

Song Lake Weed Management

For years we have struggled to find ways to mitigate the various invasive plant species in our lake, some with limited success, but in more recent years, with very little success due to changes in our lake.

Your Song Lake POA Board, Watershed and Environmental committee and recently formed Weed Management Committee are more aggressively than ever looking at ways to stem the weed growth, primarily milfoil which on top of the environmental concerns, not only inhibits swimming, boating, fishing etc., but if not corrected or at least controlled, could affect our property values around the lake.

We are organizing a number of Zoom meetings for all lake resident owners to attend in order for you to have an opportunity to offer input, share concerns and hear in person the plans for mitigation. However, in the interim, we wanted to provide the following to cover some of the common questions you may have.

Times are Changing:

- New methods of control are becoming available and proving very effective.
- Now we have zebra mussels in the lake, our problems have changed and focus needs to be redirected as a result.

New Herbicides developed and Approved by the DEC:

- While a few years ago the use of herbicides was a scary thought, today new herbicides have been developed that will not harm wildlife, pets, the environment and not inhibit recreational use of the water.

What Herbicides are we looking at using:

- ProcellaCOR EC which is a herbicide that is registered and approved through a stringent process directed by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Used for the targeted control of milfoil.
- Since ProcellaCOR EC is a pesticide, it must be permitted by the NYS DEC.

When will it be applied in our lake?:

- We are hoping to have the first application this year, however, there is a lengthy permitting process and associated guidelines we must follow, furthermore, our application would need to be approved by the DEC. We are working as expeditiously as possible to get our permit application submitted and hopefully approved. We do have a couple of potential permitting complications being the presence of Lake Cress in our lake and native vs. invasive milfoil.

Who will apply this in our lake?:

- We are working closely with the Cortland office of a company called Solitude Lake Management that many if not all of the Kettles lakes and other lakes in our region appear to be talking to or working with.
- www.solitudelakemanagement.com

What are the other lakes in the area doing?:

- Many lakes are going through the same process for weed management. The Kettle Lake Associations from Tully, Crooked and Song are holding joint strategy sessions with Solitude.
- Little York Lake already had applications of ProcellaCOR EC and are seeing very effective results. They are sharing much of their knowledge and experiences with us.

Will this be a one time application?

- No, it will be an ongoing process until we have the milfoil under control, again under the guidance of Solitude.
- The NY State DEC will only permit a maximum 5 acres area application per year, although we are being told that Little York has seen great improvements in milfoil control outside of their initial application areas.

Who will decide what 5 acre area is applied first:

- First off, several applications can be made in different areas of the lake as long as the total does not exceed the 5 acre limit.
- Solitude will help select the most effective and troubled areas based on available data including aerial photos of the lake, depth of the water, wind drift, most dense milfoil areas etc.

Who will pay for this?:

- With both permit application fees on top of the actual cost for Solitude to apply ProcellaCOR, it is not an inexpensive exercise, however, it is a necessary one.
- We are looking at different ways to mitigate cost through grants, use of POA funds and other ways including fundraising to raise money to cover the cost.

Why can't we just put more Grass Carp in the lake?:

- While in the past we have seen some success from the introduction of grass carp, due to Song Lake experiencing recurrent toxic Harmful Algal Blooms, the DEC has rejected recent applications submitted for the introduction of more grass carp in our lake.

What about weed harvesting?:

- Weed harvesting has actually been shown to exacerbate the situation through the introduction of fragmented milfoil which resulted in more Milfoil in our lake.
- Not all affected areas of the lake can be accessed by a commercial harvester.
- We have had great difficulty in finding suitable lake access when needed for the large commercial weed harvester.

How can I keep up to date with other information and the Zoom meetings?:

- We have a link on the home page of our website www.SongLakePOA.org where information will be posted as it becomes available. We will also be posting information on our Facebook page @SongLakePOA.

What if I have additional questions?:

- DO NOT CALL individual Board and Committee members, please contact us through either the email below, or the Contact page on the website at <https://songlakepoa.org/contact> , this will allow your concern or comment to be shared with the appropriate Board and Committee members.

How can I help?:

- If you would like to become an active part of the Weed Control Committee, please send us an email at songlakeassociation@gmail.com