



**Invasive Aquatic Plants**

**in Lakes**

**A Conversation**

**May 5, 2024**

**Ken Belfer, President, Mohegan  
Lake Improvement District**

**Natural Lake**

**Located in Northern Westchester**

**Town of Yorktown**

**103 Acres, 1 mile long**

**Average depth 12'**

**Eutrophic Lake**

**Limited Inflow and Outflow**

**Highly Developed Watershed**

## Lake Mohegan Associations



# MOHEGAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



**Caring for our lake and building community**

- **Special Tax District formed in 1975 by lake residents**
- **Approx. 1,800 tax parcels in Yorktown and Cortlandt**
- **Volunteer board, part-time summer staff (4)**
- **Approx. \$90,000 annual budget**



## **What We've Done Right**

- **Water Chestnut(trapa natans) infestation**
- **When we realized it, it was widespread**
- **Lesson learned: watch what's growing in your lake**

- **Started with volunteer effort**
- **Flotilla of kayaks, canoes, jon boats**
- **Hand pulling**
  - **Mother-daughter plants**





**We are now in Year 14 of Water chestnut eradication**

**Only finding “trace” numbers of plants . . . .**

We also have:

Curly-Leaved Pondweed (*potamogeton crispus*)



- **Grows very early in season**
- **Dies off in early summer**
- **Mid-season decomposition contributes to**
  - **Biological oxygen demand at lake bottom?**
  - **Anoxic conditions contributing to internal loading?**
- **Became dominant in certain areas for a few years**



- **We decided to “mow” the curly-leaved pondweed with our mechanical weed harvester**
  - **Prior to die-off**
  - **to remove some mass of nutrients from lake ecosystem**



**We harvested for a few years, until curly-leaved pondweed mysteriously ceased to be so predominant.**

# **What We've Done "Wrong"**

- **Eurasian Watermilfoil (myriophyllum) is by far the pre-dominant invasive**
- **We clear the beach areas using the
  - weed harvester
  - And a weed razer**
- **Milfoil spreads by fragmentation**

**Now that I have shared about Mohegan,**

**it's your turn to share!**



