



McGRATH POND & SALMON LAKE ASSOCIATION

FALL 2008

A Call to Action

As president your association, I would ask the residents of the McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake watershed to come together as we address the invasion of Eurasian Water Milfoil. To be successful, we will need to rally our membership and join with regional and state entities. The water quality of our lakes and the preservation of the environment is our mission and we must step up to the challenge.

What does this mean? We need volunteers. This past summer our association provided more volunteer courtesy boat inspection hours than the rest of the Belgrade Lakes Association – Thank You. When milfoil was discovered in early August, our lake residents volunteered to survey the shoreline and assist DEP in the early control of this Milfoil infestation – Thank You. Our board members have each dedicated hours to educate, raise funds and provide leadership in lake stewardship – Thank You.

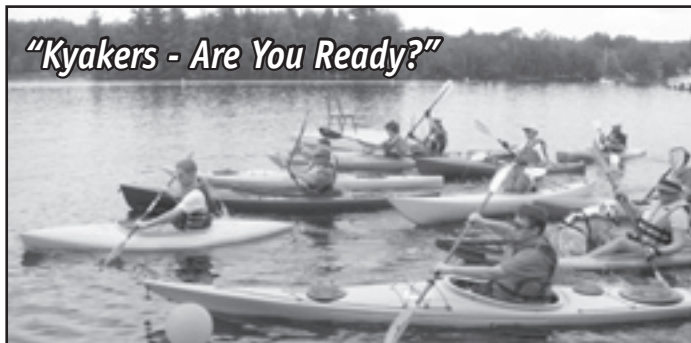
Individually, we each have an economic stake in our efforts. Similarly, the whole Belgrade region and the state economy is dependent on our success in maintaining vibrant lakes. The value of our property and the tax base of our towns is dependent on how well we preserve our environment.

What do we need to do? We need to educate. Each of us must be able to recognize invasive plants and be ever diligent in identifying plant life that endangers our waters. We must develop and maintain our property in a keeping with best practices. The board is considering participating in a formal “Lake Smart” program which honors residents who have adhered to desirable land stewardship.

Each of you is essential to keeping our lakes pristine, our land preserved and our wildlife protected. Whether you are a volunteer at the boat landing, a “Lake Smart” participant, a board member, or an active lake association participant, we need all 400 MPSLA watershed families to join together in these efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Borman
President – MPSLA



Nona Purnell and pal Gemini represent MPSLA – 2nd from bottom right.
Nona finished 2nd in the women's division.

Desperate: Seeking Environmental Minded Volunteers

As most of you are aware, Eurasian Water Milfoil was discovered in Hatch Cove of Salmon Lake late this last summer. Through the coordinated efforts of many, plants were handpicked, the cove was netted and surveyed periodically and the entire lake was surface surveyed for infestation. While we are hopeful that the milfoil has been successfully harvested, isolated and at least contained, it is important to increase our vigilance with periodic dives, continued surveys and diligent boat inspection. While DEP has stepped in to spearhead efforts, our association needs to step forward with a core of volunteers to assist in the ongoing efforts to safeguard our lakes. To that end, your Board is looking for individuals to come forward and join our efforts to maintain lake quality and eradicate our milfoil infestation or at least to keep it contained and under control.

As a volunteer organization, we are only as strong as our membership.

We desperately need volunteers to maintain our lake quality. A

self referral volunteer form is included within this newsletter. Please complete the form and mail it as indicated. This spring and summer our association logged over 60 hours at the boat landing inspecting boats. We can be proud to have led all of the lakes in volunteer hours; we know we need to do more. Thanks to all of you who gave time as boat inspectors.

EWM (Eurasian Water-Milfoil)



Rapid, Precise Response to Eurasian Milfoil Control in Salmon Lake

By Paul Gregory, Environmental Specialist, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Invasive Species Program, email: milfoil@maine.gov or telephone: 287-6961

It's what the Maine DEP Invasive Species Program keeps at the ready with the hope of never using...the rapid response plan for new aquatic plant infestation.

