

LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

A NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL, PLANNING AND PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY
FORMED BY THE PRESERVATION OF LAKE GEORGE AND THE LAKE OF THE CLOUDS

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NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

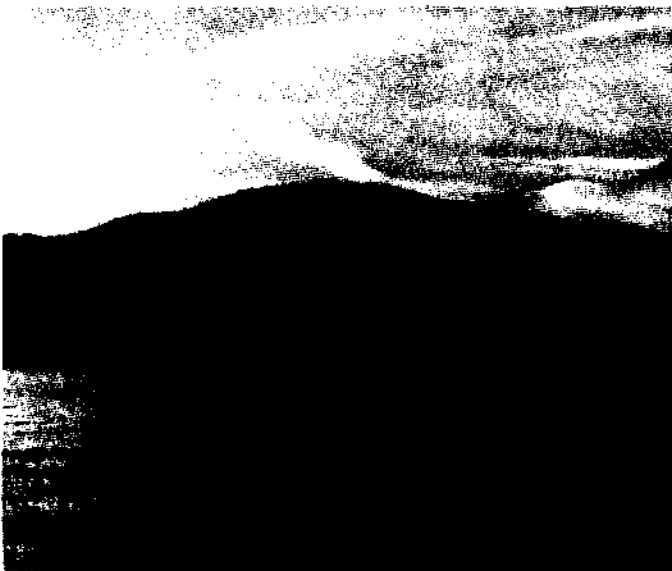
Commission Agenda for 2006

- Finalize a water-based management plan for the lake after completing a two-year study of use and user perceptions, reviewing a draft plan and holding public hearings. Your update, including a summary of the user survey and details on how to comment on the draft plan, will be sent this summer. The plan is expected to be completed in the late Fall 2006.
- Expand and improve upon milfoil management and find funding support to implement a newly updated Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Plan.
- Prepare a Watershed Protection Plan Governing Tree Cutting and Stream Corridor Protection in conjunction with municipalities and other stakeholder groups.
- Continue to increase Invasive Species intercept inspections to stop zebra mussels and other invasive species.
- Improve Marine Patrol communications, readiness and respond times.
- Improve the Commission's basin-wide stormwater and erosion control regulatory program with more inspections, better follow-up and grants to local communities.
- Improve customer satisfaction via faster, better, cheaper processing of wharf and boat registrations.
- Docks, moorings and marinas—fast, fair and effective permits and enforcement.

Commission Expands Milfoil Work

Two large Eurasian Watermilfoil (milfoil) beds that have existed for almost twenty years are virtually gone and good progress was made elsewhere in the battle against milfoil according to the Commission's Eurasian Watermilfoil Program Report for 2005.

Dense bed areas of invasive milfoil, one near Cannon Point and one near Tea Island, were half covered with benthic barrier in 2004. In 2005, the barrier was retrieved and re-positioned over the remaining milfoil plants. Swim-over surveys found these two once heavily infested areas now virtually clear of milfoil. Similar projects are underway in Huddle Bay and Dunhams Bay as part of expanded efforts by the Commission to control the 20 or more dense beds of milfoil, many of which have gone without management since first being discovered in the mid-1980's. *(continues page 2)*




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Commission Expands Milfoil Work

(cont'd from pg 1)

The Commission has continued to expand its commitment to milfoil management in recent years. "We have a plan for the complete eradication of milfoil from the lake. The key will be to find additional sources of funds to match the scale of the problem," said Bruce Young, Commission Chair.

In all 115 or 77% of the 149 sites where milfoil has even been found in Lake George were clear of all milfoil at the conclusion of the 2005 season. Of the total number of sites, 72 were cleared by hand harvesting in 2005. Over time, persistent hand harvesting has eliminated invasive milfoil from an additional 43 sites that have remained clear of milfoil for one or more years. 7,073 milfoil plants were hand harvested in 2005 down from 9,387 plants in 2004 and 17,438 plants in 2003, according to the report.

Almost an acre of new benthic barrier (42,000 sq.ft.) was installed in 2005 and 31,000 sq.ft. of barrier installed in a previous year was removed. This total of 73,000 sq.ft. represents a 74% increase from 2004 in the amount of benthic barrier handled. In addition to expanding the strategic use of benthic barriers the Commission has also expanded the tactical use of this control method. Benthic barrier was installed at five small sites in 2005 that had been routinely hand harvested in previous years.

Since the Commission resumed sponsorship of the program in 1995, no new beds of milfoil have been allowed to develop. All new sites identified since 1995 are clear of invasive milfoil at the conclusion of 2005. Existing milfoil beds have been reduced under the program from a high of 34 in 1999 to 18 in 2005.

The Commission's total cost for the program is estimated at \$160,000 for 2005 with approximately \$80,000 budgeted for labor and other contractual services. The Commission received a program grant from The FUND for Lake George, Inc. of \$10,000 in 2005 and utilized \$7,500 in funds from the Lake George Watershed Conference. The Darrin Freshwater Institute provides in-kind assistance and scientific support to the project on an on-going basis. The Commission is grateful to these groups and the public for their support and cooperation.

If you think you have found invasive milfoil please contact the Commission. We will be happy to check it out.

