

# CEDAR LAKE ASSOCIATION.

THEN AND NOW!

MONKTON VT



Cedar Lake Association

Financial Report as of July 1, 1989

Membership Dues Collected	\$300.00
Interest	\$ 7.50
Expenses	
Incorporation fee	\$ 35.00
Inactivity charge by bank	\$ 3.00
Mag + misc. (70.00) negative	85.00
Savings Account	\$ 172.50
Checking Account	\$ 97.00
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Total	\$ 269.50
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	\$ 184.50

CLA Address:

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Cedar Lake Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 83  
Monkton VT 05469-0083

Pipeline: Mr. Pign  
Stuart Osbrack  
Pro-VT Citizens Committee of Monkton

**1989 Financial Report**

order checks ✓  
stationary  
federal tax I.D.#  
P.O. Box #  
opening up membership

Cedar Lake Assoc. Inc.  
Friends of Cedar Lake

Minutes  
Feb 16, 1989 7:30 pm

- Rene 1) Straighten out problems w/ fishing access.
- " 2) Have state police enforce speed limits + laws.
- Mag 3) Approach water resource board about banning large boats.
- Rene 4) Print "Cedar Lake Assoc." stickers for distribution
- Mag 5) Survey members to develop priorities.
- " 6) Community outreach. Attend planning board meetings, develop rapport with local government and citizens.
- Rick 7) Provide canoeing instruction course.
- Ellen 8) Map community, provide positive residence I.D. for home security
- " 9) Organize committees

Fishing

Home Protection

Land Use + Conservation

Memberships + Maps

Pollution

Safety

State + Local Government

Ways + Means Committee

**Some Early Goals**

# Original Mission Statement

CEDAR LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC

## CONSTITUTION

### Article I Name

This association shall be called the Cedar Lake Association.

### Article II Purpose

Its purpose shall be to protect and promote the natural beauty of Cedar Lake, also known as Monkton Pond, and to maintain and promote its recreational and scenic values for people of the town.

### Article III Membership

All residents of Monkton or property owners in the town shall be eligible for active membership. Any other person interested in the welfare of the lake shall be eligible for an associate membership, with all rights except the right to vote. (amended 7/8/89)

20.1284

## Early members late 1980's

→ Paid voting Members. →

- 1 Mary Alderman.
- 2,3 Tom and Dorothy Blanken
- 4 Lillian (Honey) Dillon
- 5,6 Dorothy & Bill Fisk
- 7 Liz Packer.
- 8 Margaret Harvey
- 9 Vito Nardelli
- 10 Mike New
- 11 Theresa Payea
- 12 Tom Peterson
- 13 Bruce Toder
- 14 Nicola Weaver
  
- 15/16 LIONEL CARBONNEAU  
CAROLYN CARBONNEAU
  
- 17 MARSHA- DEBONIS.
- 18/19 DENNIS & PEARL RYON
- 20/21 John & Ellen Thompson.
- 22/23 John & Sue Loucigno

→ Asso Member →  
Guy Kimball

copy

# Lake group to monitor Cedar Lake weeds

BY MARVIN FISHMAN

MONKTON — Underwater weeds have long plagued swimmers, boaters and fishermen on Monkton's Cedar Lake, but relief may be in sight. Lake property owners this summer formed the Cedar Lake Association and one of its primary tasks is to get the weeds in check.

The 20-member group's primary purpose is to "protect and maintain the beauty and quality" of the popular recreation spot. And although weeds top the list, other priorities include enforcing fishing laws, reducing pollution and controlling power boats.

Poor water quality and a shallow bottom are to blame for the weed infestation, environmental officials said.

According to Meg Dennison, president of the Cedar Lake Association, the 114-acre pond also known as Monkton Pond, is "a big, shallow dish only 15 feet at its deepest with a high nutrient content and weeds like to grow there. But people don't like to swim with weeds curling around their legs."

Ellen Thompson has lived on Cedar Lake for 15 years. In that time, the weeds are grown worse, she said.

"The weeds have become thicker over the years and cover more area. Water lilies are taking over the two ends of the lake. It annoys swimmers," Thompson said.

Fishermen also aren't happy with the weeds that tangle their lines and small boat owners grumble about weeds that snarl up the shafts and propellers of their outboard engines.

"The pond is not in a crisis situation right now. The deterioration is very gradual. There seems to be no one dramatic cause of it," Dennison said. "But there are needs to be addressed."

Because there is no major crisis, Dennison was "totally amazed at how many people came out to the meetings and how many wrote out checks right away." Twenty of the 35 property owners on the lake have joined the association since it first organized in late August. The association is open to people not owning property along the lake as non-voting members.

Aside from the weeds, which trouble most everyone, some members also complained there were too many large, noisy motorboats on the small lake. Some worried that power boats would add to the pollution problem if they leak gas or oil.

"You don't want to limit boaters on the lake, but there's always a few bad apples," Thompson said.

Some lake dwellers also believe fish have declined over the years. Some have also complained that the Fish and Wildlife Department wardens are not policing the lake enough to prevent some fishermen from taking out more fish than regulations allow.

