

Lake Sutherland Newsletter

Lake Sutherland Management District 2 Steering Committee

July 2011

Lake's early milfoil years were 'very discouraging'

Mike Price, who chairs the Lake Sutherland Management District Steering Committee, remembers the lake's Eurasian milfoil infestation before the lake's property owners formed our district to do something about it.

"I went to the first meeting about 10 years ago," he recalled recently. The county's noxious weeds specialist, Cathy Lucero, showed some samples of milfoil and picture of lakes that had become infested. "We've had our property since 1966 and I hoped to retire here. The pictures were scary," he said.

It was clear to Mike and others that without attacking the problem the shoreline would be "unusable in a few years."

Lucero said she needed help and the first volunteer "weed warriors" responded.

Price said, "The first years were very discouraging. We would pull a thousand pounds of the stuff in front of Maple Grove in one day."

After a while, the warriors discovered the idea of placing barriers, or covers, over some of the worst weeded sites on the lake bottom. Mike recalled, "The first attempts were not fun to watch. We used 30x40-foot pieces of burlap that refused to sink. Later we used garden cloth, which was easier to place and sank much better."

The biggest disappointment, he said, was "the opposition we encountered when we tried to fund the program with a tax. I just couldn't understand how

someone could be opposed. There wasn't a property on the lake that was worth less than \$100,000 and a tax of \$50 (per site per year) didn't seem that much."

The lake management district was formed by a vote of property owners in 2004.

Since the fee assessment was voted to fund the milfoil-control program, Price said, "The past few years have been the best. Earlier we could pull a ton a day and now a five-gallon bucket holds our catch."

And one of the greatest things Mike sees is that the lake has so many friends. "What amazes me the most are the volunteers that have no property or connection to the lake and come out year after year" to help pull the weeds.

He concluded that the "whole thing has had a learning curve that was slow to take off, but I think we are the most successful group in the state now."

As reported here last February, the success of the program has been shown by the need to pull fewer and fewer plants from the water each year. At the same time, as Lucero has emphasized, the plant's aggressiveness means that the work must continue so long as one plant remains in the lake.

Volunteer divers, kayakers, boat pilots and lunch providers have contributed more than 600 hours a year to help make the lake management program work.

This year the management steering committee has scheduled two weed-pulling Saturday workdays: Aug. 13 and Sept. 10, beginning at 9 a.m. each day at the Maple Grove docks.

Members of the Maple Grove Homeowners Association will again offer a lunch buffet.

Lake Management Steering Committee

Jim Haguewood
705 Christman Place, Port Angeles, WA
98362
452-3540 jim@onegroupconsulting.com

Don Nunley
426 Maple Grove Rd., Port Angeles, WA
98363
928-3054 lonafly@att.net

Mike Price
270 Longfellow Rd., Port Angeles, WA
98363
928-2121 mprice337@yahoo.com

John / Marie Marrs
111 Heron Cove Rd., Port Angeles, WA
98363
928-3300 merton13@tfon.com

Theresa Schmid
114 E. Ninth St., Port Angeles, WA 98362
452-3490
tschmid@portangelesschools.org

Jan Snyder
124 Uphill Dr., Port Angeles, WA 98362
452-7059 icefog24@yahoo.com

Gene Unger
1401 W. Seventh St., Port Angeles, WA
98362
452-2098 ungerpe@msn.com

Judy Ware
12 Majesty Way, Port Angeles, WA 98362
457-1579 judyware@olypen.com

Cathy Lucero
Noxious Weed Control staff
223 E. 4th St., Ste. 15, Pt Angeles, WA
98362
417-2442 clucero@co.clallam.wa.us

Lake Calendar

Schedule for 2011:

- Small-group dives, Fridays, June 15-Oct. 31.
- Steering Committee, Aug. 9.
- Community weed pull, Aug. 13.
- Steering Committee, Sept. 6.
- Community weed pull, Sept. 10.

Addressee

LAKE SUTHERLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 2
STEERING COMMITTEE
223 E. FOURTH ST., SUITE 15
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362-3015



Lake Sutherland News



Milfoil diving takes a lot of air.

40 volunteers, many hours

Forty people volunteered to help pulling milfoil from Lake Sutherland, most more than once, during 2010. Jan Snyder gave nearly 100 hours -- again. Total volunteer hours: 494. This was down from 602 hours and reflects improved conditions and less demand for extra weed pulls. The number of volunteer hours on our focus days, when a few divers target special areas, was about 20 less this year than last (234 vs. 259) and reflects having fewer volunteers each day.