

# Lake Sutherland Community Newsletter

## 2007 State of the Lake

By Cathy Lucero

When the holiday season rolls around, it means it's time for an update about what we've been doing all year to rid Lake Sutherland of Eurasian watermilfoil. You might wonder why we don't send a newsletter before the holidays. The fact is we aren't ready to report until November rolls around. Although we only hold three big community pulls during the summer, a small crew actually goes out about twice every week working from June until as late as November. By that time, plants are dying back, covered with algae or sediment, or can't be distinguished in the tumble of native vegetation. Besides the three main pulls, we went out 33 additional days with some divers logging over 60 dives! (each tank counts as a dive).

So, what did we find? The good news is, for the first time since we started in 2000, we *didn't*

*find any patches that were either big enough or dense enough to need a barrier.* All of our most infested areas have greatly improved. There were individual plants scattered over a wide area around the lake, but fewer than ever. Plants tended to be much smaller, ranging in size from four feet (only a few) to several inches. Most were only about a foot or two tall. As expected, infested areas with lots of activity, seem to be the most difficult to keep under control. We were surprised this fall by what seemed to be a sudden increase in milfoil in places with flocks of ducks or geese. We're not sure why.

We spent the most time repeatedly scouring the area west of Thompson Point to Maple Grove. We also spent considerable time in Heron Cove and the east end of the lake. Mallard Cove itself, by the dock, had very little milfoil, but we had to comb through the area just west of the dock many times to find individual plants. Fisher Cove had very little milfoil but the bay east of Fisher Cove required a number of passes. The east end of the lake, previously heavily infested, showed the most improvement of all.

Milfoil grows rapidly all summer and into the fall. One researcher recently told me that it would keep growing until water temperatures dropped below 55 degrees. At that point, growth slows considerably. Making a final pass in the fall has reduced the number of plants we find the next year. But there have always been so many plants to find and pull, we had to be content with one final lake-wide sweep over the course of a month or so. This year, however, we returned repeatedly until the water was cold *and* surveys found few if any plants in each section. For example, a swim beginning at Maple Grove and ending near the east end of the lake (Sections 11-14) yielded 9 plants, all very small! Frequent follow-up has been critical to our success. Because we didn't find any big patches, we were able to search every section of the lake at least 4 times!

Altogether, 29 divers and 36 boaters volunteered nearly 1000 hours of their time to help con-

*Continued on page 2*



**Cathy Lucero and Sue Nattinger check-in divers and boaters at Maple Grove for the July survey.**

## 2008

### Events Calendar

**Tuesday, April 8**  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 6 P.M.  
Foyer Old Courthouse

**Wednesdays & Fridays**  
June 15 thru October 31  
Weekly small group dives  
Contact Cathy Lucero  
for more information

**Tuesday, July 8**  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 6 P.M.  
Foyer Old Courthouse

**Saturday, July 12**  
First Survey  
Meets at Maple Grove  
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Maple Grove residents provide lunch, contact Mike Price

**Tuesday, August 5**  
Steering Committee  
Meeting 6 P.M.  
Foyer Old Courthouse

**Saturday, August 9**  
Second Survey  
Meets at Maple Grove  
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Longfellow Road and South Shore Road residents provide lunch, contact Theresa Schmid

tol milfoil this year; (1275 total project hours including staff time). Many pitched in more than once! Our strategy was to use the community pull days to conduct lake-wide surveys, improve our marking system, and maintain existing barriers all in one day. Returning weekly made up for the danger that plants were missed or not growing at the time of a big survey. It is interesting to note that *more than half* of the volunteers neither own, nor have families that own property at the lake. For example only 3 of 29 divers have ties to the lake. In addition to the assessment that lake owners pay to the Lake Management District, volunteers support the program by donating hundreds of hours and the use of their equipment. We need to keep this community minded group engaged.

Many people have asked, "If it's going so well, why do you have to keep pulling?" "Aren't you finished yet?" I guess it's a lot like pulling weeds in your yard. Once is not enough. Weeds keep showing up, re-sprouting, blowing in from your neighbor's yard or moved around with the lawn mower. Same with milfoil, until every plant is gone, they can move in from your neighbor's. Just like weeds in your garden, the milfoil doesn't all show up at the same time so we have to go back again and again. Even though it's easier to pull weeds when they're little, it's hard to tell which are seeds you planted and weeds you don't want. Sometimes you have to wait until they get bigger before you are sure. The same is true for milfoil, except it's complicated by the fact that you're weeding underwater, (it's harder to see and divers are swimming through lots of other vegetation). It's impossible to distinguish Eurasian watermilfoil from our native northern watermilfoil until late spring, so we only have a short time to find and destroy plants before they spread.

Unfortunately, the Lake can be re-infested from a single plant. We won't be finished until we don't find ANY plants for a year or two. At that point, we can move to periodic surveys to make sure Eurasian watermilfoil or other invasives aren't reintroduced. It is only through sustained, long term commitment that we will be able to protect and retain full enjoyment of the Lake.

