

**Western Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area Fall Meeting
Bates Township Hall
October 15, 2009, 9 am**

Introductions

Participants: Bruce Nelson, Ruth Nelson, Arlene Stuchlak, Joe Shubat, Arny & Karen Domanus (Long Lake, ISCCW), Robb Langjar (Aquatic Biologists Inc.), Paul Leisten (Aquatic Biologists Inc.), Paul Dalpra (Lake Mary Association), Jerry Losey (Chicagon Lake), Jill Des Jarlais (Emily Lake Association), Steve Babler (USFS), Tom Ollila (Swan Lake Association), William Bach, Mike Golas (Sunset Lake), Larry Bergwall (Runkle Lake), David Stanek (Iron County Conservation District), Gail Dalpra (Iron County Conservation District, CWMA Treasurer), Ian Shackelford (USFS), Sue Trull (USFS), Bob Evans (USFS), Norm Nass (USFS). 21 total people.

Presentation

Topic: Invasive mussels and snails in our area. PowerPoint slide show, will be posted on the CWMA webpage. New aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussel and snails were discussed. Zebra mussels were discovered in Hagerman Lake in 2009. Notes below are in addition to what is shown on the slides.

Chinese mystery snail—food item in SE Asia. Bob Evans notes that if you find any large snails, over 1.5 inches, bring a sample to an Ottawa NF office. These larger snails are likely invaders such as Chinese mystery snail. These came in 1892 to San Francisco and have been spreading ever since. Reportedly in Runkle Lake. Larry Bergwall notes he has not seen them there. Bob says he saw them about 3 years ago near the boat landing. The larvae are small and free-swimming, and can be carried in water to another lake. This led to a discussion on cleaning, boat washing, bleach in wells, etc.

Banded mystery snail—found in Lake Gogebic; had a big die-off. Note that the non-native snails have operculums (small round shell that forms a “trap door”); native snails do not.

New Zealand mud snail discussed.

Zebra mussel. A participant had a question as to whether zebra mussels could get into septic tanks. We do not think so. A participant had a question as to how zebra mussels occur in their native Caspian Sea. Answer: native predators keep them in check; there is no massive population as can occur in US without these same predators. A Canadian researcher is working on bacterial biocontrol for zebra mussels.

Chicagon Lake residents report that you need water socks to walk/swim in their lake, since all surfaces are covered by zebra mussels with sharp edged shells. Lake clarity has increased, and there is a deeper rooting depth. Reps from Aquatic Biologists note they are seeing Eurasian watermilfoil moving into deeper water in lakes with zebra mussels.

Fortune Pond, a local scuba area, has had zebra mussels documented since 2001. They were found in Chicagon in 2006, and in Hagerman in 2009 (confirmed by Bill Ziegler, MI DNR).

Quagga mussel. Similar to zebra, perhaps greater impacts. Found in Lake Michigan in 2002.

Question/comment about Lake Ottawa—seems to have more greening, color change over the last 3 years, probably due to algae. Perhaps the rusty crayfish consuming the aquatic plants have encouraged the lake algae.

Group Discussion about WUP CWPMA Needs and Ideas

Group notes a need for portable boat washers. Watersmeet Lake Guards have allocated funds to acquire a second boat washer in 2010. Iron County perceives a need for public education about invasive species and movement. They think the people who do not live on lakes need increased awareness; they suggest county fair as venue for outreach, or a meeting at the public library (this could draw 30-40 people).

Ian Shackelford reported that the CWMA does not (still) have an official chair. Contact Ian to volunteer for this position. Gail Dalpra remains our treasurer; thanks to Gail for her service. Ian showcased the Watersmeet model—the Lake Guards—as a good example that perhaps Iron County could emulate. He suggested a few folks from Iron County attend a Watersmeet ISCCW meeting for ideas (contact Will Buergey in Watersmeet).

The Ottawa raised in 2009 and will again in 2010, biocontrol beetles (*Galerucella* species) for purple loosestrife control. Michigan members of CWMA may obtain beetles from the Ottawa next spring if they have an infestation suitable to release the insects (contact Ian for more info).

