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# WATERWORKS

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Winter 1996

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## “How Do I Get A Permit To Use Chemicals To Control Milfoil?”

*by Paul Derby*

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an exotic and very aggressive aquatic plant that has plagued many lakes, ponds and rivers throughout North America. Left unchecked, it can destroy a lake's ecosystem, severely limit recreational activities, and devastate a lake or community economy. Mechanical and biological control techniques have for the most part been unsuccessful.

About a year ago the herbicide SONAR (Fluridone) was registered for use in New York State. It has been shown to be very efficacious in controlling milfoil at low dosage rates and with little or no effect on native vegetation. To date however, there has been but a single treatment. The problem? For the most part people were either unaware of the possibility, or more likely, did not know how to get a permit to use it.

This article is a short "how to" and "where to ask" guide for anyone interested in obtaining a permit to use Sonar or to just find out more about it as a possible control technique for Eurasian watermilfoil.

A permit to use SONAR is mandatory; it is illegal to apply it without one. A completed permit application requires several steps and it will take many months to compile the necessary information. The first step is to contact your regional DEC office and request an "APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT FOR THE USE OF CHEMICALS FOR THE CONTROL OF AQUATIC VEGETATIONS." The DEC will send the one page application and a checklist of required materials. You must include the following information with the completed application:

\*\* The relevant portion of the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map containing the waterbody or stream(s) proposed for treatment.

\*\* Six copies of detailed bathymetric maps of the waterbody to show treatment areas, water depth contours, location of all public/private water supplies, waterbody inlets/outlets, and designated freshwater wetlands.

\*\* A copy of the Riparian Owner Consent Letter and a list of all persons who may be affected by the treatment. A consent letter must be sent to every person affected by the application of the chemical. A consent letter must also be sent to those along outlet streams if the treated water is not to be held. This letter is an opportunity for riparian owners to show consent or object to the treatment. An objector must demonstrate significant economic or water use hardship for a permit to be denied. Dislike or apprehension of chemicals is not sufficient to inhibit a permit.

\*\* A copy of the SONAR label (AS or SRP formulation) along with restrictions and proper dosage rates.

\*\* A copy of the Waterbody Association Board of Directors resolution authorizing treatment. Usually this is a letter from the lake association or group or town or other government entity formally applying for the permit.

\*\* A contract with a New York State licensed pesticides applicator. The applicator may reside outside of New York.

*Please turn to page 3*



### Is This Your Last Issue?

At the fall meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided that because of the publication and postage costs, the Federation can not afford to mail issues of *Waterworks* to anyone who is not a paid member. An individual can belong for only \$10.00 if a member of an association that is a Federation member. A regular membership is only \$20.00. You get four issues of *Waterworks* and help support the efforts for clean lakes.

### *Letter from the President,*

Our office has now been in Findley Lake for a year, but we still get mail at the Cazenovia address. Please make sure that you use the Findley Lake address and phone number.

We started 1995 with brand new-full color brochures, which are now in a second printing. In the fall, we published a Conference Proceedings booklet. If you don't have one, they are available at the office, you should definitely get one.

With the year 1996 we start off with a brand new home page on the Internet. For the computer address see the bottom of this page.

At our annual conference in Cooperstown, the membership voted for the By-laws changes that provide for a President-elect position and the Regional Directors. Attendees also participated in an interactive Statewide Lake Management Forum workshop. Participants had an integral part in helping to form the consensus for future lake management programs.

The Cooperstown forum workshop was one of six held across the state last year. We began with an early meeting in Skaneateles, then Westchester in April, Adirondak and Saratoga meetings in June, and Rennselaer County in August. In November, I gave a presentation on the forum to the Water Managers Advisory Committee of the NYSDEC.

1995 Was the 10th year of our Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). More than 700 volunteers and 120 lakes have participated during the ten years.

We have good news for you in 1996-your dues are going down. Because of financial restraints we raised the dues two years ago and some of you dropped out. We hope that the new dues structure will bring back the old members and encourage new members to join.

Your support is needed now more than ever. Not only do we need your dues, we need you to take action. The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate lake management programs. On the national level, the Clean Water Act has been torn apart by the House (see Philip DeGaetano's article in the Conference Proceedings). Keep calling and writing all of our state and federal legislators to let them know how important it is to protect our lakes.

Think spring. Mark your calendars with the NYSFOLA Annual Conference, May 3-5 at Lake George, NY. See you there.