The bad news is, the less milfoil there is, the harder it is to find (especially for occasional volunteers). Several broad flat areas are particularly difficult for divers to grid. This fall, we experimented with towing a buoy to guarantee a tight search pattern. This will improve our ability to find every last plant before it has a chance to reproduce.

We know that milfoil is a serious problem from which most infested lakes never fully recover. Most control programs end up relying on periodic herbicide treatments followed by professional diving services. As expensive as this approach can be, results are not guaranteed. Our inexpensive volunteer-based program is unique and successful. The annual decrease of milfoil shows that our strategy is working.

In this newsletter you will find the schedule of events for 2008. Note that we plan to reduce the number of community pulls from three to two to balance the need to get around the whole lake quickly, with a need for frequent revisits that find the last few plants. Please mark these dates on your calendar and contact the Weed Board Office or a Steering Committee member if you are interested in helping. *We need your help and there are lots of ways to get involved!* Consider



Divers Gail and Scott McLain with dive spotter Marie Marrs

sending us your email address so we can more easily send out a call for volunteers.

Many residents have expressed their appreciation for all the hard work, but combating milfoil has only been successful because of community participation. It's great seeing neighbor work with neighbor. We'd like to thank you for your enthusiasm, cooperation, and continued financial support. We'd especially like to thank those residents who go the extra mile to provide divine dining during community pull days. It's not easy to feed all those people but your efforts are *greatly* appreciated. We'd like to offer heartfelt thanks to *all* the volunteers who have made this program a success. Without the collaborative effort, nothing could be accomplished!

We welcome any suggestions about how we can improve the program. Please don't hesitate to contact the Weed Board office or any of the Steering Committee members if you have any questions or concerns about our program.

*Thank you for making this an outstanding year!*

## Steering Committee Members

**Mike Price** --Committee Chair 360-928-2121 [mprice337@yahoo.com](mailto:mprice337@yahoo.com)

270 Longfellow Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363

**Jan Snyder** -- Comm. Vice-Chair 360-452-7059 [icefog24@yahoo.com](mailto:icefog24@yahoo.com)

124 Uphill Drive, Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Jim Haguewood** 360-452-3540 [jhags@tenforward.com](mailto:jhags@tenforward.com)

705 Christman Place, Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Theresa Schmid** 360-452-3490 [Theresa\\_schmid@pasd.wednet.edu](mailto:Theresa_schmid@pasd.wednet.edu)

114 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Marilyn Parrish** 360-457-1405 [mparrish@olympen.com](mailto:mparrish@olympen.com)

393 Cedar Park Drive, Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Gene Unger** 360-452-2098 [ungerpe@olympen.com](mailto:ungerpe@olympen.com)

1401 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Judy Ware** 360-457-1579 [judyware@olympen.com](mailto:judyware@olympen.com)

12 Majesty Way, Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Don Nunly**—*alternate* 360-928-3054 [onafly@att.net](mailto:onafly@att.net)

426 Maple Grove Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363

**Lon Riggs**—*alternate* 360-457-1398 [sriggs2885@aol.com](mailto:sriggs2885@aol.com)

1903 Mt Pleasant Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98362

**Cathy Lucero**—*Noxious Weed Control Program, coordinator*

360-417-2442 [clucero@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:clucero@co.clallam.wa.us)

223 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 15, Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015

# To Our Volunteers --- A BIG THANK YOU !!!

Thank you again to all the volunteers who gave so generously of their time and equipment to help fight the milfoil in Lake Sutherland. This is a list of the many volunteers along with the number of days helped.

## 29 Divers

- 33 Clay Oaks
- 6 Margaret Bangs
- 6 Theresa Schmid
- 4 Gail McLain
- 4 Scott McLain
- 3 Sue Nattinger
- 3 Phil Weyrick
- 2 Jim Baertschiger
- 2 Robert Bennett
- 2 Scott Erickson
- 2 Marv Fowler
- 2 Ray Franklin
- 2 Mark O'Neil
- 2 Joshua Seelye
- 2 Lou Seelye
- 2 Karsch Trowbridge
- 2 Zak Walgraf
- 2 Sue Velie
- 1 David Aronovitz
- 1 Gregory Bondy
- 1 Jason Bondy
- 1 Pete Burette
- 1 David Dumbrowski
- 1 Don Laird
- 1 Shane Possinger
- 1 Ehab M. Taha
- 1 Debbie Turner
- 1 Jeff Well

