

December 2008

Issue 8

Lake Sutherland Community Newsletter

2008 State of the Lake

By Cathy Lucero

As the holiday season rolls around, it is time once again to report what's been happening with the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Project at Lake Sutherland. Our fall newsletter seems late because we just finished our last dive on November 21st! As many of you probably noticed, the growing season was *extremely* late this year, and most Eurasian milfoil showed up very suddenly around September, often where none had been found during earlier surveys! Unusually persistent, dense algae growth further complicated discovery of small milfoil plants growing happily, but invisible, underneath.

If it hadn't been for our methodical, weekly "focus dive" schedule, this growth would have been noted too late for thorough surveys and control. Missing a site for even one year, will undo years of progress. It is precisely for this reason that we have set up the program the way we have. By starting to look for milfoil early in the year, diving frequently until late fall, and by gathering an extensive network of volunteers that can be galvanized on short notice, we are flexible and ready to change gears in response to needs that fluctuate from year to year. Your continued support has made such a stable, effective program possible.

Based on our success in reducing the overall amount of milfoil in the lake over the past couple of years, the 2008 activity schedule was different. The Steering Committee eliminated the June community pull, when it is hardest to tell Eurasian milfoil from the native. Lake Associations sponsored two lake-wide pulls during the summer instead of three. We held 24 additional focus/training days. Altogether, 41 volunteers donated 645 hours of time and the use of their equipment. It should be noted that *over two-thirds* of the volunteers this year do not own or have ties to property at the lake, but simply help for the good of the community!

During the entire season, and after almost five trips around the entire lake, we found only small patches, or individual plants; there were no large sites. For example, a cluster of five tiny plants was found for the first time in Section 8, (the section west of Thompson Point), and an unprecedented, widely dispersed, scattering



Volunteers gather on the lawn at Maple Grove in July to begin the first of two surveys for 2008 .

Continued on page 2

2009

Events Calendar

Tuesday, April 7
Steering Committee
Meeting 6 P.M.
Foyer Old Courthouse

Wednesdays & Fridays
June 17 thru October 30
Weekly small group dives
Contact Cathy Lucero
for more information

Tuesday, August 4
Steering Committee
Meeting 6 P.M.
Foyer Old Courthouse

Saturday, August 8
First Survey
Meets at Maple Grove
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

Maple Grove residents provide lunch, contact Gene Unger

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

Saturday, Sept. 12
Second Survey
Meets at Maple Grove
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

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

of plants was found along the south shore from Rocky Point, east (sections 15-20). The barriers we laid in past years, continue to do a great job preventing older, larger infestations from spreading. We consistently monitor those areas to make sure plants haven't escaped. Occasional plants were found in a number of previous locations, but Heron Cove proved to be the most troublesome due in part to persistent algae growth, while the east end of the lake showed the most improvement. Surprisingly large plants suddenly emerged unexpectedly in a number of lake sections, such as the Pile Driver Cove (section 7), Thompson Point, and Mallard Cove, late in the season. After this late re-growth appeared, all sections were surveyed again. Although we returned to Heron Cove nearly every two weeks, we fear that algae still hid some Eurasian watermilfoil from view.

Volunteers have helped improve documentation both above and below the water, by locating marker stakes, and transferring position information to "section books" created by local girl scouts Elizabeth Helwick and Bethany O'Conner. The "section books" contain pictures of houses or shorelines around the whole lake and provide a lo-tech means of depicting on the surface, where plants are found below. Overall, the amount of milfoil continues to decline, and we are able to spend more of our time finding and controlling milfoil before new plants can get well established. This is our best result ever!

Most residents are very curious about what it is like under the water. What are divers doing down there? To answer these questions, we were able to borrow an underwater video camera from Scuba Supplies, to shoot footage of some of the beautiful plants and animals that live in the lake, as well as short clips of divers finding and pulling Eurasian watermilfoil. This will give you some idea of how hard it is to spot milfoil and why pulling takes so long. We are in the process of assembling a short video. We hope to eventually post a link on the Weed Board website, where we have posted our newsletters and event calendar at www.clallam.net/weed/. We'll be sure to let you know when it is ready. I can't wait to take you on an underwater tour of the Lake!