Dennison and Don Meals, a biologist with the Natural Resources Department of the University of Vermont and a nine-year Monkton resident, are not certain that the fish population is significantly lower.

Ginny Garrison is supervisor of the Lakes and Ponds Unit of the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Division. According to Garrison and a recent department study of the condition of Vermont's lakes, experts have not reported a problem with the number of fish in Cedar Lake.

Garrison agrees with Dennison's assessment: "I don't feel alarmist about Cedar Lake."

Garrison applauded the formation of the association.

"All too often people organize to save a body of water when irreparable damage has already been done. When people form associations like at Cedar Lake to protect a lake that is still in decent condition they have taken a big step to insure that the lake will never reach a crisis condition," Garrison said.

But how about those weeds?

Dennison said the state won't harvest the weeds with its heavy equipment because officials say the problem is not severe enough in Cedar Lake. "So we're investigating other, inexpensive ways. State regulations say you can harvest weed in a rowboat, but that it's against the law to harvest in a motorboat without state permission."

One person's weed is another person's flower, so the saying goes. Or in this case, "plant." According to Garrison, "it is natural to have plants in a place like Cedar Lake."

What may be a nuisance from the point of view of users, like swimmers, may be good from the point of view of a lake's health. Or as Garrison put it, "We may consider a healthy lake to be 'impaired' if its uses are threatened." The uses in this case are swimming, boating and fishing.

Association members argue that Cedar Lake is indeed impaired. But

according to Garrison "We try not to intervene if its a natural process going on. We try to intervene if it's something caused by human activity that can be changed."

Don Meals has recommended that the association monitor the water chemistry and biology of the water and its shoreline to determine the cause of the problem, which may have human origins.

The problem, as Meals sees it, is

nutrients like phosphorus that feed the weeds and algae and which may come from decomposing matter in the lake, from the run-off of fertilizers from nearby farms and from septic systems draining into the lake.

Another factor may have been the dairy plant that operated near the lake through the 1960's. The plant dumped its wastes into the lake, adding a huge amount of plant-feeding nutrients, Dennison said. The plant later became the town garage, now closed down.

Dennison wonders whether oil spillage, or worse, seepage from a forgotten underground tank is leeching into the water. "The association may want to address that in the future, but we probably don't have the wherewithall at the moment," Dennison said.

Right now, Dennison and Thompson believe the association has to solidify its existence. "It's going to take a great deal of work

just because there isn't a great crisis to deal with," Thompson said, remembering a similar effort eight years ago that failed.

Dennison is hopeful. "People are more aware of possible problems and new homes have been built in the past few years with people who seem to care." Dennison herself is one of the newcomers. Raised in Hinesburg, she has lived in a rented house on the lake for more than two years and is now building her own home on the lake.

Dennison envisions the organization becoming "like a neighborhood association, where people can get to know each other better" in addition to uniting around the pond, their common resource.

Other activities the association, which is "still in the formative stages," will consider are:

- A formal survey to find out what the members want to work on.
- Mapping the location of camps in the area to make it easier for the fire department and rescue squad to find them in emergencies.
- Raising townspeople's awareness of lake issues.
- Monitoring boating traffic.
- Organizing a burglary prevention alert system.
- Applying for grants to support lake preservation projects. And you can be sure that weed control projects will be high on the list.

"One person's weed is another person's flower..."

CEDAR LAKE ASSOCIATION REPORT  
SUMMER 1994

Ever since 1992, when the alarming growth of Eurasian milfoil in Cedar Lake was discovered, members of the Cedar Lake Association (CLA) and many other volunteers have been handpulling this noxious weed to control its spread. That year they worked from canoes, but by last summer, Pete Aube had completed the building of a pontoon barge with funds raised by generous private donations and community events. Until last August, teams of handpullers using the barge as a platform were able to increase efficiency of the operation by 200%, according to those involved. Over 400 five-gallon containers of milfoil were hauled to shore, left to dry and then used as garden fertilizer.

Also in August came the discovery that weevils, a miniscule type of snout beetle, had joined the effort, feasting on the milfoil. This tiny predator is the subject of a five year study by scientists from Middlebury College and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to find out its long term effectiveness in keeping down the milfoil population that threatens to overwhelm many Vermont lakes.

In spite of help from the weevils, State biologists advised the CLA to continue its milfoil control program with handpulling efforts and whatever other appropriate measures are possible. ( A mid-June lake survey by CLA members found many very healthy milfoil plants, evidence that the weevils alone can't solve the problem.)

# Monkton Milfoil

By Lillian C. Dillon

There'll be a new boy on the block this month when a suction harvester rented from Halls Lake will join the homemade pontoon barge operated last summer on Cedar Lake (aka Monkton Pond) as a platform for teams of volunteer handpullers removing Eurasian watermilfoil. It will be here just a week, with its own operator and two divers, to determine once and for all whether that type of machine will prove effective in a relatively shallow, small body of water with a heavily silted bottom such as Cedar Lake.

In 1992, alarmingly rapid growth was noted of the noxious milfoil weed which, if left unchecked, can overwhelm large quantities of marine life. An immediate program of handpulling teams operated, with far more success, from the barge built by Peter Aube, with funds raised by the Cedar Lake Association (CLA).