Round Robin of Lake Issues

Ian went through a PowerPoint of known AIS infestations within the CWMA. Representatives from lakes at the meeting gave the latest news from their lakes.

Bass Lake: EWM has gotten worse, weeds are denser. No weevils were added in 2009. Samples were taken and sent to Dr. Ryan Thum of Grand Valley State Univ. who conducts genetic testing on milfoils. They tested out as Eurasian watermilfoil. Courtney Marquette of EnviroScience (company that sells milfoils weevils for control) had also sent samples that tested out as variable leaved watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). None of the hybrid milfoil was found in testing.

Langford: 2003-2006 had treatments for EWM by landowners. Then Army Corps of Engineers research study was begun. Early spring treatments occurred in 2007, 2008, 2009 with 8.5 tons of 2,4-D applied as granular Navigate in 07 and 08. These treatments brought the EWM down from 111 acres in 2007 to 40 acres in 2009. There was also an experimental fall treatment in 2009. Three patches were treated with Navigate, and three patches were not treated.

Pomeroy: EWM treatments in 2004-2006. Population erupted in 2007. Ottawa is working on how to address this infestation.

Crooked: EWM found in 2002 at boat launch. Handpulling in 2003, Renovate (triclopyr) treatment in 2004, then 2,4-D. 2005-2009 handpulling. A few more plants found in 2009, but all still within the north bay.

Duck: EWM treatment 2005-2009, with most of infestation treated each year with 2,4-D, 5-15 ac/yr. Seems to be getting worse this year. Duck group has 2 certified applicators and they plan to treat on their own next year (vs. previous contracts with outside applicators).

CCROA: Clearwater Lake was treated for EWM again this year. It is doing well. They need to treat about every 3rd year. Curly leaf pondweed was treated in 2008 and 2009 in Lindsley and that area of Chain, with Aquatholl K. Reports of EWM found in Big Lake on the WI side.

LVD: EWM found only in Slaughter Bay in 2008. This area (on the Wisconsin side) was treated late in summer 2009.

Ice: EWM found in 2004. Chemical treatments conducted in 2005-07. In 2008, they added weevils, mostly on the north side where EWM was generally present. They used buoys to ring this area off. Iron and Buck Lakes also obtained weevils.

Runkle: EWM found in 2006. Treated 4.4 ac. Treated 2006 to 2009, with Navigate. Treatments appeared to have no effect in 2008 and 2009. In 2008, samples were sent to Dr. Ryan Thum. Genetic testing shows Runkle Lake has the hybrid milfoil. Chad Cason treated the lake once it got to 60 degrees. In 3 weeks, it looked like it had been fertilized. Larry Bergwall reports now that the treatment appeared to have no effect at all. He has observed that the stalk appears to be bigger on the hybrid milfoil. EnviroScience (milfoil weevil purveyor) suggested their weevils would not work on the hybrid due to the aggressive growth and this bigger stalk. Larry notes the lake association has spent \$10,000 for nothing. Chad is looking into a combination of chemicals to try. The lake water level is down 4-5 ft, allowing more growing area for EWM/hybrid. They are on hold for any further treatments. The Runkle group also put up a large sign at the boat launch, stating the lake has invading milfoil. This plus the lower water level has resulted in decreased boat traffic. Larry thinks the original treatment worked on the EWM but then the hybrid took over. He notes that Chad and John Skogerboe (Army Corps) all tried hard.

Chicagon: In 2009, they added 8,000 weevils for biocontrol. Weevils were put in one bay only, the SW bay with stream. Chicagon folks have spent \$15,200 over the last 3 years on their lake. EnviroScience report is due in Dec. They surveyed it one month after weevil placement, and reported they thought it was a good start. They also found a patch of EWM at the landing which had weevils (local, not placed weevils) already on it. The County plans to install a high pressure boat wash at its Pentoga Park on Chicagon Lake. The project is in the stage of the road engineering study. They plan to have the access force people to go past washer to get to lake. (Contact: John Faccin, County Parks and Rec.) Thanks to Jerry Losey and the Chicagon Lake Association, for applying for and receiving a \$2250 grant from the BoatU.S. Foundation to rent Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker highway billboards near Ironwood and Iron River this summer.