In a perfect world, prevention trumps any response plan, but on **August 1st**, Salmon Lake was dealt the lesser hand. That's when Kurt Lakin, a visiting Tennessee fisheries biologist, reported Eurasian watermilfoil in the lake's outlet also known as Kozy Cove.

Since speed and coordination determine a plan's success—especially when confronting one of the most opportunistic of invasive species in North America—timing has been essential for the DEP, its cooperators and area volunteers. Here's what's been accomplished thus far:

August 4th — Biologists from Maine DEP and the Volunteer Lake Monitor Program confirm the plant's identity. The following day, Maine Natural Area Program reports that Salmon Lake and Kozy Cove had been surveyed as recently as 2004 with no detection of Eurasian milfoil.

That report is promising; potentially, new infestations are better controlled than long-established plant populations.

August 6th — DEP Invasive Species Program coordinator John McPhedran contacts Belgrade and Oakland town offices, the Maine Department of Conservation, and Salmon-McGrath Lake Association. DEP biologist Roy Bouchard addresses the Lake Association annual meeting on the issue the next evening.

Meanwhile, Salmon lake residents waste no time in taking to their canoes and pontoon boats and marking infested sites with homemade buoys—a great help to the responders who follow.

August 8th — One week after detecting Eurasian milfoil, a Maine DEP SCUBA diving team and area residents install a net at the outlet dam to prevent plant fragments from migrating downstream into Great Pond. Divers also remove by hand approximately 60 Eurasian milfoil plants.

August 11th — Maine Departments of Environmental Protection and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife authorize the state's first-ever Surface Use Restriction to limit boat use of Kozy Cove. DEP deploys "AREA CLOSED" buoy at mouth of cove and clean fragments from outlet net—a necessary routine practice in order to protect downstream waters.

August 13th — By now, local residents led by the Salmon Lake—McGrath Pond Association, University of Maine Farmington faculty and students, and DEP-ers survey the rest of Salmon Lake and find no Eurasian milfoil. Area lake stewards similarly reconnoiter Great Pond, downstream from Salmon Lake. State officials improve signage and sponsor increased Courtesy Boat Inspections at the Salmon Lake boat ramp.



DEP crew installs protective net at outflow of dam in cove.

To everyone's relief, Salmon Lake beyond Kozy Cove and McGrath Pond (surveyed by Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and DEP), Great Pond and the ½-mile stream between them appear free of infestation. These collaborative efforts permit DEP biologists to determine the extent of the infestation and focus attention where most needed—back in Salmon Lake.

August 19th, September 4th & September 23rd — DEP SCUBA team commits over 35 diver-hours to remove Eurasian milfoil by hand and to profile plant densities within Kozy Cove. North side and center 1/3rd upstream from outlet appear free of infestation. South and west third of cove host scattered, solitary stems up to 3-feet long. Approximately 60 more plants removed. Later dives reveal new sprouts from remaining root systems.

October 3rd — DEP removes fragment net in anticipation of autumn fall of leaves and other debris.

In the coming months, Maine DEP will assess the rapid responses to date and confer with area residents for action in 2009. To be considered are continued control efforts, surface use restrictions, deployment of nets, and surveys to carry forward the goal of the DEP rapid response plan: to control and prevent the spread of Eurasian milfoil beyond Kozy Cove.



Roy Bouchard displays long strand of milfoil retrieved by dive team

Letter to the D.E.P. *MPSLA — Our Position*

Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

September 4, 2008
130 Birch Meadows
Oakland, ME 04963

Dear Commissioner Littell

On behalf of the McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association, I would like to thank you and your department for its swift and rapid response to our discovery of Eurasian Milfoil in Salmon Lake. Mr. Roy Bouchard and Mr. John McPhedran have been diligent in their efforts and have gone out of their way to keep us informed and our efforts coordinated.