Then, in August, came the discovery that weevils, a miniscule type of snout beetle, had joined the fray, feasting on and decimating the milfoil. This tiny predator is the subject of a five-year study by scientists from Middlebury College and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to determine its long term

effectiveness in keeping down milfoil population that threatens to overwhelm many Vermont lakes.

Despite the weevils' help, State biologists advised the CLA to continue its milfoil control program with handpulling efforts and whatever other appropriate measures are possible. (A mid-June lake survey by CLA members found many very healthy milfoil plants, evidence that the weevils alone can't solve the problem, at least for now.)

Ever since the magnitude of the milfoil growth in the lake was recognized, and discussed with State experts, it has been the CLA's intention to build or rent a suction harvester to augment the handpulling operation. Lack of funds stymied this plan until last fall, when a small appropriation was received from the State and later, an appropriation from the Town of Monkton. Now the Association is ready to move forward and feels very fortunate in being able to rent and test a machine adapted for small lakes. It accomplished miracles in removing milfoil from Halls Lake last August, according to a Halls Lake Association spokesperson, who feels confident the same will be true at Cedar Lake. Watch for the suction harvester on Monkton Pond the week of July 15-21.

HALLS LAKE

MONKTON POND

CEDAR LAKE

PHOTO: MICHAEL BAKER

PHOTO: FIVE TOWN NEWS



## Cedar Lake a.k.a. Monkton Pond Needs Help

by Lillian A. Dillon

Cedar Lake (also known as Monkton Pond) is at risk of becoming an endangered species. It needs the careful attention of all fishermen and others who enjoy its beauty and recreational opportunities. The lake, like several others in Vermont, has become infected by a weed called Eurasian Water Milfoil. If its growth is not controlled, milfoil can choke a lake to death.

In 1989, a far-sighted group of concerned citizens

formed the Cedar Lake Association (CLA) to protect and preserve the lake for the benefit of the public. The association was incorporated in the state of Vermont. Several goals were identified.

1) A very important ongoing project of CLA has been the "Lay Water Monitoring" program conducted by the state of Vermont, whereby volunteers are trained by a member of the Water Quality Division of

See Pond, p. 15

# Cedar Needs

## ~Pond from p. 1

the Agency of Natural Resources. After training, the volunteers collect water samples every week from the deepest and the most shallow areas of Cedar Lake. These samples are analyzed for chlorophyll-a concentrations. In addition, the clarity of the water is checked, using a Secchi disk. All this data is recorded and used to monitor the quality of the lake. CLA has been involved in this program for the past two years and will be again this summer.

2) CLA hopes to begin a "Milfoil Watchers" program. Last year several volunteers joined an aquatic biologist from the Vermont Lakes & Ponds Unit, learning to identify and safely remove milfoil from the lake. This year, additional volunteers are needed as milfoil watchers so that this program can continue and expand.

3) Although milfoil cannot be completely eliminated, it is possible to stop its spread. CLA is working to educate boaters to be sure that trailers, boats and their propel-

lers are free of milfoil fragments before entering the lake. It is equally important that they are milfoil-free after leaving the lake, so that the weed is not carried to another body of water.

If you enjoy Cedar Lake and want to see it remain healthy for FISH as well as PEOPLE, we invite you to become a member of the Cedar Lake Association.

As a member, you will be invited to attend the association's annual meeting and picnic in July. At this meeting, officers and board members will be elected to serve next year.

The CLA needs your help. If you would like to be a part of the Lay Water Monitoring project or the Milfoil Watchers program, please write to the Cedar Lake Association, Box 83, Monkton, Vt. 05469. Or call 453-4501.

Look for  
Next  
Five Town  
News  
August 11

# Cedar Lake succumbs to milfoil invasion

## Killer weed is dying in droves in Perron, Brownington Pond

By Meg Dennison  
*The Associated Press*

MONKTON — Ann Bove reached into the murky water, her hand feeling its way along the slippery stem of the weed. She pulled it up, a glob of pond mud clinging to the roots.

This is Eurasian milfoil, a pernicious, aquatic weed that is choking seven of Vermont's lakes and ponds and is threatening to make boating and swimming difficult, and sometimes impossible, in 26 other lakes.

"The majority is right here," said Bove, an aquatic biologist who runs the state Lakes and Ponds Unit milfoil patrol, as she looked out on Cedar Lake.

Milfoil was discovered in Cedar Lake last year during one of the surveys Bove and her team of two divers make of the state's lakes and ponds each summer. The weed was found for the first time in four other ponds last year, and three more this summer.

Once used in aquariums, Eurasian milfoil is not native to the United States. But when it takes hold in a lake, it is virtually impossible to eliminate, and the weed damages the ecosystem.

"It doesn't have the natural checks and balances that a

native plant has," Bove said, explaining the plant's rapid growth and aggressiveness. "It's not unlike the dandelion ... in your yard."

Milfoil prefers nutrient-rich and shallow ponds like Cedar Lake, whose infestation is considered light and is virtually invisible to the casual boater.

Left unchecked, the reddish milfoil branches many times on the way to the water surface, forming a thick mat.

