

# The Pike Bay Scoop

Eurasian Water Milfoil in Pike Bay

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## Citizen's Committee is formed

The summer of 2012 brought warm temperatures and lots of sunshine to the town of Chassell. These conditions, coupled with low lake levels, brought excess aquatic plant growth around the perimeter of Pike Bay. Research discovered that the predominant nuisance weed was a combination of native water milfoil, Eurasian water milfoil and a hybrid milfoil. The questions most residents asked were, "Will it come back and how do we get rid of it?"

Concerned citizens approached the Chassell Township Board to obtain assistance in addressing the control of the weeds and assure the health and preservation of the Bay. This resulted in the formation of a committee that would study the problem and recommend a solution. The committee agreed to four basic charges: assess the extent of infestation, recommend and oversee a management solution, obtain funding, and educate and inform the public.

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## Committee

- Darrell Smith Chair
- Bill Leonard Vice Chair
- Lloyd Heldt Secretary
- Ed Glowacki Treasurer
- Ryan Kuntze Township Board Rep
- Joe Youngman Bay Master
- Doug Hamar
- Ron Helman
- Ross Rinkinen
- Tom Rozich Consultant/Advisor

Eurasian and hybrid water milfoils are being controlled in dozens of other communities right now. Using their practical knowledge and experiences along with professional help, we can manage milfoil here.

### Where are we in the process?

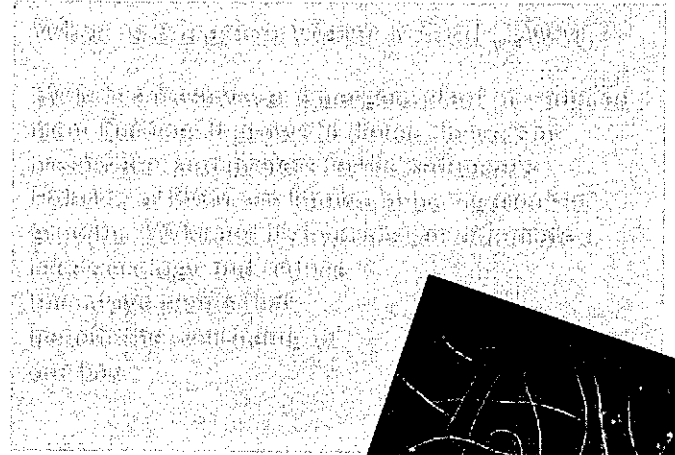
2013 will be a year of assessment and planning. In order to obtain a permit from the DEQ and assure environmental health of the lake, we feel that it is necessary to hire a professional aquatic consulting company to assess the Bay and make remediation recommendations. Most of this work cannot be completed until the milfoil is mature, sometime in July or August. At that point we will be in a better position to develop and proceed with a management plan.

### How will this be funded?

The Township Board has agreed to fund the initial study and recommendation procedure. The actual management and control of the milfoil will require funding by other sources. The committee is currently searching for those sources.

### What can you do to help?

Milfoil spreads rapidly by stem fragments rooting in the bottom of the lake. The probable introduction of milfoil into Pike Bay most likely happened by the launching of boats that had previously been in an infested lake. So, PLEASE wash the bottoms of your boat before and after launching. Propellers chop the milfoil into small fragments that can drift to other places and root...so PLEASE don't run your boat through the milfoil beds any more than necessary. If milfoil floats onto your beach, PLEASE rake it up and dispose of it. Also, the DEQ has asked that we apply for permits as a group (the whole lake) so PLEASE do not try to apply chemicals to your own beachfront. The experiences in many other communities have shown that it is much more effective to have an organized approach in managing the milfoil.



Thousands of visitors and residents all

## Why does this matter?

...milfoil... growth... physical act of fishing is not possible... crowd out and/or eliminate native plants... Studies have shown that a plant community of almost all EWM will result in lower abundance and diversity of invertebrates and organisms that serve as fish food. It may also give young panfish too many places to hide, resulting in very high survival and too many mouths to feed. This can result in a stunted population, as predators cannot catch enough to reduce the panfish population. A healthy lake ecosystem has about 50% of the shallow area (less than 15 feet) in aquatic vegetation. EWM can result in almost 100% of that zone being occupied.