Our association intends to adopt whatever actions are feasible and necessary to address this serious issue. To date, we have supported the DEP in their efforts to survey all potential high impact areas on Salmon Lake. Additionally, we are in the process of organizing a survey of McGrath Pond with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance to determine if any fragments have made their way through the "narrows". Working with the state Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, the Association has provided extensive Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI's); both by financially supporting people hired by BRCA to perform the inspections, as well as having members of our Board of Directors volunteering to do inspections during the early summer weekends and fall bass tournaments.

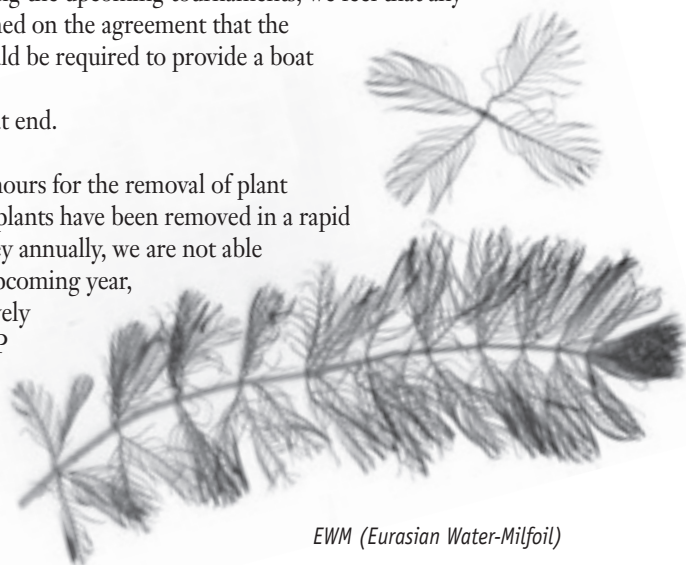
As we look to the near and prolonged future of our efforts, the association would like to outline the steps we feel are prudent in our combined efforts to monitor and maintain a quality lake environment for the Belgrade Watershed area.

Surface Restrictions - We understand that the infected cove area is currently under a forty-five day surface restriction. We are pleased and thankful that DEP and DIFW worked so closely to facilitate a quick response in closing this area for non-residential boating. Because recent dives have discovered additional milfoil plants, this restriction should be extended through the '09 boating season so continued surveying and harvesting can occur with the least potential for spreading growth.

Additional Netting - Currently, one net spans the area just before the outlet dam. While this will be removed prior to freeze over, we feel it should be reinstalled after ice-out in the spring of '09. Additionally, a second set of nets should be installed at the mouth of the cove to prevent surface flow of milfoil fragments due to prevailing winds. A third net should be considered for the Hatchery stream which flows into Great Pond. While this may require frequent maintenance to keep debris clear, it would be a major preventative measure for Great Pond.

Bass Tournaments - While we will have courtesy boat inspectors on duty during the upcoming tournaments, we feel that any upcoming tournament on either McGrath Pond or Salmon Lake be conditioned on the agreement that the effected areas are off limits to fisherman. To enforce this, the tournament would be required to provide a boat inspector, educate fisherman to surface restrictions, submit inspection logs and help police fisherman to that end.