Milfoil is more apt to spread at the end of the summer, as the stems become brittle, break apart and float away. As long as a piece of stem is attached to a leaf, a fragment can sink to the bottom and grow roots.

Motor boat propellers can break up and spread fragments, and state officials urge boaters to check equipment for fragments and dispose of them on high, dry ground. It is illegal to transport milfoil to an uninfested lake.

There's hope in Vermont that insects that feed on the plants, weakening and killing them, might be called upon to control the infestation.

With a \$588,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the state began working last year with a Middlebury College professor to determine whether a weevil



GLENN RUSSELL, *The Associated Press*

Ann Bove, an aquatic biologist with Vermont's Lakes and Ponds Unit, pulls Eurasian milfoil from Cedar Lake in Monkton this week.

and two caterpillars are eating milfoil in Brownington Pond.

State scientists also are looking at Lake Perron, whose heavy milfoil growth is featured in a department slide show, to see whether the insects are responsible for a milfoil decline.

"The milfoil plants are just kind of keeling over" in Lake Perron, said Holly Crosson, an aquatic biologist with the Natural Resources

Agency who is overseeing the milfoil study. "Even though there is a lot of milfoil in the lake, it is a pretty dramatic change."

Even if the insects turn out to be responsible for the decline, they won't be a panacea.

"The best we can hope for is to have the insects keep the plants below the surface," Crosson said.

*News Release  
6/17/93*

There's a strange-looking craft floating these days on Cedar Lake (aka Monkton Pond). Its appearance, welcomed by the many people who are interested in preserving the lake as is, marks the end of a winter-long building project that is the first stage of a plan to control the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil in this body of water highly favored by fishermen and other boaters.

There are many weeds in Monkton Pond, but none so aggressive as this so-called "nuisance" weed, which up to this time has had no natural predator. A lot of hope is pinned on a five year experiment which seeks to find one in the form of a small weevil with a large appetite for milfoil, but even if results are successful, weevil availability could be a long time coming. Meanwhile, members of the Cedar Lake Association and other volunteers have taken to handpulling the plants, spurred on last summer by the appearance of an especially big patch near the middle of the lake.

It was a daunting task, working from canoes and often handicapped by wind and wave conditions. Yet the concern was great, for if not checked, the milfoil, which grows horizontally as well as vertically, can carpet an entire lake, particularly a small, shallow one like that at Monkton.

The decision was made to build a suction harvester suitable to the size and depth of Cedar Lake and combine its use with handpulling. The Cedar Lake Association, working under the auspices of the Town of Monkton's Conservation Commission, undertook the project and committed to raise \$700. to pay the costs of building a pontoon barge which will be the base of the suction harvesting components if grant money is obtained. In the meantime, the newly completed barge now ferries the pullers from one patch of milfoil to another, its deck a stable platform supported on either side by aluminum pontoons competently welded together by students of the Northland Job Corps at Vergennes.

To help reach the goal of \$700., the Cedar Lake Association is sponsoring the first annual June Jamboree Flea Market on Saturday, June 26 on the grounds of the Russell Memorial Library across from Monkton Town Hall. Space for tables and tailgaters will be rented for \$10. each; baked goods and specially designed T-shirts will be sold, and the barge will be on display. For more specific information, call 453-2450.

## 1993 News Release

# THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Vol. 5 No. 15

Middlebury, Vermont • Monday, July 6, 1992 • 24 Pages

## Monkton fights milfoil malaise

### Large swath of rapidly spreading weed discovered in Cedar Lake

By JOHN FLOWERS

MONKTON — Cedar Lake has gained a reputation throughout the years as a recreational Mecca for water sports enthusiasts in the Monkton neighborhood.

But the recent discovery of a large patch of Eurasian milfoil near the middle of the lake has shoreline residents worried they will soon be walking on the lake instead of boating on it.

"The problem is much larger than we had first figured," said Honey Dillon, who for 10 years has summered at a camp there and is a member of the Cedar Lake Association, formed in 1989 to tackle lake issues. "I'd hate to see the lake become a nuisance to everyone on it."

At issue is the rapid growth in the lake of Eurasian milfoil, a nuisance weed indigenous to Europe and Asia, which spreads rapidly while choking out other natural vegetation.

The weed sets its roots in the lake bed, then grows to the surface, where it culminates in a multi-budded reddish flower.

In Cedar Lake — also referred to as Monkton Pond — the weed was first discovered three years ago. Since then, state biologists and area campers have been able to hold the milfoil in check by sporadically pulling it by hand.

The campers' efforts received a setback this summer, however, when a 40-foot-by-70-foot patch of Milfoil was discovered in the central northeast portion of the lake.

"I'm appalled at how many (weeds) have come up during the past three years," Dillon said.

(See Milfoil, Page 5)

(Continued from Page 1)

Realizing that hand-pulling may no longer be enough, the Cedar Lake Association has called a meeting for Wednesday, July 8, at 7 p.m. at the Monkton Town Hall to plot more ambitious strategies to fight the milfoil.

Holly Crosson, aquatic biologist with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, said weed killing strategies may include the use of mechanical weed harvesters, chemicals, insects or fish, physical barriers or drawing down the lake level to kill the weed roots.

