



NEWS RELEASE

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FUND starts 2011 Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Project on Lake George

Hand-harvesting crews will work all summer on large dense beds and on clearing large geographic areas of the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil

Lake George – The FUND for Lake George has started its third consecutive season of hand-harvesting work to control the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM, *Myriophyllum spicatum*). The FUND has contracted with Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) from Lake Placid to bring a large team of experienced divers to work on hand-harvesting of EWM. Lake George was one of the first lakes infested in the Adirondack Park with this invasive nuisance aquatic species in the late 1980s.

The FUND's work is coordinated with the work of the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) and operates under a permit from the Adirondack Park Agency. For the last ten years the LGPC has managed a contract for control efforts with Lycott Environmental, Inc.

“We’re focusing this year on clearing the remaining dense EWM beds in Lake George and on surveying and clearing large geographic areas in the lake to ensure no other dense beds exist and to clear scattered plants and small beds. Between the FUND’s work and the ongoing work of the Lake George Park Commission, we’re hopeful that 2011 is the year we can really turn the corner with efforts to fully control EWM in Lake George” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George.

A large AIM crew completed work in mid-June to survey and clear EWM plants from dense beds and small beds in Dunham’s Bay, Harris Bay, Sandy Bay and Warner Bay at the south end of Lake George. A small crew is now working to survey large geographic areas on the lake to clear long stretches of scattered plants and small beds along shorelines and small bays. The crew worked this week along the east shoreline, from the north end of Warner Bay to Pilot Knob. “A series of long reaches have been mapped out for survey work to remove scattered plants and small beds and to identify other dense beds in the lake if there are any” said Peter Bauer. “This work will continue through July and August. In September we’ll bring in large crew to work on

what remains of the dense beds in Huddle Bay and in Lake George Village. Over 400,000 plants were removed from these dense beds in 2009 and 2010, which has helped to reduce their size.” In 2009 and 2010 over 500,000 EWM were removed from the lake.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a submerged aquatic perennial that is considered an invasive plant. It was first found within Lake George in 1985. EWM grows rapidly and can spread easily from one area to another. It forms dense beds that can negatively impact the environment and economy of an area. EWM is native to Europe, Asia and northern Africa. It was first introduced into North America in the early 1900s. EWM was introduced from discarded ballast in ships and from the release of aquarium plants, where it was used as an ornamental.

The FUND for Lake George helped launch the EWM control and management effort on Lake George in the late 1980s. In recent years the LGPC has managed the effort and produced the first inventory of known sites around the lake. The LGPC has identified over 175 sites of EWM in Lake George and successfully cleared the majority of these sites. In the 1980s and 1990s the FUND financed efforts by the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute to survey and manage EWM. It also supported the work of the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) to manage EWM and purchased two boats for the Park Commission and other equipment to further this work.

Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC, (AIM) has extensive experience with hand harvesting on Minerva Lake, Chateaugay Lake, Brant Lake, Lake Placid and Upper Saranac Lake, among others. This firm has wide experience with both dense sites and scattered plants widely dispersed over a large area. The FUND effort operates under a permit from the Adirondack Park Agency. AIM’s website is www.milfoilremoval.com.

The Fund for Lake George

The Fund for Lake George is a not-for-profit, privately funded organization dedicated to the protection of Lake George. Formed in 1980, the Fund takes a science-based approach to the protection of Lake George water quality and the overall health of the Lake George watershed. The Fund pursues this mission through grants to fund long-term scientific research on the lake, launching new initiatives, advocacy for new protections, and partnerships with other organizations and local governments. The Fund is the sponsor of the Lake George Waterkeeper, among other programs on Lake George. The Fund for Lake George is managed by a Board of Trustees and maintains an office in Lake George.

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