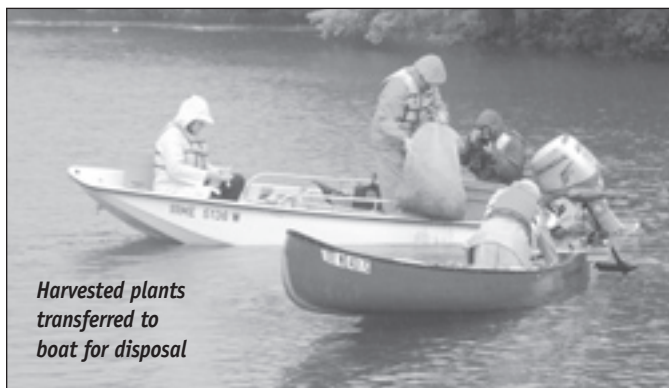
Hand Harvesting of Plants - Currently, DEP is absorbing the costs and man hours for the removal of plant fragments from the cove area. Due to their expertise and work force, most of plants have been removed in a rapid fashion during the three dives held to date. While the Association raises money annually, we are not able to raise the funds needed for the efforts necessary for this work. During the upcoming year, we will expand our fund raising efforts and hope to be able to work cooperatively with all entities as we fight this battle. That being said, we would ask that DEP continue to provide funding and manpower to continue harvesting dives and surveying through the '09 season. Our Association is developing a cadre of volunteers to augment both the surveying and dive teams, but will need the expertise of DEP to insure the process is seamless. While a monetary item for state agencies, the alternative economic consequences could be disastrous locally and throughout the region.



EWM (Eurasian Water-Milfoil)

Signage and buoy warning - Currently there is minimal signage at the boat landing and the warning system across the cove opening is not clear. Given that the boat landing is under the auspices of the Department of Inland Fishery and Wildlife, it makes sense for the construction of more descriptive and prominent signs at the launch site. Additional signage attached to floating buoys at the end of the cove would also prove effective in limiting access to the cove which is currently closed.

Funding - Our Association budgets the majority of its annual revenues to the Courtesy Boat Inspections. Through various grants, the BRCA has increased the hours on inspections during the past few weeks. We will also provide volunteer inspectors for the upcoming bass tournaments. As



mentioned previously, the Association will try to expand our budget base through increased membership, business partners and possible grants. As we gear up to our expanded needs, we would ask the DEP and DIFW to continue to support us in our financial efforts to maintain CBI's not only for our lakes, but for the protection of our region and the State.

Matting - DEP's position is that the early detection and hand harvesting of plants has proven effective in this early stage. If it appears that plants are regenerating in the short term, then we feel additional measures will be necessary. The least aggressive of additional measures is the placement of mats on effected areas. The Association will gather volunteers to assist in this activity, but would request that DEP facilitate the process and take a lead role.

Dredging, Drawdown/Freezing, and Herbicides - While these methods have been discussed within our organization and with state officials, we agree that these are more aggressive than current conditions warrant. If conditions deteriorate rapidly, and the viability of a healthy lake community is at stake, we would recommend consideration of all alternatives.

Boat Ramp Restrictions - While the closing of private launches and restricting hours of operation of the public launch may prevent the spread of invasive plants, it may be an unrealistic proposal at this time. If the Association and appropriate state agencies feel that such a measure is necessary, the Association will work with lake residents on this proposal.

Surveying - The Association in conjunction with the BRCA is committed to a continued monitoring and surveying of both McGrath and Salmon. In this endeavor we ask only that DEP and DIFW work with us to advise and coordinate.

Education - One of the main missions of our Association is to educate the lake residents and local citizens of water quality issues and lake stewardship. Working with local camps the area schools, VLMP, BRCA and COLA, we hope to develop educational forums for both the public and public schools. Any suggestions from DIFW and DEP would be greatly appreciated.

We all understand the importance of the Lakes to the economy and quality of life in Central Maine. It is incumbent on all of us to take whatever steps are necessary to address invasive plants both now and in the future. We look forward to working with all departments and organizations to insure vibrant lakes and stabile economic conditions in our region. Landowners and area businesses are dependent on our lakes for a solid tax base and the realities of a tourist economy.

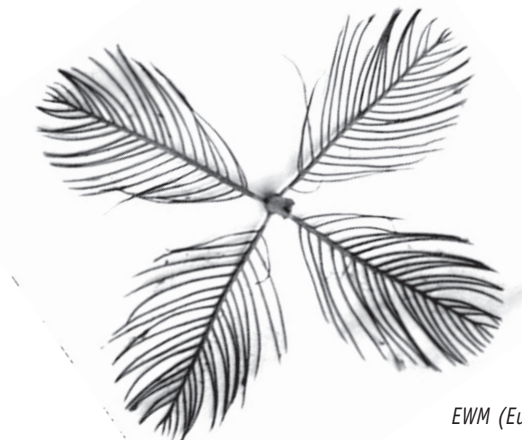
In closing, the Association is grateful for all of the support received as we work to eliminate milfoil from our lakes. Thank You.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Borman
President, MPSLA

The Board of Directors unanimously supports this Position Statement.

