

# Eurasian Milfoil in Henderson Lake

June 18, 2010

In Henderson Lake there is a Eurasian Milfoil bed which has started in the middle of the bay at the south end of the lake. This is a VERY aggressive species of Milfoil which, if left untreated will spread quickly and drastically affect how we all use the lake and hurt our property values.

The beds have exploded with growth this spring! The Milfoil beds, that in fall '09 were not obvious, are now VERY obvious. Their stringers are floating on the waters' surface and dense growth just below the surface quickly clogs boat propellers.

Many lakes in our area have been, or are now treating the weed effectively with specialized herbicides that will not damage native species of lake weeds nor our fish stock. Eurasian Milfoil can be managed and contained chemically, but there are costs, and ongoing costs for likely maintenance treatments.

Do not try to "trim" it by boating through the beds. This weed spreads by fragmentation. "Trimming" only creates fragments that accelerate its spread.

Do keep a rake-by-the-lake and pull out what washes on shore. Get the fragments out of the water before they root. Let it dry & die on shore.

Do share this information with other residents and learn more by visiting "Henderson Lake" group on Face Book, our website at <http://hendersonlake.org/> and also "Google it" on the Internet.

## **Getting Organized → Helpers Needed!**

This is an effort which will require financial participation from us property owners. George Lake spent close to \$15,000 to get their problem under control. Our current estimates are for \$3,000 - \$3,500 for a treatment this summer which will knock-down the Milfoil for this season, and a similar amount in the spring of 2011 (per treatment). Milfoil is a problem that we will have to deal with in some manner for years to come.

We need 2-4 available volunteers from each of the 4 subdivisions on our lake to form a Steering Committee whose purpose is to coordinate quotes, communicate news and ultimately gather residents' financial contributions for treatments.

Al Johnston and Bill Olsen from the South End / Henderson Beach are the authors of this letter and are gathering further quotes and information. We would welcome available volunteers so that we have a coordinated, unified approach to this serious problem.

- South End / Henderson Beach → Al Johnston, Bill Olsen, Name 3, Name 4
- Allen Subdivision → Volunteers needed
- Henderson Heights → Volunteers needed
- North End / Henderson Lake Sub #1 → Volunteers needed

We have also contacted home owners associations for Lake Ogemaw, George Lake and Long Lake to learn about what they are doing for their annual Milfoil management programs and who they use.

We are in the process of getting a quote from Aquatic Services (Jeff Knox) and Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control. We have also contacted township halls for the three townships we fall into (Cumming, Hill and Churchill) to obtain residents' home mailing address for further communications and contact.

Donations toward the \$8,000 needed for treatments this summer and next spring are required now. A bank account is being opened (same bank as our H.L. Fishing Club) to hold these funds and provide accountability.

Please contact,

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