



Lake Preservation News: September 2014 - A Publication of the LMCA

What About the Weeds? The lake is looking great, even this late in the summer. Though lake management can be full of surprises, it appears that combined years of harvesting, herbicide treatment, and recent winter draw-downs are paying off. For this reason, all the funds donated for shoreline herbicide treatment have not yet been spent. Approximately \$3,000 has been billed for treating with AquaPro and Reward in any areas where needed. The treatment of some areas has not been satisfactory and is under review by the applicator. As requested in earlier contacts, anyone seeing weeds on any residential shoreline that are close enough to the surface for effective treatment should immediately contact Jetur Riggs so treatment can be scheduled. Jetur can be reached via email at info@LMCAnj.org. Any unused funds for 2014 will be carried over for shoreline treatment in 2015 so that our response to any weed infestations can be rapid and more comprehensive than in previous years. Though the lake looks good so far this year, we all know that our lake is shallow and prolonged hot weather early next summer can drastically and quickly change the weed growth and appearance of the lake. Thanks to our donors we are ready to respond!

Water Chestnut Update: Thanks to VP Pat Marsico who is coordinating the Water Scouts program, almost all areas of the lake are free of water chestnut infestation. However, watchful monitoring and weed control by anyone using the lake is essential. Using Email and other contacts, Pat has scheduled a number of group events for water chestnut pulls. Pulling these plants to capture the seed pod that is embedded in the mud is the most effective way to prevent this insidious plant from covering our entire lake. While we all hate paper-work, Pat will be asking all volunteers to sign waivers when using state canoes or participating in the water chestnut program. There are other rules to follow for the safety of all, which include use of life-jackets by all volunteers, adult supervision of younger volunteers, etc. We try to minimize any obstacles to participation and want all to have fun on the lake and feel good about making a positive difference in saving and preserving our lake for future generations. Individuals boating and kayaking on the lake are encouraged to pull water chestnuts on their own. The harvesters have also been concentrating on significant water chestnut growth in Byram Bay.

The Letter Writing Campaign—Well, our hundreds of letters have now been answered by the office of Governor Christie. The request was for ongoing state support of the Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board with an annual commitment of \$50,000 for herbicide treatment, harvesting and care of the lake. Even after the letter campaign, a decision was made to actually reduce the minimal amount of direct state funding our state lake has been receiving and provide absolutely no state funding to the Planning Board. The Governor's letter did refer to the possibility of transferring ownership of a small harvester sitting unused on Lake Hopatcong for a number of years to the LMRPB. State funds were allocated for repairing the small harvester. The small harvester arrived on our lake in late August and is being used regularly. We thank all who worked so hard to coordinate the letter campaign and each person or family who wrote and sent letters. Even though the response to the letters written by individuals, scout troops, school children and so many who love and care for our lake has been a disappointment, we will certainly not stop trying to have our voices heard.

In Loving Memory: All on the LMCA board continue to mourn the loss of treasured and dedicated volunteers Barney Hunt and Paul Codd. Both are remembered for being pioneers in the harvester program and for giving countless volunteer hours to our lake.