

History of milfoil late 70s to 2005

The following list describes the activities that the Eagle Lake Property Owner's have participated in from the late 1970' to 2005.

It was prepared by Rolf Tiedemann and was submitted to the NYS Invasives Species Task Force as part of the background requirements to this activity.

1. What success story has your organization had involving aquatic invasives? What have been the failures?

We have a supportive and active property owner's organization that has been in existence since 1907 to monitor and protect the water quality of Eagle Lake. (E.L.)

- Officially identified Eurasian Water Milfoil in Eagle Lake, late 1970's.
- Collaborated with the LGA to brainstorm control methods that lead to the establishment of COLAM.
- Worked with COLAM on the registration of the herbicide SONAR.
- Completed a Town funded Darrin Fresh Water Institute (DFWI) aquatic plant population assessment of the plant diversity and Milfoil distribution on E.L. early 80's.
- Selected by SePro and COLAM as a demonstration site for the first application of Sonar in NYS and as a whole lake treatment inside the Blue Line.
- Sought and received several small Member Item and DOS grants to cover some of the costs associated with the permitting of the demonstration project.
- Completed a site-specific environmental impact study on the various control methods available at the time, including the application of Sonar. Sonar was considered at the time to be the most cost effective and environmental friendly approach.
- Completed follow-up aquatic plant distribution surveys through the 90's to document the effects that milfoil was having on native plants including rare, threatened and endangered species.
- Completed an on-site septic system survey of over 80% of the E.L. septic systems and found none failing or contributing nutrients to the lake.
- Solicited E.L. property owners to see what their willingness to help pay for the implementation of Sonar would be. Received pledges in the \$10,000 - \$15,000 dollar range.
- Sought and received some funding, (as matching funds from other sources), as a Member Item for the implementation portion of a Sonar project.
- Eagle Lake was listed on a federally sponsored Waterfront Revitalization and Development Act (WRDA), co-authored by Congressman Sweeney, providing funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to study the Milfoil problem in E.L.
- Attended various local and national conferences to further our knowledge and to seek help with Milfoil and its control.
- Have established an open dialog between various local, state and national leaders.

- Participated in several ARC meetings, sponsored by NYS DEC, APA, NYS DOS, and several other interested parties, addressing the issues of invasives in the Adirondacks, early 2001 – 2002.
- Held annual ELPOI membership meetings and published membership newsletters to share the efforts of the ELPOI in the control of Milfoil and other activities.
- Coordinated the visit by the Army Corps of Engineers to survey Eagle Lake for Milfoil and completed the follow-up.
- Provided samples of Milfoil to Bob Johnson at Cornell University, for study and subsequent finding of Acentria Moths.
- We are ongoing participants in the CSLAP water-testing program.
- Have completed self-supported water testing of E.L. water for over 30 years.
- Completed a whole lake GPS survey and mapping of the distribution of milfoil in E.L. in 2003.
- Rolf Tiedemann was asked by the APA to be on the Steering Committee for the development of APIPP.
- Have participated in the NYS Invasives species task force panel discussions.
- Have been active in the early and on going reviews of the Adirondack Invasives species document.
- 2005 Hand harvest/ non-jurisdictional permit application to APA is obtained and first hand harvesting is attempted.

While all of the above items are considered by the members of ELPOI to be great successes they are all wrought with failure as none of them worked to remove any Milfoil from the waters of Eagle Lake.

- The application of Sonar, while it is used outside the blue line, is NOT permitted inside without possible excess restrictions and extra costs.
- The selection of E.L as a demonstration site never came to pass as a result of a lack of funding and Sonar was subsequently successfully used in other parts of the state.
- The DOS funding that was associated with our septic system testing was lost due to not being able to spend it on its original purpose.
- The Army Corps of Engineers visit produced a report that indicated that Eagle Lake was not fit for their mission, but that milfoil was an issue for the lake.
- The dialog between ELPOI and others has shown great concern on everyone's part but no one has the ability to step up and provide the needed control funding or the specific ability to say "Do-It".
- An application to the APA by the Lake George Association for the use of Sonar was denied after great expenses of time and money, disillusioning the ELPOI from trying its own application for the same. The ELPOI has since decided to try to pursue the less effective and more costly method of hand harvesting to control some of the milfoil patches in Eagle Lake.