

Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association - BCLSA

January, 2014

Eurasian Milfoil Weevil Project Update

To: All Big Cedar Residents & Cottagers

From: Brian Stock, President - BCLSA

Happy New Year from Big Cedar Lake!

It is that time of year again when I am pleased to bring to you the Annual 2013 EnviroScience Milfoil Solution Progress Report. The full report is posted on the BCLSA Website, but what I would like to do in my letter today is provide you with a brief summary of the report.

First off, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Weevil Project last year. Your support is very important in the battle to fight this very aggressive and invasive milfoil weed. The reduction of the Milfoil is a long term challenge and I ask for your support again in 2014. For those who were unable to contribute last year, I hope you will find the means to contribute this year. A healthy and milfoil free lake is for everyone's enjoyment, but we need everyone's support to make that happen.

As you can see in the report, the stocking of the weevils took place from June 7 to July 8 in 2013. A total of 32,500 weevils were purchased as part of the Lake Association program and an additional 22,000 weevils were privately stocked. What was new for this year was we were able to participate in EnviroScience "2 for 1" Incubation Program". How the program worked: in May, 2013 EnviroScience took some weevils from our lake to fill their incubation tanks in their laboratory. They returned these weevils to our lake once their reproduction cycle had started. As payment for supporting this incubation program they gave us an additional 6,250 weevils. This program worked out very well for our Lake Association.

2013 showed very visible signs that the Weevil project is starting to have some impact. The positive results in the report included:

- *Relocation of S1, S3 and S5 due to collapses of the milfoil plant communities.*
- *High weevil densities during initial and late-season surveys at all sites.*
- *Large decrease in milfoil density at S2 over the 2013 season.*
- *Major decrease in milfoil density at all sites in comparison to the milfoil density observed in 2012*

- *Milfoil at most sites appeared to be brittle and bent over by the end of the 2013 season.*
- *The stems having various black marks on the stem indicating the plants are dying*
- *The plants are bent over and are not reaching the surface*
- *Open areas within stocking sites.*

All the points outlined above are very positive and it shows that the program is working. ***But our work is far from done.*** The Milfoil is still growing in other parts of the lake and we need to continue to stock more weevils and let them do their work.

For the year 2014 the Board is recommending that the Association continue at the 2013 levels of 32,500 weevils plus continue to encourage as many people as possible to purchase private weevils. In addition, we will be participating in the "Incubation 2 for 1 program" in order to bring more weevils into the lake.

To continue the program and keep our lake healthy we need everyone's support. The cost per lake lot will be the same as last year \$350. On our website, you will see a section that thanks each contributor for 2013 that allowed their name to be published. Our membership fee will remain at \$25 and you can pay this at the same time as the Weevil contribution – same form.

In order to keep the contribution at \$350 this year, we are planning to take advantage of an early payment discount plan offered by EnviroScience. The early payment plan requires us to pay by April 1st; ***so please try to have your contribution submitted by March 15th.***

Please find attached 2014 Membership/Weevil Contribution forms and a list of best practices towards protecting our Weevil investment.

Thank you for your continued support and we always welcome new people who want to get involved with the Board or on a committee. See you at the AGM on May 18th, 2014.

Brian Stock
President
Big Cedar Lake Stewardship Association