Whatever solution or combination of solutions the association picks, little or no financial help will be forthcoming from the state.

Crosson said for the second consecutive year — due to financial constraints — the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources won't be able to offer grants to municipalities for milfoil eradication.

The association could, through the town of Monkton, ask the Legislature next session for a special appropriation to fight milfoil, Crosson added.

Elise Barash, another member of the Cedar Lake Association, said she is exploring a relatively cost-free method of attacking the weeds that has been successful in other lake communities: inviting volunteer divers to use Monkton Pond as a training ground. The trade-off is the divers pull out weeds in the deeper water.

The arrangement might call for the association to provide air for the divers' tanks, some transportation and meals.

Cost might be a stumbling block for the association, which is

financed by \$10 per-person annual dues charged to its approximately 35 members.

"We've got to do what we can with the limited amount of money," Barash said.

Barash spent most of the day Thursday calling 45 homes of residents who own property near the lake or have a keen interest in protecting the resource. She hopes there will be a big turnout at the July 8 meeting.

While it may take some time to implement a grand scheme to clear the lake, Barash said people could take a positive step by pulling weeds from the portions of the lake which abut their property.

Based on the feedback she has received, Barash said she is optimistic the lake can be saved.

"I have not found anything except concern and enthusiasm in wanting to do something about this," Barash said.

A plan will have to be implemented quickly, said Crosson, who last inspected the lake on June 29.

"I would say that if nothing is done about that area soon, the plants will continue to spread very quickly."

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*Countryside*

TANNEY & TANN

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Just Thursday, August

# Mighty Mite Munches Monkton's Milfoil



*Milfoil fishing l. to r. Pete Aube of Monkton, Emily Ball and her mother Barbara Ball of Starksboro. Pete built the pontoon barge with welding help from Northland Job Corps students in Vergennes. (Photo Ted Barash)*

*By Lillian W. (Honey) Dillon*      tite for milfoil, known a  
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## Pete Aube Wages War on Monkton Milfoil



The last catch of the season from Cedar Lake -- of Eurasian Milfoil, that is. Pete Aube, of Monkton Ridge, is one of 20 Cedar Lake Association members and other volunteers who have been hand-pulling the pervasive weed on a regular basis during the summer. Here, he measures the heights of one medium-sized plant, whose roots fill the 5 gallon bucket at his feet. Plans call for an early spring start next year to slow the milfoil growth by hand-pulling. In the intervening winter months, additional deterrents will be explored in a major effort to further zap the weed.

Those interested in helping call Lillian Dillon, 453-2450, President of Cedar Lake Association.

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# C O N S E R V A T I O N



## Residents Raise Money to Support Cedar Lake Project

Cedar Lake, also known as Monkton Pond, has an unwelcome similarity with Lake Iroquois and other Vermont lakes—the problem of the fast spreading Eurasian watermilfoil.

A decision was made by the members of the Cedar Lake Association and other volunteers to build a suction harvester suitable to the size and depth of the lake and combine its use with hand pulling of the plants.

Working in his back yard, Peter Aube of Monkton built a barge for the project. Its deck is a stable platform supported on either side by aluminum pontoons welded together by students of the Northland Job Corps of Vergennes.

The project is the first stage of a plan to control the spread of weed that has no natural predator—although a lot of hope is placed on a small weevil with a large appetite for milfoil.

The Cedar Lake Association, working under the auspices of the Town of Monkton's Conservation Commission, undertook the project of the barge which will be the base of the hand-pulling and suction harvesting.

To finance the project, the Association is sponsoring the first annual June Jamboree Flea Market on Saturday, June 26 on the grounds of the Russell Memorial Library across from the Monkton Town Hall. In case of rain, the sale will be in the Monkton firehouse.

Space for tables and tailgaters will be rented for \$10 each; baked goods and specially designed T-shirts will be sold and the barge will be on display.

For more information, call 453-2450.



Photo by Ted Barash

*Hinesburg native Peter Aube of Monkton, who built the Eurasian watermilfoil collection barge being used on Cedar Lake, and Barbara Ball of Starksboro get a fine catch of the weed, watched by Ball's daughter Emily. Supporters plan a flea market on June 26 to benefit the project.*

# Students aid Cedar Lake effort

By JOHN FLOWERS

MONKTON — Monkton residents are enlisting the support of students at Northlands Job Corps in the latest attempt to control Eurasian milfoil growth that is gradually taking over Cedar Lake.

The students are helping members of the Cedar Lake Association build a pontoon boat intended to help volunteers pull and dispose of the weeds this spring and summer.

The association has been battling the prolific milfoil weeds for four years. Other lakes have been clogged by the fast-growing weeds, which can choke the oxygen supply, killing fish and other aquatic plant life. Efforts to date have centered on patrolling the lake in canoes and pulling weeds that break the water's surface.

Last summer, association members came to the conclusion that more drastic measures were in order. A large swath of the plants appeared near the center of the lake, threatening to extinguish all aquatic life. There are five patches of the weed in all.