Paint River Pond: WE Energies is conducting some treatment trials. We need to contact Jessica Mistak for more information. [On 11-5-09 Ian spoke with Mike Grisar of We Energies. They are finishing a monitoring report and will share when it is done. Mike noted Lower Paint Reservoir, Michigamme Falls, and Peavy Falls also have EWM.]

Buck: EWM found 2005, weevils placed 2008 fall. There is a band of EWM along the N shore, it is abundant in lake.

Emily: Dara Olson (GLIFWC) found CLP in 2007. None seen since. There are lots of native plants in the lake, seems to be going out of control. Lake Emily rep noted he had been there 40 years and had friends who have lived there for 70 years; none have seen the current level of weeds. Jill Des Jarlais sent Ian sample from Lake Emily in September; they were native northern water-milfoil, but were unusually vigorous. Ian suggested the lake collect another live same and send to Ryan Thum for genetic testing. There has been a reduction in the wild rice beds apparently due to large motor-boat traffic. Macrophytes present include only submergents now: coontail, pondweeds, Najas. Muskies were added in the 1970s, speculation that these bottom feeders kept sediment stirred up slowing plant colonization. Lake depth seems to be constant, it is pretty shallow (<6 ft) in places. North end is stable, south end is very weedy. Bob Evans outlined the process if they wanted to replant wild rice (need landowner permission).

Prickett: in 2008, EWM was up to 113 acres mapped. Upper Peninsula Power Co. has proposals to treat EWM only at the boat launch and then try a drawdown for elsewhere. The previous drawdown (2003-04) resulted in increased EWM once the basin refilled.

No new EWM/CLP infestations were reported in 2009 in our CWMPA area.

Questions/other discussion

Iron County lake owners think that there needs to be increased awareness of lake shore landscaping and related practices, that more people need to understand why mowing right up to the shoreline is a bad idea; why fertilizer and pesticide use needs to be adjusted by lakes, etc. The Ottawa will try to provide some workshops or presentations on lakeshore best management practices in 2010 (a couple reference brochures were sent out following the meeting to our CWMA members). A good reference book is [Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality](#) by the Minnesota DNR.

Are there any success stories for EWM control? Yes, Crooked Lake is a good example. Also, note how many lakes we have without any aquatic invaders. Michigan has new laws that should help prevent spread.

Are migratory birds a vector for AIS spread? Not usually.

Discussion about buoy use: recommendation that a sample buoy be installed at the boat launch with a sign explaining what it is marking. This may help prevent boaters thinking the buoys mark good fishing holes or rocks to avoid.

Sunset Lake boat wash is used more as a car wash than as intended. Some boaters skip washing if their boat is already clean or they have not been in any waters they know to be infested, so it's harder to tell effectiveness. Arny Domanus noted the Watersmeet portable washer has been quite successful and has gotten a positive response from people. They park it 1 day/week at a gas station in Land O' Lakes and 1 day/week at Nordine's in Watersmeet, as well as taking to boat launches on Watersmeet Township lakes.

Long Lake: John Skogerboe and Angelo Poovey of Army Corps are conducting surveys in Long Lake to compare plant communities with Langford. They are particularly interested in *Lobelia dortmanna* reaction to treatment for EWM (Long Lake is the no-treatment control to treatment in Langford).

Arny offers that people can sign up for the MI Lakes and Stream newsletter for lake information (see MLSA website). It is also time to sign up for the cooperative lakes monitoring program of MI L&S if you are interested. Contact Arny for more info.

Great Lake Restoration Initiative: EPA is expected to have considerable funding over the next 5 or so years to distribute to agencies for Great Lakes work, including aquatic invasive species. The Ottawa is likely to get funds for more boat washers and perhaps to fund staff for these washers. We may also be able to apply in 2011 for funds for the CWMA through this program. Stay tuned.