**The NYSFOLA now has a home page! Access our Internet web site by typing:**

**<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nys-lakes>**



*SONAR continued from page 1*

**\*\* A fifty dollar fee.**

The DEC requires that it receive the permit application at least 45 days prior to scheduled SONAR treatments. There is a lot to be done before that point, and it will be a time-consuming project. It will likely take at least three months to gather all the necessary information. Since it is recommended that SONAR treatments be done in early Spring at "ice-out" when vegetation begins to appear, a group should begin the process at least 6-7 (or 12) months before the planned application date.

Riparian Owner Consent Letters should also be sent out early in the process. People will have 30 days to respond, and you may receive a few negatives. You also have the problem of seasonal and permanent addresses. You should leave time to solve these to be sure all owners are contacted.

If you don't have current bathymetric maps showing lake depths and contours, you will probably need to hire a consultant. The consultant may be able to save a step by determining milfoil densities at the same time the bathymetric contour maps are being measured.

You need to contract with a licensed pesticides applicator. Send bid letters to at least three contractors giving lake-specific data about size, depth, etc. in order to get accurate cost estimates. The contractors may wish to visit the lake and meet with the Board.

While it sounds confusing, help is available.

**\*\* Sample consent letters, lists of licensed applicators, SONAR product labels and restrictions, and technical information can be obtained from COLAM (Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil, P.O. Box 143, Ticonderoga NY 12883.**

**\*\* Help will also be available at the annual FOLA conference May 3-5, 1996 in Lake George (see application in this newsletter). FOLA and COLAM will present workshops on the "SONAR permitting process". DEC representatives, herbicides applicators, technical consultants and professional lake managers will give step-by-step instructions on SONAR permitting, costs, funding, contingency contracts and more. Hope to see you there.**

Much of this information is taken from NYSDEC Bureau of Pesticides Management form 44-19-5 (11/82). Supplement A-3, and the supplemental materials checklist. Information was also obtained from conversations with DEC Pesticides Control Specialist II John Bennett (Region 5). PAUL DERBY is with the COALITION OF LAKES AGAINST MILFOIL.

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**" A man of words and not of deeds is like  
a garden full of weeds"**

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## Getting Your House and Yard in Order!

There are many things you can do right in your home and yard to protect your lake. By keeping things out of your lake you can actually prevent problems. The most important things you can do are:

- \* conserve water
- \* control the use of chemicals
- \* manage your shoreline
- \* improve lawn care practices
- \* maintain your septic system
- \* compost wastes

**Conserving water** is old fashioned but it works. Chances are your parents taught you to conserve energy by turning off the light when you left the room and by turning down the heat at night. The same principle can help save your lake by working to prevent pollution.

**Controlling the use of toxic chemicals** in your home and yard reduces the potential to harm your lake. If you follow the tips presented here you will be reducing the amount of toxic materials reaching the lake.

- \* don't change your car's oil near the lake
- \* handle all petroleum products with extreme care
- \* keep your boat and motor in good condition
- \* avoid using bleach, drain cleaners, and other strong cleaning agents and most pesticides and fertilizers
- \* Take extreme care when using paints and paint removers

**Managing your shoreline** can be an efficient natural buffer system between the lake and the surrounding landscape. In fact, shorelines are the most important tool you have to protect your lake.

- \* leave an unmowed buffer strip along the lake at least 20 feet wide
- \* set your lawn mower to leave the grass two to three inches high
- \* plant steep banks with native vegetation that binds the soil and traps water
- \* terrace steep banks when possible to further slow water and sediments
- \* don't tamper with existing wetlands

**Less lawn care** means more lake protection. If we love our lakes, we need to change our idea about what looks good. That short weed-free lawn that many of us admire can actually hurt our lake because it:

- \* takes more chemicals to keep it green
- \* does not provide good habitat for wildlife

Excess fertilizers and pesticides can go into the lake, river and well. The resulting algae blooms and floating dead fish remind us that using less chemicals is better. Use phosphorus-free fertilizers, slow release nitrogen and leave a buffer area near your lake where no chemicals are used.



**\*\*\*\*\*1996 NYSFOLA CONFERENCE\*\*\*\*\*****MAY 3-5****ROARING BROOK CONFERENCE CENTER  
LAKE GEORGE NEW YORK****Glad You Asked**

In an effort to keep *Waterworks* timely and useful to the membership, this will become a regular feature. The answers will come from the Scientific Advisory Board members, NYSFOLA members, experts, and citizens. The questions in this issue were concerns voiced to Bob Roessle, our Regional Director from Long Island. He researched the answers, in part, from "Healthy Households," a publication of "Group for the South Fork."

