

EIGHT POINT LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD REPORT 2012

2012 Lake Surveys and Herbicide Treatments for Eurasian Milfoil

On May 22 the biologist from LakePro conducted a survey of the lake and found approximately 40 acres of Eurasian Milfoil. The survey was conducted earlier than normal due to the mild winter and warmer than average water temperatures. On May 26th his counterpart from EnviroScience, which has been contracted to introduce milfoil-eating weevils into the lake, joined the LakePro biologist to select two sites for weevil deployment.

On June 4th LakePro did their water quality sampling and treated just under 46 acres of milfoil in the lake with liquid and granular herbicides. A June 20th post treatment survey indicated 100% success in the treated area, although one very small new site was found and was treated the following week.

Lake Water Level Issues

In early spring it was noted that the water levels in the lake were at historically high levels. Given the low 2011-2012 snowfall and the lack of major spring rainstorms this was very unusual. The water levels were threatening to flood low areas around the lake and the water control structure (dam) was in danger of being ruined. Working with the Clare County Drain office it was determined that a large colony of beavers had built a huge dam (25 feet long and 4 feet high) about a half-mile straight north of the lake. This dam was preventing the normal flow of water out of the lake. The beaver dam was destroyed and a large number of beavers were trapped to prevent them from rebuilding.

Finances

In 2012, as usual, our largest expenses for the year have been the DNR permit, lake treatment, and water quality testing totaling just under \$16,000. The incremental cost of the milfoil weevil project will increase the assessment \$35 per property effective with the 2012-13 winter taxes.

Water Quality Testing

The marine biologist on the LakePro staff took water samples from 5 sites on the lake, as has been done in other years. The results indicate a healthy lake and superior water quality. Those results have been posted on the Eight Point Lake Property Owners website.

Zebra Mussels

The volume of mussels continues to grow. Every shore of the lake has been infested. The use of swim shoes by small children is recommended to protect them from potential cuts. Regrettably there is no known way that the mussels can be eliminated once they are established in a lake.

Weevils

There is extensive information on the Eight Point website, but in summary, the Lake Improvement Board has contracted with EnviroScience Company to introduce milfoil-eating weevils in the lake. These weevils are native to the region and the plan is to use increasing numbers of weevils and decreasing amounts of herbicides over the next 4-5 years to eliminate these invasive weeds. On June 20th EnviroScience and LakePro conducted a pre-deployment survey and then a team of divers "planted" 10,000 weevils at two sites on the lake.

On August 14th a post "planting" survey was completed. The weevils had destroyed nearly 100% of the milfoil in the test areas, which means that they responded well to the lake ecology. The disappointing feedback was that the biologists found no surviving weevils in the test sites, so in a manner of speaking, they ate themselves out of existence. In the spring another survey will be conducted to see if any of the weevil population survived the winter. A deployment plan which will likely incorporate using a smaller number of weevils at a larger number of locations in the spring of 2013.