Several options were researched, including using divers, milfoil-eating weevils and chemicals. Most seriously considered was rental of a boat equipped with a suction device to gather the weeds. Association members balked when they learned the price of such an option — but since necessity is the mother of invention, they decided to build a boat of their own.

Association member Peter Aube — a retired builder — drew up some plans and looked up some of his former contacts. One of those contacts was Northlands Job Corps welding instructor George Maniatty. Aube told him about the plan and Maniatty volunteered his students' time to build the boat.

"This is great on-the-job training for them," Maniatty said.

On Thursday his students were welding together one of two aluminum pontoons that will keep the rig afloat.

"They get to see how something is started from scratch," Maniatty said.

Work on the boat began March 4, with student welders Mark Suprenant, Jason Woods and Ron Brown putting in seven-hour days

**"This is great on-the-job training for them. They get to see how something is started from scratch."**

— George Maniatty

in the effort. The students and Aube will soon top the pontoons with pressure-treated lumber. In the middle of the boat will be a hatchway, through which volunteers will pull milfoil. A rope railway will encircle the deck.

The boat will be powered by a 25-horsepower outboard engine and may feature a pump to suck the milfoil into a 50-gallon holding drum on another small boat.

Aube guessed the total cost of the project would be between \$2,000 and \$3,500, thanks to a lot of donated labor and material. The association is committed to raising \$700 of that sum, with the remainder to come from grants, including one the group hopes to get from the Lake Champlain Basin Project.

"To buy (a boat) we would have had to come up with a heck of a lot more money," Aube said.

The boat could be on the water next month, Aube said. The rig will be docked in the lake as usual.

(Continued from Page 3)

association members and other interested citizens to hop on and put in a few hours of wood-pulling at their leisure.

A state permit has already been granted for the association to embark on its plan. One of the few stipulations is that the operation may not proceed between May 15 and July 1, a key fish-spawning period.

Participants in the project hailed it as an "everyone-wins" situation. The Job Corps students have received good training and experience in welding and civics;

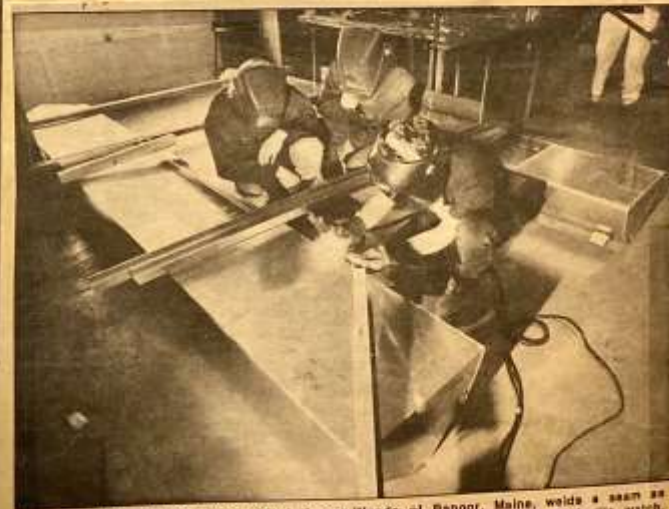
the association is getting a boat; and a significant local environmental asset may be saved.

Other communities may also profit from the project, Aube said.

"If it works well, other towns with similar lakes can take a copy of our plans and make one at a better price," Aube said.

"I personally think this is great," Maniatty said. "I wish more things like this could take place in the welding shop."

"I think it's really exciting to be a part of such enthusiasm," association member Elise Barnish said.



NORTHLANDS JOB CORPS student Jason Woods of Bangor, Maine, welds a seam as friends Mark Suprenant of Fort Edward, N.Y., and Ronald Brown of Monkton's Cedar Lake this year to harvest milfoil.

Independent photo/John Doherty



The Burlington Free Press

# VERMONT

Saturday, July 24, 1993 ■ Metro Editor: Rob Eley, 660-1862 or (800) 427-3124

## THIS BUG'S FOR YOU



John Dillon and Honey Dillon (center), president of Cedar Lake Association, talk to Holly Crosson, a state biologist, about weevils seen through a microscope. Below, an adult weevil and larvae cling to Eurasian milfoil.

ALDEN PELLETT, for the Free Press



A MILFOIL HARVESTING barge was recently launched on Cedar Lake in Monkton. Here, its builder Peter Aube of Monkton and Barbara Ball of Starksboro, get a fine catch of the week under the watch of Ball's daughter Emily.

Photo by Ted Barash

## Milfoil weed fight begins

### New barge will help Cedar Lake residents pull pesky plant

By JOHN FLOWERS

MONKTON — Mingling with the assorted canoes and powerboats on Cedar Lake this summer will be an odd pontoon boat whose passengers have a mission: get rid of the Eurasian milfoil that threatens the small lake's existence.

Milfoil is a prolific aquatic weed that has spread like wildfire in Cedar Lake during the past couple of years. If left unchecked, the weed can choke out other forms of marine life.

The problem is so serious it is

against the law to transport milfoil from one body of water to another, even accidentally on a propeller or trailer.

While waiting for science to perfect a quick fix for the problem, members of the Cedar Lake Association and other volunteers are manning a pontoon boat and are harvesting the weeds by hand.