The results of this season suggest we are entering a new, but perhaps lengthy phase, where we monitor and ensure no Eurasian watermilfoil patches get out of control. Searching for plants has become as time consuming, but is much more rewarding, than frantically trying to control a rapidly exploding infestation. We are facing one of the most critical stages of the program. We cannot let down our guard because we have been so successful. Although we are obviously winning, Eurasian watermilfoil spreads incredibly fast. We must constantly be alert to prevent large infestation from developing.

An event calendar is posted in this newsletter. Take the time to mark these dates on your calendar. There are lots of ways you can help! Help us save postage as well as trees. **Send us your email address, so we can stay in touch with you more easily.**



Underwater photo of a Kokanee swimming in Lake Sutherland.

Finally, we would like to thank **all** the folks who have given so freely of their time and energy, and the several businesses who have donated generously to help sustain this program over the years. We would also like to thank each and every lake owner for allowing us to work freely in the lake on your behalf. Your cooperation, appreciation, and support are what make this program successful and worthwhile.

Next year we will be facing a renewal of the Lake Sutherland Management District which funds our milfoil control project. Expect to hear more from your neighbors and friends on the Steering Committee this spring. We hope you will continue your support. 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 another wonderful season!**

Steering Committee Members

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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. Many of you are non lake property owners. This is a list of the many volunteers along with the number of days helped.

19 Divers

- 25 Clay Oakes
- 4 Bill Roberds
- 3 Anna Hansen
- 3 Mike Kesl
- 2 Ray Franklin
- 2 Kevin Froese
- 2 Dan Lucero
- 2 Sue Nattinger
- 2 Louis Pena
- 2 Theresa Schmid
- 2 Jeff Well
- 1 Marvin Fowler
- 1 Aaron Froese
- 1 Don Laird
- 1 David Lewis
- 1 Gail McLain
- 1 Scott McLain
- 1 Lou Seelye



Judy Ware—Avid “Weed Warrior” and Steering Committee member

23 Boater's and Other Helper's

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 18 | Jan Snyder | 1 | Steve Blackham |
| 5 | Emily BatesWinans | 1 | Aaron Froese |
| 4 | Judy Ware | 1 | Kevin Froese |
| 2 | Dan Eads | 1 | Jim Haguewood |
| 2 | Mike Kesl | 1 | John Marrs |
| 2 | Marie Marrs | 1 | Sean Moorehead |
| 2 | Mike Price | 1 | Robert Peterson |
| 2 | Steve Price | 1 | Don Nunley |
| 2 | Doug Rittenhouse | 1 | Marilyn Santiago |
| 2 | Trudy Rittenhouse | 1 | William Trodahl |
| 2 | Anne Rae Startzell | 1 | Gene Unger |
| 2 | Jerry Startzell | | |



Jan Snyder and Clay Oakes preparing the weed boat for launch.

A Very Special Thanks...

To Jeff Hines of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, who supplied drinks for all the volunteers at both of the Lake Sutherland Milfoil Community Pulls this year.



Clay Oakes readying his dive gear

Special Thanks to...

Members of the Maple Grove Association, Long Fellow Road Association, and South Shore Road Residents who supplied the wonderful food, tables and chairs 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 supply 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 donations from our local Pepsi Cola Bottling Company (Courtesy Jeff Hines), Mike and Jeannie Price, other members of Long Fellow Road and Theresa Schmid and the entire Faires family for organizing the second potluck, Marilyn Parrish, for being our tireless newsletter editor, Mike Kesl, with Scuba Supplies, for being a relentless diver recruiter and volunteer, 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 150 hrs and Jan Snyder, who dedicated 100 hrs this summer to working on milfoil. We couldn't get the job done without you!



**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)

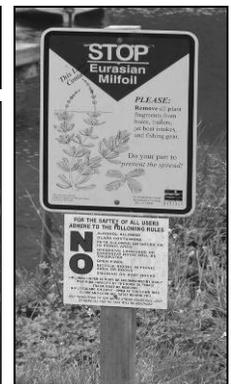
Data Entry/ Mapping
(Update computer records)

Again 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 2008

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Office Supplies	300	23.65
Operating Supplies	1250	1340.69
Weed Field Supplies	2942	3538.86
Professional Services	3500	1596.34
Travel and Training	1750	810.64
Copy Machine-Agriculture	300	59.08
Salary/Benefits--Noxious Weed	6214	6214.00
Postage to Non Departmental	400	457.00
Indirect charges	<u>1566</u>	<u>1566.00</u>
TOTALS	\$18222.00	\$15606.26