

## **Invasive Species Report** - *by Alison Sims*

Last summer Lake Titus conducted an invasive plant survey under the Lake Protectors Program. This program is part of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) within the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. With guidance from the Nature Conservancy office in Keene we were given resource material and training to set up a monitoring practice.

The Lake Protectors Program is focused on 10 species of concern including aquatic plants, clams, and crayfish which they have identified in some Adirondack lakes. Nine volunteers set out to look for evidence of specific invasive aquatic plants and the size of the area they inhabit. The shallow areas along the full perimeter of the lake were surveyed and the findings were uploaded to a map on the Lake Protectors site.

Our findings show there are larger pockets of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in areas where the water is shallow and has more boat traffic such as the outlet/dam area. The survey didn't identify a significant problem with EWM on Lake Titus, however, further monitoring is recommended. The long-term goal is to conduct a yearly survey to monitor the growth or any new introduction of other invasive species and develop recommendations for a management plan.

The other program which may be of interest to the LTPA is the Partnership of Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) run under the ADK Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). Their mandate is to be a resource and support lakes in their approach to

aquatic plant management.

At this point Lake Titus is not registered with the PRISM program. Last fall Dirk Schroeder was able to attend a meeting of the Northern Lakes Group and learn about their invasive plant management. This Group is giving us the opportunity to learn about the challenges and successes other lakes (e.g. Chateaugay) have experienced with their EWM management.

For 2025 our plans are to conduct an annual survey of the aquatic plants during the late summer. This will start to give us a year over year comparison of our situation. Dirk and Marji McCullough will continue to be the contacts for the Northern Lake Group. The 2024 Lake Titus survey findings, as well as what other lakes in the area are doing, will be discussed at the 2025 LTPA Annual Meeting. In the meantime, here are a few things we can do to reduce the spread of EWM:

- Avoid motoring through EWM areas, as the severed plants will root in a new location which increases the spread
- Clean your boat, motor and fishing equipment at official wash stations if you are moving from lake to lake
- Take note of any areas of EWM, and let us know the location.

A special thanks to the volunteers who helped with this venture so far. We are lucky that Lake Titus is a healthy lake with good water quality and plenty of native species which provide habitat and food for life in/on our lake.