## 36 Boater's and Other Helper's

- 14 Jan Snyder
- 5 Jerry Startzell
- 4 Emily Bates-Winans
- 4 Anne Rae Startzell
- 4 Mike Kesl
- 3 Nataliya Erickson
- 3 John Marrs
- 3 Shawn Morehead
- 3 Mike Price
- 3 Marilyn Santiago
- 3 Gene H. Unger
- 2 Steve Blackham
- 2 Elizabeth Helwick
- 2 Vicki Helwick
- 2 Bobbie Lowe-Krieder
- 2 Marie Marrs
- 2 Kathy Plakinger
- 2 Stacy Price
- 2 Doug Rittenhouse
- 2 Trudy Rittenhouse
- 2 Bill Trodahl
- 1 Jan Baertschiger
- 1 Jackie Burette
- 1 Frank Boucher
- 1 Bobby Cannon
- 1 Ralph Edgington
- 1 Jim Haguewood
- 1 Tom Hainstock
- 1 Rose Morehead
- 1 Don Nunley
- 1 Bethany O'Connor
- 1 Diane Pennington
- 1 Jim Price
- 1 Steve Price
- 1 Alice Russell
- 1 Debbie Turner



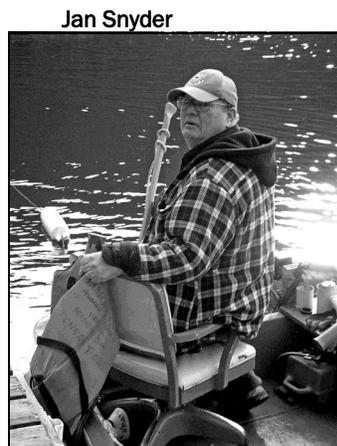
Mike Kesl and Theresa Schmid

**Special Thanks to...**

Members of the Maple Grove Association, Long Fellow Road Association, and South Shore Road Residents who supplied the wonderful food that made each Community Weed Pull a great success. We can't thank you enough. We especially appreciate the use of Maple Grove to host our milfoil operations and to allow the "Milfoil Princess" to be moored there throughout the summer. Special thanks to **Ruth and Kermit Gerdon** who diligently supplies us with coffee and all the fixings, **Sandy Granum** for organizing the first potluck, **Gene Unger** who helps with the potluck, allows us to store our picnic supplies at his house, and arranges for drink delivery from **Shadow Mountain Store, Mike and Jeannie Price, Darlene Jones, Linda Nutter. Jan Ljubich** for organizing the second potluck, **Theresa Schmid** and the entire **Faires family** for organizing the third potluck, **Marilyn Parrish**, for being our tireless newsletter editor, **Mike Kesl**, with **Scuba Supplies**, for being a relentless diver recruiter, and **Jerry Startzell**, for special boat maintenance and extra boating assistance when we really needed it. Also a **year-end salute** to members of the **Steering Committee** who are the voice of the community, and who continue to pull together their friends and neighbors to make our program happen.

## A Very Special Thanks...

**Special Recognition ...Goes to Clay Oakes** who dedicated 200 hrs and **Jan Snyder**, who dedicated 100 hrs this summer to working on milfoil, and **Theresa Schmid**, who has been a mainstay and came out on many extra days when we really needed you!



Clay Oakes

## A Very Special Thanks...

To **Jeff Hines of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company**, who supplied drinks for all the volunteers at the August Community Pull and to **Angeles Millwork and Lumber** for supporting our eradication efforts again this year, by supplying all the rebar to pin barriers in difficult areas that needed maintenance.



**Lake Sutherland Management  
District 2 Steering Committee**  
223 East 4th Street, Suite 15  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015

## Get Involved - Stay Informed

There are many ways to get involved in protecting the waters of Lake Sutherland from this very aggressive weed, Eurasian Milfoil.

**Survey/Control Teams**  
(need ten teams for each event) Event days are listed in the calendar on page 1.

**Divers-** (to survey and pull milfoil) air is provided

**Skimmers** (on the surface from a boat or dock) nets provided

**Boat Operators** (transport equipment and teams to dive spots)

**Camera/Recording**  
(document and organize surveyors)

**Potluck Organization** (lunch and snacks are provided for

the survey teams)

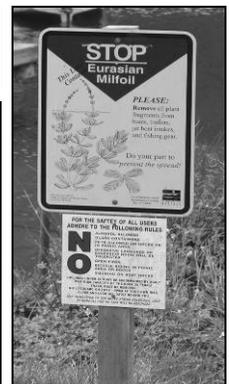
**Data Entry/ Mapping**  
(Update computer records)

Next summer there will be just two scheduled dive surveys for Eurasian Milfoil. They meet at Maple Grove, break off into teams and spend the day looking, pulling and marking for milfoil. Lunch is provided as well as air for all divers.

*For more information on how you can help or if you have questions or comments, please contact:*

**Cathy Lucero, Coordinator**

**Clallam County  
Noxious Weed Control  
Program  
(360) 417-2442  
clucero@co.clallam.wa.us**



### Expenditures for 2007

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Office Supplies	300	107.45
Operating Supplies	1250	1818.92
Weed Field Supplies	2942	658.19
Professional Services	5000	3002.62
Travel and Training	1750	524.18
Copy Machine-Agriculture	300	531.00
Salary/Benefits--Noxious Weed	5558	5558.00
Postage to Non Departmental	400	412.70
Indirect charges	<u>2625</u>	<u>2625.00</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$20125</b>	<b>\$15238.03</b>