The pontoon boat was built by association members and Northlands Job Corps students. To make the weed-pulling process a little more efficient, the association

is applying for two state grants — worth a total of \$8,000 — to buy a motorized suction harvester to suck up the milfoil plants from the water.

With financial backing uncertain, the association wants to raise some money on its own. To that end, the group has organized the June Jamboree Flea Market for Saturday, June 26, on the lawn of the Russell Memorial Library. Space for tables and tailgaters will be rented for \$10 each. For more information, call 453-2450.

## Monkton tackles milfoil problem with creativity and manual labor

by Elise Barash

There's a strange-looking craft floating these days on Cedar Lake (aka Monkton Pond). Its appearance, welcomed by the many people who are interested in preserving the lake, marks the end of a winter-long building project that is the first stage of a plan to control the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil in this body of water highly favored by fishermen and other boaters.

There are many weeds in Monkton Pond, but none so aggressive as this so-called "nuisance" weed, which up to this time has had no natural predator. A lot of hope is pinned on a five year experiment which seeks to find one in the form of a small weevil with a large appetite for milfoil, but even if results are successful, weevil availability could be a long time coming. Meanwhile, members of the Cedar Lake Association and other volunteers have taken to handpulling the plants, spurred on last summer by the appearance of an especially big patch near the middle of the lake.

It was a daunting task, working from canoes and often handicapped by wind and wave conditions. Yet the concern was great, for if not checked, the milfoil, which grows horizontally as well as vertically, can carpet an entire lake, particularly a small, shallow one like that at Monkton.

The decision was made to build a suction harvester suitable to the size and depth of Cedar Lake and combine its use with handpulling. The Cedar Lake Association, working under the auspices of the Town of Monkton's Conservation Commission, undertook the project and committed to raise \$700 to pay the costs of building a pontoon barge which will be the base of the suction harvesting components if grant money is obtained. In the meantime, the newly completed barge now ferries the pullers from one patch of milfoil to another, it's deck, a stable platform supported on either side by aluminum pontoons competently welded together by students of the

*Please turn to page 8*

## Monkton tackles milfoil problem with creativity

*Continued from page 1*

Northland Job Corps at Vergennes.

To help reach its financial goal, the Cedar Lake Association is sponsoring the first annual June Jamboree Flea Market on Saturday, June 26 on the grounds of the Russell Memorial Library across from Monkton Town Hall. Space for tables and tailgaters will be rented for \$10 each; baked goods and specially designed T-shirts will be sold, and the barge will be on display. For more specific information, call 453-2450.

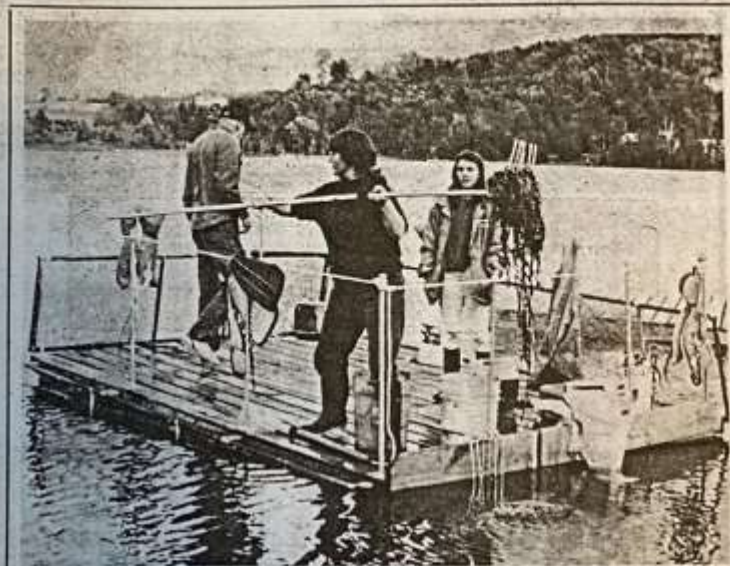


photo by Ted Barash

*Barbara Ball of Starksboro, granddaughter of the late Leon Bushey, a well known and highly respected Monkton resident, pulls up a load of milfoil from Cedar Lake. Pete Aube, who built the floating platform, is at the left; Ms. Ball's daughter, Emily, watches the action. Of her grandfather, Ms. Ball says, "He would have found a way to stop it before it got out of hand."*

# Weevils attack milfoil in Monkton

By JOHN FLOWERS

MONKTON — Monkton residents who have been working up a sweat pulling Eurasian milfoil from Cedar Lake are now getting some help from some tiny friends — weevils that mysteriously appeared and are making a meal out of the weeds.

Known in scientific circles as *Euhrychiopsis lecontei*, the weevils were discovered by accident by a young member of the Cedar Lake Association, a grassroots group formed by shorefront residents bent on ridding the lake of milfoil.

Eurasian milfoil is a prolific water weed and is taking over an increasing number of lakes in Vermont. If left unchecked, the weed multiplies in clumps and can choke out marine life and make swimming and boating difficult.

Until recently, one of the most common methods of removing milfoil was to hand-pull it. Two years ago, however, scientists from Middlebury College and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation began studying the eating habits of a domestic weevil that had a voracious appetite for northern milfoil.