Q. Can I use automobile anti-freeze to winterize my camp drains and toilets?

A. No. Automobile anti-freeze contains Ethylene Glycol, which is toxic to the bacteria in your septic system, and should not be used. You can use Recreational Vehicle Anti-freeze, which is non-toxic and is compatible with most septic systems. It is available at most local hardware stores.

Q. Some years the trees on my lake front become infested with gypsy moth caterpillars. Should I use a pesticide or insecticide?

A. Many pesticides and insecticides have a warning that the product is not to be used near any water bodies. Always read the warning labels before purchasing. Some pesticides may harm the beneficial insects including pollinators and natural predators.

Here is an alternative for controlling gypsy moths, as suggested in "Healthy Households." In May, tie a ten inch burlap band around your tree with string in the middle, and fold the top half down. Every day before dark, remove and destroy the caterpillars that have climbed inside the burlap to escape the sun. If you feel squeamish about doing this, enlist some 10-year-olds.

Submit your questions to "Glad You Asked," NYSFOLA, 2698 Shadyside Dr., Findley Lake 14736.

**NYSFOLA now has a home page! Access our internet web site by typing:**

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## REGIONAL DIRECTORS

The Federation's Regional Directors have assumed their responsibilities and selected their respective counties. The ten directors will report to Margaret Schaefer, President-elect. Each director is available to the members in his or her region for information on the Federation, lake management problems, how to form a lake association, or other topics of concern. Each director will keep a journal of activities in the region and will hold a district meeting at least every three years.

Not every county at this time has a Regional Director. Within a few years, as a board member's term expires and new directors are elected, the entire state should be covered.

Please call or write to your Regional Director with news of your lake or if you need information. Future issues of *Waterworks* will include profiles of the Regional Directors. They and the Counties they represent are as follows:

Don Cook, Dec. to Mar., 57 Greenway Blvd., Churchville NY 14428, 716-293-2482;  
Apr. to Nov., Private Dr. 3, West Lake Road, Silver Springs NY 14550, 716-237-2172;  
Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Allegany Counties  
Don Keppel, Treasurer, 2698 Shadyside Drive, Findley Lake NY 14736, Phone + Fax 800-796-3652;  
Erie, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus Counties  
Ralph DeFelice, 404 Williams St., Geneva NY 14550, 315-789-5665, fax 315-789-3082;  
Cayuga, Seneca, Yates, Schuyler, and Tompkins Counties  
John Miller, 8 Crescent St., Illion NY 13357, 315-895-7502;  
Oswego, Oneida, and Herkimer Counties  
Margaret Schaefer, President-Elect, 2714 County Road 6, Hammond NY 13646, 315-375-6305;  
Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties  
Michael Martin, Adirondack Aquatic Institute, Box 244, Paul Smith's College,  
Paul Smith's NY 12970-0244, 518-327-6214, fax 518-327-6331;  
Hamilton, Essex, Clinton, and Franklin Counties  
Chris Rant, Vice-President, PO Box 280, Sand Lake NY 12153, 518-674-8653;  
Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie, Albany, and Rensselaer Counties  
Kathleen McLaughlin, 100 W. Shore Drive, Putnam Valley NY 10579, 914-526-2573;  
Orange, Putnam, Westchester, and Rockland Counties  
Bob Roessle;  
May to Nov., Gondola Gardens, 2 Justin Ave., Southampton NY 11968, 516-283-4327;  
Nov to May, 6817 Half Moon Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231, 813-923-4258;  
Nassau and Suffolk Counties

## Other Board of Directors

Elaine Horstmyer, President, 4951 E. Lake rd., Cazenovia, NY 13035, 315-655-9777  
Nancy Mueller, Secretary, 2574 Webb Rd. Lafayette, NY, 13084, 315-677-9359  
John Peverly, Chairman SAB, 1016 Bradfield Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, 607-255-1739  
Craig Doran, 23 Slye St., Canandaigua, NY 14424, 716-396-3400  
Jay Ledden, 60 Oswego st., P.O. Box 38, Baldwinsville, NY 13027, 315-638-8283  
Dave Pendergast, HCR 1, Box 22, Middleburg, NY 12122, 518-827-5525  
Mark Randall, 9 Charles St., Hamilton, NY 13346, 315-824-2013  
Lyle Raymond, 425 Hollister Hall, Cornell Univ. Ithaca, NY 14853, 607-255-5943  
David Wright, P.O. Box 484, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547, 914-962-1039

**"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature." Henry David Thoreau in *Walden***



## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### **WATERSHED CONFLICT RESOLUTION: Some Guiding Principles**

*Raymond, Lyle S. Jr., Cornell Cooperative Extension, Local Government Program Center for the Environment, Cornell University:*

Written by one of the Federation's Board members, this booklet lets the readers know that conflict is normal, but often can result in creative policies and productive watershed protection by using the eight guiding principles explained in the publication. Available from the Federation office for \$1.00 to cover postage.

