweed. It should also be made known that approximately 4 years ago, in the last year of ELPOI Invasives Species Eradication Grant dive operations, one single suspect plant was found and removed in about 3' of water along the lake's northern shore, but disintegrated before a positive id could be made. Nothing like a turion was found as part of that plant. ELPOI's multi year Grant lake dive operations never saw any other occurrence of any suspect/out of place plant(s). Since the end of ELPOI's Grant dive operations, informal shallower water milfoil growth shoreline surface observations have been made by boat, and have been ongoing at various locations throughout the lake, with nothing of a suspect plant nature being observed.

The fact that NO turions were present on any of this year's removed plants is our most hopeful piece of information at this time. Based on a brief internet review of this invasive, once the turions are present, the real battle for controlling the plant distribution begins. Due to the timing of this discovery, there is unfortunately no opportunity to do further volunteer assessment for this plant's presence this season, this year. Additionally, since this plant typically dies back by mid-July, as part of its annual cycle, any further searching to determine its distribution would yield limited inaccurate results at best.

What is clearly troublesome as well, for Eagle Lake in particular, is that Curly Leaf Pondweed, at a casual glance, looks like our Robbins Pondweed and Northern Pondweed. To clearly see that the plant is indeed Curly Leaf Pondweed in deeper waters, such as where we found it, one must be within 4-5 feet of the plant in clear, well lighted water to discern the difference. Since curly leaf pondweed also grows well in light-limited waters, Eagle Lake's particularly clear water, (our CSLAP secchi disc readings this summer reached a record 10.6 meters just 1.0 meter from the lake bottom), should allow it to grow deeper still, as is the case with our milfoil. To be fully effective and accurate, future plant distribution data will need to be gathered via in-water diver assessment.

As was recommended by Scott, I have already spoken with Erin, the new APIPP coordinator, to share what information we had on our plant find, and I took a moment to speak with her regarding Rapid Response funding opportunities for us next year. Erin will be adding Eagle Lake's name to her list for funding considerations in 2015, as APIPP has just received their \$ allocations for next year and still needs to make their determinations as to how the funds will be distributed. At this time I did not ask what criteria the ELPOI would have to meet to be a recipient of funds, but if Rapid Response is just that, ELPOI ideally would pursue a whole lake assessment, using paid divers to simultaneously locate AND remove all Curly Leaf Pondweed AS IT IS FOUND, via hand harvesting and matting, as needed. In my view, and with ELPOI's long history of milfoil management, this is the ONLY timely way to proceed to achieve the greatest success for curly leaf's removal and elimination at this early stage. The ELPOI does not have volunteer personnel or funding resources capable of conducting this newly needed future in-water work. The burden of care and responsibility for management of this problem should be shared, if not covered, by efforts and funding from the State.

It is imperative that we and the State of NY do everything possible to achieve a "one-season containment and removal" of this plant to prevent further plant dispersion within Eagle Lake and to prevent its spread to other neighboring lakes as well. As you are both aware, as a lake that has an unmanned public boat launch, we are left unprotected from receiving new invasives and serve as

a resource for new invasives to be transported elsewhere. The State, with its agencies, areas of expertise and funding resources, has a real opportunity here to make a real difference by seeing through the elimination of this new invasive in Eagle Lake and rapidly so. Volunteers alone, and without funding support, will never be able to achieve it, and should not be expected to manage the health of the Adirondack lakes solely on their own, as valuable a resource as they have proven to be to date throughout the Park as a whole.

I, along with the ELPOI, will be eagerly waiting to see what resources and support are made available to us next Spring, via APIPP's Rapid Response program, and any other resources that you may be able to direct us to, to determine how, and if it is even feasible, to move forward as a volunteer organization with this additional lake invasive plant burden and responsibility. We love our lake, and the other lakes of the Adirondack Park, and are counting on your continued and readily needed commitment and support to preserve and protect it. We welcome you taking the lead in drafting a funded operational plan to remove Curly Leaf Pondweed from Eagle Lake in 2015, with plant distribution and volumes being an unknown, but predictable factor, from just a few more plants, if any, to a larger scale, multi-bed possibility. It would sure make for good press for your respective agencies to be profiled as having achieved a successful rapid containment, with an ultimate early elimination of a newly discovered invasive species, within the Park. Just food for thought.

Respectfully,

Dianne Tiedemann, Eagle Lake Resident  
Chris Hyde, ELPOI President  
ELPOI Board Members, collectively

Since the State, with its desire to protect our waters from invasives, with efforts on both our parts, has a chance to address this recent find, from start to finish, within one season in 2015, why wouldn't one go for it?

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