

Report for LEA 'Milfoil Update'  
Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee

The Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC) has been working very hard this summer. Re-formed last fall, this town committee comprised of eighteen active members and seven 'Friends of LIPPC' has the support of the residents of Lovell and the selectmen. People are realizing just how important this work is to keep invasive aquatic plants out of the waters of Kezar Lake and the ponds within the watershed.

CBI: CBI personnel inspected an estimated 1500 boats between May 1 and August 25. Raising awareness of the importance of weed-free watercraft, and teaching how to inspect a boat, are goals of the CBI program. During May, inspections were Friday – Sunday, 6 am – 5 pm; starting Memorial Day weekend and ending on the weekend after Labor Day, CBI inspectors were on duty seven days a week from 6 am – 5 pm. Volunteers contributed 205 hours. Most inspections were done at the Narrows boat launch, but there were 65 days of coverage at the North Lovell landing, where there are far fewer boats entering the lake. One invasive plant was found on a boat just before it was launched into Kezar Lake at the Narrows boat launch. This was reported in the earlier LEA Milfoil Update; none has been found since that date.

Cushman Pond, which has had a known milfoil infestation since 1996, was subject to three dives for plant investigation and removal. On the first dive, two plants were found (one old growth, probably missed from the last dive in 2010, and one was a new plant), plus one floating fragment. On the second dive, no plants were found. And on the third dive, on Labor Day weekend, one small plant was found. Benthic barriers were placed over areas where plants were found.

Education Committee: In collaboration with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association, we created a laminated spiral bound booklet ("*Eyes on the Water*") using materials from both the DEP and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (Vital Signs). With the help of a generous grant, copies were distributed, free of charge, throughout town. The goal is that each home and camp has a copy. Copies are also in the libraries and in the Town Office. There were two "*Eyes on the Water*" outings this summer, one in July at the North end of the lake, and the second in August, at the Narrows boat launch area. Participants arrived in canoes, kayaks and motorboats to monitor the shoreline for both native and potentially invasive aquatic plants. Specimens collected were sorted by type and identified. There were 28 people at the July outing, and 34 people in August. Ten 'bucket scopes' (from plans on the VLMP website) were made by Mark Moulton at Lovell Hardware and are available to check out at each library.

Volunteer Coordination Committee: Presentations were made at every Road Association meeting, stressing the importance of the mission to keep invasive aquatic plants out of Kezar Lake and the watershed. "*Eyes on the Water*" booklets

were given to all attendees. The Road Associations were generous both in volunteer commitment and in cash donations for CBI coverage.

Private Boat Launch Survey: A survey to identify all private boat launch sites around Kezar Lake found sixteen potential or active launch sites. Landowners have been made aware of the potential for invasive plant introductions from these sites. Signage may be placed where appropriate.

Rapid Response Team: Appropriate steps have been formulated in the event of the discovery of an invasive aquatic plant. This includes the local communication plan and a chain of command up to the VLMP.

Signage: A private individual has donated new signs for placement at launch sites throughout the watershed. (see photo).

A 2011 IAP (Level I) investigation shows no milfoil in Kezar Lake or in other water bodies except Cushman Pond. The goal is that a Level I survey be done at least every three years, with 'Eyes on the Water' trained volunteers surveying in between, perhaps using an 'Adopt a Cove' model.

Yes, this has been a very busy year for the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC).

KLWA News:

The Kezar Lake Watershed Association received a grant to install a boat wash station at the Narrows Boat Launch. Town crews installed it according to proper specifications, and it will be complete by September 30.

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