As it turned out, the weevil also found Eurasian milfoil to its liking. During the past several months, entomologists from the DEC have been introducing the weevil to Lake Bomoseen and Bristol Pond to study their ability to attack milfoil. They were surprised, however, when Cedar Lake Association member Susan Lavigne called to say her daughter had discovered the bugs in Cedar Lake.

"It was really dramatic," said Trish Hanson, one of two state entomologists who confirmed the bugs were weevils. "Everyone was beaming."

How the weevils got there remains a mystery. A study by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources found no weevils in Cedar Lake last year.

"They could have come from fragments of milfoil from other lakes brought in on boats," Hanson said. Transporting milfoil is against state law.

"I don't think anyone introduced them in the lake by throwing them in," Cedar Lake Association member Elise Barash said. "But however they got there, it's fine with us."

Hanson said the weevils munch

on the stems of the milfoil plants, eventually perforating them to a point where they will lose their buoyancy, sink to the bottom and die.

The weevils are as prolific as they are voracious. Females can lay several hundred eggs during a mating season, Hanson said.

While it will take time for the weevils to do their job, Barash said the creatures already seem to have made an impact. The texture of the milfoil seems different this year, she said.

Hanson cautioned Cedar Lake Association members not to expect too much, too fast.

"I don't expect to see anything dramatic until next year," Hanson said. "I still think that the weevils will be part of an arsenal."

Cedar Lake Association  
PO Box 109  
Monkton, VT 05469

## August 09

Since we last met, there has been very little action around the pond.

We are again experiencing high water due to all the rain we have gotten and with very little running out of the pond due to the very active beaver. This has been a problem every day, every month, every year. As of right now we see no end in sight.

Our population of Canadian Geese has increased to over 75. We will need some serious input from members in order to help control this situation.

We sent out an unofficial survey recently, as you are aware. The results are included in a handout.

As I stated last year,

***This Association is driven by its membership, without members, there is no association. Without this association your lake will suffer.***

# August 2009

Date: August 25, 2010

To: Board of Directors, Cedar Lake Association

From: Marc Bellaud

Re: Preliminary Survey Findings and Management Recommendations - Cedar Lake

The initial visual survey of Cedar Lake was completed on July 23, 2010. The survey encompassed the entire shoreline and several transects surveyed through the middle of the lake. Water depth was measured using a high-resolution fathometer. Aquatic plant growth was assessed through visual observation, use of the fathometer, an underwater camera system and a throw-rake. Water depth measurements and locations of varying plant assemblages were geo-referenced using a Differential GPS unit. The objective of this survey was to assess the density and distribution of invasive Eurasian watermilfoil growth and from this assessment to evaluate management alternatives. A summary of our findings is provided below.

#### Summary of Survey Findings

Cedar Lake has a reported surface area of 114 acres. Open-water areas were estimated to be closer to 126 acres through GIS software and orthophoto imagery available from VCGI, but the actual edge of open-water may vary along adjacent wetland areas. The primary inlet tributary enters through a wetland area in the southwest corner of the lake and water exits through a large wetland on the northwest corner. The outlet stream appears to flow north for approximately 2.5 miles, before joining with Lewis Creek, which flows west into Lake Champlain. Cedar Lake is relative shallow with a maximum reported water depth of less than 15 feet. A map showing the depth contours that were created based on water depth measurements recorded during the survey and by modifying the existing bathymetric map prepared in 1982 by the State of Vermont, Department of Water Resources is attached (Figure 1).

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was the dominant submersed plant found in the lake. Dense growth beds of milfoil with greater than 80% cover were found along the northern shoreline and in water depths between 8 and 10 feet towards the center of the lake. Between 4 feet and 8 feet, milfoil and Illinois pondweed (*Potamogeton illinoensis*) were relatively evenly distributed. Only scattered milfoil growth was found in deepest areas towards the center of the lake (greater than 10 feet). Approximately 27 acres of dense milfoil growth was mapped, along with an additional 57 acres of moderate density milfoil growth (Figure 2). Moderate and dense milfoil covers comprise approximately 84 acres or two-thirds of the lake's total surface area.

The most commonly encountered native, submersed plants were Illinois pondweed and the macro-alga muskgrass (*Chara sp.*). Approximately 14 acres of water lily beds (*Nymphaea* and *Nuphar*) were observed along the northern and southern shorelines. Other dominant native plant species observed are listed in Table 1 and the distribution is depicted in Figure 3. In most locations the native plant growth was secondary to milfoil.

DRAFT

Monkton Pond Annual letter

Aug 2010

Well it's that time of year and some things remain the same with little or few developments at Cedar Lake -

The continuing problem of weeds, geese and beavers seem to discourage much activity on the pond - For a time there was a small population of 2 families, however we now have as many as Thirty over nighters -

The beaver population has remained constant and the water level still high in spite of those people who intermittently chip away the dam - the beaver baffle is not working

Some property is being bought or sold and the historical sense of community cohesiveness is changing. The town



[http://monktonvt.com/  
community/cedar-lake-  
association](http://monktonvt.com/community/cedar-lake-association)