Cc. Mr. Dennis Keschell; Belgrade Town manager
Mr. Steven Dyer; Oakland Town Manager
Senators Elizabeth Mitchell, Walter Gooley
Representatives Jill Conover, Patricia Jones, Marilyn Canavan
Peter Kallin, Executive Director of BRCA
Commissioner Roland Martin, DIFW



EWM (Eurasian Water-Milfoil)

MPSLA volunteer Form

Name _____

Primary Address _____

Indicate Months of residence _____

Primary Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Secondary Address _____

Please indicate time frame for possible volunteer work (ie: available weekends 4/1/09 – 10/31/09 except 6/01 - 6/20)

Tasks willing to do for milfoil control

(Check areas of availability)

- ☐ Survey shoreline waters in canoe and/or kayak
- ☐ Snorkeling shoreline waters and/or boat landing
- ☐ Courtesy boat inspections
- ☐ Accompany Dive Teams for Milfoil Inspection and/or harvesting
- ☐ Scuba Diving Certified with appropriate equipment for harvesting plants or inspections

General Volunteers for Association Business

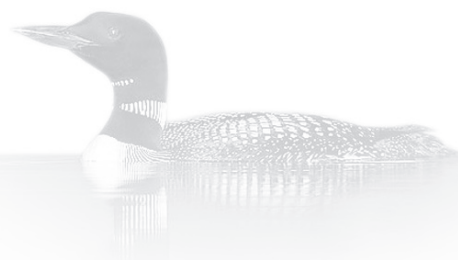
(Check areas of interest)

- ☐ Participate in Membership Drive
- ☐ Join the Education Committee
- ☐ Volunteer for "Lake Smart" or similar conservation activity
- ☐ Participate in water quality testing
- ☐ Participate in regional (BRCA) fundraising
- ☐ Interested in being a board member
- ☐ Interested in assisting at the annual meeting
- ☐ Working on the association newsletter
- ☐ Other _____

Comments or questions

Mail to:

McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association C/O Candy McCafferty
103 Taylor Woods Road – Belgrade, Maine - 04917





Salmon Lake Milfoil Surveyed

== Volunteer Surveys

— D.E.P. Surveys

Milfoil Found

Enright

Enright

Enright

Grabiel

Dawson

Massey

Grabiel

Deveney

Hammond

Enright

Enright

Fowler



Many thanks to the volunteers who surveyed the shallow shoreline on Salmon Lake

Filamentous Algae on Salmon Lake 2008

Salmon Lake had a modest algae bloom late this summer. A sample was sent to the Sawyer Environmental lab for analysis. Here is some information to help you understand how algae occur.

Filamentous algae, commonly referred to as “pond scum” forms greenish mats on the water’s surface. This stringy, fast growing algae appears over a short period of time. If you have left a few cups of water in the bottom of your boat, you will find it growing there after a week or so. This algae starts its seasonal growth at the bottom and sides of our lake. In warm water conditions, the algae trap small gas bubbles that are produced by the plant. If enough bubbles are trapped, small or large mats may float up to the surface. Heavy rain or wind can cause the algae to sink, only to refloat a few days later.

