

Silver Springs Lake *Property Owners Association*

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Lake Preservation Committee (LPC) Announcement: **New 2026 Shoreline Remediation Services**

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We all want to swim, boat, and fish without getting tangled up in lake weeds. Our extended families and guests enjoy clear water, weed-free swimming areas with firm sand bottoms, and fishing without getting tangled up in weeds with every cast.

Widespread weed growth and muck accumulation are evidence of the natural lake aging process in our lake. The Association's weed harvesting program will reverse lake aging, but this is a decades-long program. Harvesting weeds from the Navigation Lane is the Association's single contribution to improving lake recreation. Unfortunately, it is beyond the POA's financial means to remove muck and weeds from everyone's shoreline boat dock and swimming areas.

Earlier this summer the Lake Preservation Committee (LPC) thought we had a cost-effective solution for shoreline remediation. We reconfigured the Hockney Weed Cutter and evaluated its effectiveness as a big mechanical rake. It failed. Weeds and muck were largely unaffected and we could not steer the machine while reversing.

Fortunately, this setback did not keep LPC Members from thinking about and developing affordable alternative shoreline muck and weed removal services.

We now have two (2) new Shoreline Remediation Service provider options:

Aquatic Plant Management (APM; Minocqua, WI) and Silver Mist Garden Center (Waupaca, WI) are offering 'tailored' weed pulling, weed cutting, and muck raking services to groups of Silver Springs Lake property owners for this coming Spring.

Several caveats must be in place for these programs to happen:

- A pre-determined minimum number of lot-owners will have to sign-up with APM and/or Silver Mist, before the end of this year
- Individual service agreements will be finalized by April 15th, 2026
- These services are offered as a 'collective', like our weed harvesting program
- These services are not available to individual lot owners... only to groups
- Services will be performed for groups of customers, during larger blocks of time

The LPC will provide detailed service offers from each of these companies separately. The LPC will also provide a 'point-person' to collect and provide the names of interested lot owners for each service. When the required minimum number of customers (individuals and small groups) have subscribed, the LPC will deliver these prospective customer lists to APM and to Silver Mist, who will then work with each of our lot owners directly. The Association will not be involved with pricing, contracting, or scheduling.

Silver Mist Garden Center - Mechanical Weed Pulling Service:

Silver Mist is offering a 'Near-shore to Navigation Lane' weed pulling service utilizing their ECO-Harvester. Multiple lot owners, representing at least 1,000 linear feet of lake shoreline, will have to sign up with Silver Mist for remediation services. This is more than 3 football fields. Having 50 lot owners wanting to clear a 20 Ft wide area would satisfy this minimum commitment. (Any combination will work.)

The price for Silver Mist's ECO-Harvester weed pulling service is \$4.00 per linear foot of shoreline. The distance out from the shoreline treated will be to a depth of 4 feet, or a distance of 40 feet. (The four foot depth limit is set by the rotary drum height-dimension. Pricing for remediating out to a greater distance from shore (>40 Ft) can be negotiated.)

First-time customers must also purchase a \$50.00 'Shoreline Marking Kit'. As an example, for \$250.00, residents can have weeds mechanically pulled from an area 50 feet wide and up to 40 feet out.

The ECO-Harvester's rotating drum weed pulling head can go right to the bottom and remove weeds from the shoreline to a maximum water depth of four (4) feet.



The ECO-Harvester cannot reach spaces under and several feet to the sides of docks, rafts, mooring buoys, or water intakes (obstructions). After clearing accessible areas, follow-up raking is needed to achieve a completely weed-free and firm sand bottom.

Silver Mist may offer a premium muck and weed raking 'finishing service'. Based again on having an adequate number of interested lot owners, Silver Mist would provide individual price quotes for this service. Non-binding work estimates would be provided to interested parties (only), after the initial ECO-Harvester work has been performed.



Aquatic Plant management (APM) - Manual Weed Cutting and Raking Service:

Aquatic Plant Management (APM Minocqua, WI) is offering a 4-man service team to manually cut weeds and rake muck - - to re-create weed-free, firm-sand-bottom swimming and docking areas.

For this service to be profitable, APM will need a minimum of four (4) consecutive working days of contacted business. Pricing is offered to small groups of (adjoining) lot owners for half-day (4 Hour) and full-day (8 Hour) service periods.



Any combination of groups can sign up to purchase half-day or full-day services to satisfy APM's collective (4-Day) minimum. For example, to satisfy this requirement, four (4) different groups of neighboring (adjacent) lot owners could each contract for one (1) full-day service period. Or, eight (8) groups of neighbors could each sign up for a one-half (1/2) day service period. Any combination surpassing the four day minimum works.

For the first service year (2026) we will learn how much area the APM Service crew can clear in 4 Hours and 8 Hours. The amount of lakebed cleared will simply depend on the amount of muck and weeds present. If the lakebed is easily cleared, the service area will be bigger. If the treated area has heavy weed growth and muck accumulation, less will be cleared during the service period. There will be a 'learning curve' for everyone.

Closing Statements:

APM and Silver Mist are doing our community a huge favor by offering cost-effective means to have weeds and muck removed from around our docks and swimming areas - - albeit on a conditional group-basis.

We believe that these Shoreline Remediation Services will be valuable for residents who simply do not have the time to invest in doing this work themselves, for those who want to use more of their precious time at the lake for recreation, and for those who are just not physically capable of doing this work.

If these businesses are profitable and easily managed, they will continue to be offered by APM and Silver Mist. We will all win! If we are unable to master enough customers, or if program management becomes difficult, these businesses will be terminated.

Let's make this work for APM and Silver Mist, so we can enjoy pristine lakefront swimming and docking areas every summer! Please sign up, adjust your budgets accordingly, and start saving, so you too can enjoy the benefit of these services!

Please monitor your Mail, Email, and the Association website for service offer details.

The Lake Preservation Committee wishes you and yours a happy holiday season and we hope to see you at the Association's Christmas Dinner Party.