

# Potamogetons

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Biological

## Community Groups, Local Government and Professionals Collaborate to Restore 1,164 Acre Lake



400 Acres of Eurasian water milfoil

Located 20 miles southeast of Syracuse, 1,164 acre Cazenovia Lake is the focal point of the Town and Village of Cazenovia. By 2008, the lake supported over 400 acres of the aquatic invasive plant Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), which severely impacted recreational use of the lake. After 20+ years of mechanical harvesting by the Town and Madison County, the weed harvesting program was no longer able to keep up with nuisance weed growth, and had provided no long-term reduction of the invasive plant. Frustrated Cazenovia residents decided it was time to take a different action.

The Cazenovia Lake Association took two very important first steps. They contracted Allied Biological to conduct a detailed mapping of aquatic plants in the lake, thus providing evidence of the extent of the problem. They then organized a public Lake Summit in November, 2008 to discuss the problem of weed control in the lake, and to assess a variety of management techniques. The Summit included a detailed history of management at the lake, as well as presentations from experienced professionals on harvesting, herbivores, herbicides and other plant management issues. Following the Summit, the Cazenovia Lake Association joined with the Town and Village of Cazenovia, and also the Cazenovia Watershed Council and the Cazenovia Lake Foundation, forming a united effort to pursue the selective use of Renovate in the lake.

The next step was to acquire the necessary permits from the NYSDEC. The Town of Cazenovia hired Allied Biological

to prepare and submit the necessary permit applications to NYSDEC Region 7 for the use of Renovate in approximately 200 acres of the lake in 2009, to be followed by treatment of the remaining milfoil infestation in 2010. It also hired Ecoscience Solutions of Cazenovia to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to meet SEQR requirements. The permit forms were submitted to NYSDEC by the end of January, 2009 with the SEIS submitted shortly thereafter. Several months of meetings, emails, letters and negotiations followed, culminating in a course of action. Finally, a permit to apply Renovate OTF (the granular formulation) was issued on June 1, just in time to conduct the application during the appropriate stage of plant growth.

During the week of June 8th, Allied Biological, Inc. carried out the Renovate application for control of 234 acres of Eurasian water milfoil within treatment areas along the northern shorelines of the lake. The product was applied using mechanical spreaders mounted on airboats, and supported by additional boats to ferry product back and forth from the shoreline launch point. The entire application took a full three days, during which time the boat launch was closed, but the lake was still open for recreation. By the first post-treatment survey, two weeks after application, the Eurasian water milfoil had begun to show effects from the Renovate application. By four weeks post-treatment, about 95% of the Eurasian water milfoil was absent from the treatment zones.

With the reduction of the Eurasian water milfoil, and no significant impact to the native plant community, the project has effectively restored recreational opportunities in the lake while simultaneously improving the ecosystem. But without the hard work, dedication and cooperation from so many people in this community it is likely this project would not have left the ground. It goes to show that by working together, the residents of Cazenovia have taken a significant step in restoring their lake.



Cazenovia Lake after Renovate Treatment