Filamentous algae have probably always been a part of the ecology of both Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond. It appears in even the most pristine lakes. Fortunately, it has a seasonal life cycle and

may not be noticeable several years in a row. There are four major factors that determine how prevalent the algae will be in a given year. The first is light. Clear water in the spring will allow more light to the bottom of the lake, increasing the algae that year. The second is the phosphorous drawn from the bottom of the lake. The higher the phosphorous concentration, the faster the algae will grow. Webber Pond had a significant “pea soup” water quality problem in 2002 with phosphorous readings at that time in the 40’s (parts per billion). In July of this year, their phosphorous readings were in the 15 – 20’s and Secchi disk readings were a very respectable 15 feet. The third factor is water temperature. Warmer water temperatures produce more growth, cooler temperatures suppress growth. The final factor is the competition with other vegetation in the water column. As a timely aside, the presence of filamentous algae is one of the factors that choke out Eurasian Milfoil.

5-K “Race for the Lakes”

One of the key events of Aquafest was the first of what is expected to become an annual event on the Maine runners’ schedule: the 5-K “Race for the Lakes”. As volunteers with way more enthusiasm than know-how about running such an event, we arranged to have the help of a guy who has been doing this kind of thing for a long time. (A great decision!!) He told us that anything greater than 50 runners would be a huge success for a first-time event. We had over a hundred!!

The race started from beautiful Camp Renoia at the end of Point Road on the shores of Great Pond in Belgrade Lakes. Many, many thanks to Pam Cobb for graciously lending us her facility. The race went off very well, and the participants all loved the venue and the course. We set new course records in each age division both male and female. (Just a joke here, this was the first time the course has been raced!!) Next year, we hope to have even more runners, and with the success this year, look forward to a significant increase in sponsorship support. See you next year!

Rick Swanson, Race Director



5K racers prepare for morning run



John Loomis (left) and Nancy Loomis (right) prepare musical milfoil activity for “Kids Activity” at Aquafest.

Aquafest Educational Activity Sponsored by MPSLA

The first Aquafest was an occasion for fun AND a time for learning. Your lake association set up a game booth for children called “Musical Milfoil” to introduce the concept that a lake can be made unusable by invasive plants. We arranged several squares of carpet in a circle on the ground with labels like “No Swimming Here! This lake has invasive plants all over it”. Or “This lake is perfect for boating and swimming!” The children, anywhere from ages 3 to 15, walked from “lake” to “lake” while we played recorded music. When the music stopped, they read the label for the “lake” they were standing on. If it was a healthy lake, they stayed in to play the game again. The last person to be eliminated was the winner of a free ice cream. We all had a wonderful time and we are looking forward to having a similar activity at next year’s Aquafest.

John Loomis '07, Treasurer
3 Brigham St.
Waterville, ME 04901



Business Partners Wanted

While many lakeside businesses have supported MPSLA throughout the years, Mid Maine Marine became the first Business Member to sign up for our campaign to forge business partnerships. When asked why it was valuable to Mid Maine Marine, owner Frank Prelgovich responded, “the lakes and our quality of life is at the core of what makes central Maine attractive for raising a family and doing business. Our towns, businesses and life style are so interwoven with our lakes that it is imperative that we all partner up to protect our watershed and the environment.”

This fall, we are inviting dozens of local businesses to join in our efforts to protect our lakes and educate our residents. In each newsletter published we will acknowledge our business partners and afford them an opportunity to advertise in the newsletter for a minimal fee. Please join us and extend a personal “Thank You” when you have the opportunity.

Any business that would like more information should contact Jay Wietecha, at 465-9692. Residents and families will be receiving annual membership materials in our spring newsletter.



While several lakeside businesses have traditionally joined our membership as regular individual members, Mid Maine Marine was the first to respond to our current campaign, asking local businesses to partner with MPSLA at a more formal level. Frank Prelgovich presents the first Business Membership check to MPSLA president Don Borman.

MPSLA Board Committees

Education/Water Quality

Ron Purnell
John Loomis
Robyn Deveney
Dick Enright

Membership

Jay Wietecha
Andrea Rhoda
Bill Pullen
Gina Murphy

Town Relations

Doug McCafferty
Mark Gray
Rick Swanson

Newsletter

Neil Amalfitano
Don Borman