### **Local Open Space Planning: A Guide to the Process**

*Traub, Corie Fay, and Morrison, Charles C., NYSDEC, Department of Natural Resources:*

"People benefit socially, environmentally from the conservation of open space in their community." It then explains how communities can put together such a plan. Those of you who attended the conference heard Corie Traub give this presentation. The 80-page book has now been printed and is available free from NYSDEC, Department of Natural Resources, 50 Wolf Road, Albany 12233 (518) 457-7435.

## **1995 Conference Proceedings Available**

Thanks to generous volunteer efforts, a very professional Conference Proceedings was published and distributed to paid members. If you did not receive a copy or would like additional copies, they are available at the Federation's office for \$3.00 each, including shipping and handling. There is a wealth of information expertly condensed for readability.

Conference topics included are:

Open Space Planning for Your Community

The Impact of Motorboats

An illustrated article on "Phytoplankton"

Two presentations on grass carp; what they are and a case study of the process involved in introducing them into a lake

A case study on Canandaigua Lake

An overview of the Biological Field Station on Otsego Lake

Clean Water Act, Clean Lakes Program and New York

Note: These proceedings were mailed out in place of the Fall issue of *WATERWORKS*.

### **Do You Own a "Diet"?**

"Diet For A Small Lake: A New Yorker's Guide to Lake Management," written in cooperation with the NYSDEC and the Federation, is still available, but in limited quantities. If you've always wanted to have one, now is the time to order before they are all gone. This 278 page book, which covers everything you need to know to make sound lake management decisions, is available through the Federation office. Please send \$12.00 (pp.) for each copy requested.

**New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.**  
**2698 Shadyside Dr., Findley Lake NY 14736**  
**1-800-796-3652 (phone/fax)**

## 1996 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The following fees are for different classification of membership to the *New York State Federation of Lake Associations* as approved by the Board of Directors.

### Lake, Watershead and Other Associations;

- ( ) Small Assn., 10-74 Members----- \$35.00
- ( ) Medium Assn., 75-149 Members----- \$75.00
- ( ) Large Assn., 150 or more Members----- \$150.00
- ( ) Park Districts (Town, County, or Governmental)----- \$200.00
- ( ) Individual Membership (no affiliation)----- \$20.00
- ( ) Individual Membership (member of NYSFOLA organization in good standing)----- \$10.00
- NYSFOLA member organization\_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Corporate Membership----- \$200.00
- ( ) Student Membership----- \$10.00
- Name of School\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete form and return with payment to the *NYSFOLA TREASURER* at the above address. Membership is based on the **CALENDAR YEAR**.

Thank You,  
 Donald Keppel  
 Treasurer NYSFOLA

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

Location of lake, watershed or other; \_\_\_\_\_ County

### Mailing address:

Fee enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other contacts and addresses;

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_



## Our Mission

The Mission of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange, and collaborative efforts.

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This issue of Waterworks is being printed without a sponsor. If your organization or corporation would like to help NYSFOLA fund, prepare and/or print this Quarterly Newsletter, please contact the office.

Editor- Donald Keppel

## BBS and the INTERNET

In other locations in this issue you have noticed references to the Internet. As we progress into this year, the office will have a computer on-line. This will give anyone that has an on-line system the possibility of leaving messages and asking questions at anytime. Further information will be in the next issue.

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a leader needs to look back once in awhile to make sure he has followers!

## Volunteer assistance is greatly Appreciated!!

A special thanks goes to our volunteer for this issue. George Kelley, of DeRyter Lake Association, who so kindly took on the job of formulating this issue. Much effort is required to publish the 'Waterworks' and all help is greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to contribute articles or assist in this endeavor, **PLEASE**, contact the office.

George and Nancy Kraft also have completed a wealth of information on lakes and Associations in our state. This notebook will be at the May conference for your review and update.

**Thank you George and Nancy!!**

## WATERWORKS

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Also; Two Inserts; Bluebird license plates  
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