



## SUMMER 2015 MILFOIL UPDATE

The week of August 17, 2015, Neil Santos, a local PLIA Weed Watcher, followed up on a lead reported by a couple of our weed watcher guardians and collected a suspicious weed sample in the South Channel of Pawtuckaway Lake, near the boat ramp on Horse Island in the State Park. Lake Host Coordinator Dee Decker delivered this sample to Amy Smagula at NHDES for assessment. On August 21 Amy confirmed that it is Variable Milfoil, an invasive species, and provided markers to put in place until she could assess the situation in person. The affected area was marked off on August 22 in order to alert boaters and swimmers to avoid this area to prevent the infestation from spreading.

Amy is confident that this invasive variable milfoil is new growth this year, because the sonar mapping of the lake done by DES last year did not detect any such growth. On August 25, 2015 she came to Pawtuckaway and surveyed a large perimeter around this area, just to be sure there were no new spots of growth near the initial patch that could have been caused by fragment drift. She didn't find anything, other than one possible low growing plant just next to the already marked "circle of growth" in the lake.

On August 26, divers from DES came to Pawtuckaway and removed about 20 gallons of material from the lake bottom in the marked area of growth. They believe they removed it all, but the area silted up pretty quickly, so there may be a strand or two lingering hidden by silt. They left the markers in to protect the area from boat traffic. They returned September 11 for another dive to be sure.

There was a very small patch of re-growth in the area that was picked on 8/26 but none near the markers that had been left, all but two markers were picked up so the area could be inspected later. The divers swam some transects between the navigation channel and the launch and found nothing else; visibility was good.

The PLIA staffs the Fundy launch with Lake Hosts from Memorial Day to Columbus Day however there are so many other points of access for boats including the Horse Island launch in the state park, which is the likely entry point of this milfoil considering its location. The Lake Hosts have recently started staffing the Horse Island boat launch with volunteers, but coverage has only been some Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. **WE NEED MORE TRAINED VOLUNTEERS! WILL YOU HELP?** Please join our organization and indicate your willingness to volunteer by sending the membership form on the other side, providing your email address will also allow us to add you to our online newsletter

We ask everyone to please be vigilant and keep an eye out for the spread of invasive species including milfoil. It is everyone's responsibility to clean, drain, and dry your boat before putting it back in or launching into another lake. You should also check your friends' or family boats if they use your launch. Please remember that this is not limited to power boats—invasive species can cling to sail boats, kayaks, canoes, jet skis, inflatables, rafts, paddles, lines, anchors, trailers, etc. Please check all your equipment that goes in and out of the lake to make sure it is all clean.

Invasive Variable Milfoil is a submerged aquatic plant that can grow up to 15 feet and has been found in NH lakes since the late 1960's. Milfoil reproduces through fragmentation where plant fragments break off the parent plant, grow roots, drift and settle in a new location and can grow up to an inch per day.

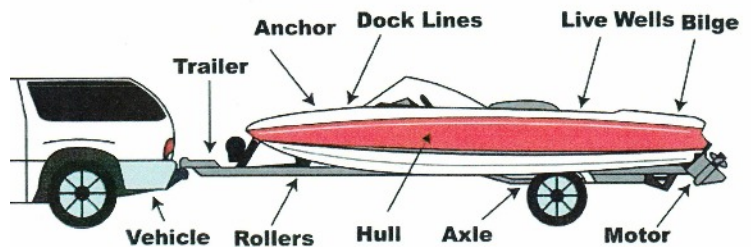
- Invasive milfoil spreads rapidly and displaces beneficial native plant life. It makes swimming, boating and enjoying the lake difficult and unpleasant with its dense growth.
- Milfoil can live out of water for many hours if it remains moist and can stow-away attached to a boat or trailer. Milfoil is usually found first near a boat launch.
- There is a naturally occurring native milfoil found in all NH lakes.



**CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY** is the slogan of NH's Lake Hosts!

Please take the time to do this yourself if you move your boat from one lake to another.

- **Clean** - remove any plants, animals, mud and other debris from your boat, trailer and recreational gear
- **Drain** - boat and equipment away from the water and if possible everything/anything that has touched the water at home or at a car wash if possible. The hotter and higher the temperature of the water the better.
- **Dry** - anything that came in contact with the water for at least 5 days



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL CHECK & APPLICATION TO: PLIA Membership PO Box 30, Raymond NH 03077

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer, please contact me

**NEW** -To join using **PAYPAL!** Use this email address [members.plia@gmail.com](mailto:members.plia@gmail.com) and the send money option in PayPal.

***Thank you for your support!***

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$10 Basic Membership** level covers the cost of the basic services the PLIA has provided for the past 20 years.
  - Water Quality Testing Program
  - PawPrints Newsletter
  - PLIA Annual Meeting
  - Road & Island Clean Up supplies
  - PLIA contribution to NH Lakes Association and other conservation affiliations.
- \$25 Community Membership** level also supports educational and community programs.
  - Pawtuckaway Kids Programs
  - Community Events
  - Boating Safety Programs
- \$50 Conservation Membership** level in addition helps fund the environmental and conservation initiatives that protect our lake for future generations.
  - Lake Host Exotic Species Prevention program
  - Weed Watchers Program
  - Environmental Studies
  - State/National/Local matching grants
- Other amount please specify \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We have very vigilant volunteers who protect the lake by joining Weed Watchers and the Lake Host Program. Please check the PLIA website for further updates and contact information: <http://www.pawtuckawaylake.com/>