

Association for the Preservation of Long Pond

83 Dunaskin Rd., Centerville, MA 02632

October 6, 2005

Dear Members:

As we look back to the conditions we faced in 2001, we can all say we have a lot to be thankful for. Our Lake was literally under siege. Hydrilla had totally taken over the entire eastern basin and was spreading into the middle and western basins. Waterfowl by the hundreds were feasting on the hydrilla as it grew to heights exceeding the six feet – high enough to actually reach the surface in the eastern basin. Swimming there was no longer an option. Even the sturdy Fire department scuba divers who tried to complete training exercises from the Town Beach found it was impossible to navigate the heavy growth of hydrilla.

2002 thru 2004

The Lake was treated with the herbicide Sonar in 2002 with excellent results. By the end of that summer we could no longer find hydrilla actually growing in any of the basins. As expected, however, the Sonar treatment was only about 80-90% effective on the tubers that remained embedded in the bottom of the lake. As a result, we had to treat again in 2003 and 2004 in order to keep the hydrilla growth from those tubers to a minimum and to hope that we could continue to eliminate roughly 80-90% of the remaining tubers each year.

Summer 2005

Coming into the summer season of 2005, we expected to find less hydrilla than in previous year as the cumulative effect of the previous 3 treatments continued to take hold. Our expectations were met, in spades! Hydrilla was actually hard to find, and then only in relatively small patches about 2 to 5 inches high in parts of the eastern basin. But the best news was that hydrilla plants were no longer to be found in the middle basin or the western basin! As a result, the Sonar treatment was confined to the eastern basin by installing barriers across the eastern end of the basin. Aquatic Control Technology treated the eastern basin 3 times during the course of the summer using both liquid and pelletized Sonar. As in previous years, the Sonar was maintained at very low, yet effective, levels of concentration and we were once again extremely pleased with the professionalism and expertise of the people from Aquatic Control Technology.

Next Year

We will now have to wait until the spring of 2006 to fully assess the results of this year's treatments but all indications are that we will be closer to the elusive goal of eradicating hydrilla from Long Pond, but not quite all the way there.

Thanks Again!

Once again we need to extend our thanks to Town officials for their continuing help in restoring our beautiful lake. It should also be noted that their actions have also served to prevent the spread of hydrilla to other Lakes in Barnstable, Cape Cod and New England. Were it not for help from the Town Council, Town Manger John Klimm, our Conservation Commission and the Mass. Lakes and Ponds Program, we would we not be able to submit the progress report above. We also need to once again thank Dr. William Haller, the renowned hydrilla expert from the University of Florida, for his continued interest and expert advice.

Without taking anything away from all the folks mentioned above, we have to once again single out Roy Richardson, our Town Councilor, and Rob Gatewood, head of the Conservation Division, for their support and interest in our Association's goals. They are both truly extraordinary by any measurement of performance and are gentlemen of the first order. We are fortunate they have been at their posts during this time of need.

Purple Loosestrife

Thanks to all those who worked at removing their shoreline Purple Loosestrife plants. We really made a lot of progress at the end of the summer. However, we will need to do more next summer if we are to keep ahead of this rapid-spreading invasive shoreline plant which likes to crowd out our desirable native plants.

Our Duck Population

Believe it or not this is becoming a serious problem. Ducks go where they are treated the best and if people on or near the pond provide a place for the ducks to eat, they will take up residency on our pond. Everyone likes ducks. They are cute. They are beautiful as they fly overhead. They are nice to have on the pond. BUT only in reasonable numbers! Our resident duck population has steadily risen over the last 3 years from 20-30 to approximately 60 last year and to over 100 this year. Far too much "fertilizer" and fecal bacteria for a small lake. The main concentration of the duck population is along the Piney Point Drive waterfront and the water clarity levels there are now measurably lower than is found in other nearby locations. Hamblin's Pond turned green a number of years ago when someone decided it would be OK to have a duck farm at the edge of the lake. It was eventually returned to normal after closing the duck farm but there is a lesson there for us to contemplate. We need everyone's compliance and help on this issue. Once again, please **please** don't feed the ducks!

Annual Meeting

The 2005 Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, October 17** in the Parish Hall at Our Lady of Victory Church on South Main Street in Centerville. The meeting will begin at 7 PM and will last for perhaps one hour. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting providing attendees a chance to socialize or informally discuss issues of interest. Please plan to attend to show your support for your Association, or in the alternative, to show your desire to win the drawing for a 2006 champagne cruise on Long Pond. ☺

Our Treasury and Dues

Thanks to support from the membership through dues and voluntary contributions, and a transfer of the funds from the original Committee for the Preservation of Long Pond, we now have a bank balance of a little over \$5,000. While that is clearly enough to cover all known and expected expenses for 2006, we do need to maintain sufficient funds to provide for the possibility of unexpected expenses should things not go as smoothly as they have over the last four years. We therefore expect to ask the membership for sustaining dues in 2006 at a reduced level of \$10 for the year. Initial membership dues will remain at \$25.

Hope everyone had a great summer. Look forward to seeing many of you on October 17 at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,



Jerry Gilmore, APLP Chairman
and

The APLP Steering Committee:

Dick Teel Barbara Enos
Bob Enos Kallie Garoufes
Tony Antin Ron Sirch
Walt Jebens
David Elmer, MD
Ted Schilling, Esq.



Subj: **Long Pond Update**
Date: 8/1/2005 11:09:45 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Sirchmo
To: jfgilmore@pclient.ml.com, garoufes@cape.com, Balion38, tony1947@earthlink.net, Jean1947@earthlink.net, delmer@capecod.net, law@cape.com, wjebens@comcast.net
CC: jsirch@cape.com

Mr. Gilmore -
Steering Committee Members -

A couple of notes on the recent bump up sonar treatment FYI. (of 7/27)

This bump up treatment was undertaken on a rather short time schedule following the initial treatment. This occurred because the FastTest readings showed that the Sonar concentration levels were at the very low end of the target concentration. Being that we use very low concentrations to start with, there was a concern that the targeted hydrilla plants could begin to get established and begin to produce turions and tubers. At the time of treatment last Wednesday, the Aquatic Control folks were pleased to see that the time-release Sonar pellets had kicked in and we were progressing nicely with regard to our objectives. Significantly more chlorosis (whitening) was observed than 10 days earlier. In short, we are now on target relative to the hydrilla treatment.

Overall the Lake is doing well. Clarity levels are good, especially considering we are now in August and the Lake has to struggle a bit as the water warms. We have less microscopic algae than last year but I believe a bit more filamentous algae. The filamentous algae sometimes grows into clumps which are quite unsightly to say the least when they are floating on the surface. The experts tell me this phenomenon is "perfectly normal." "There is risk if you try to manage the algae." On a comparative basis, Long Pond looks fabulous. I've looked at number of other lakes, including Saratoga Lake in Upstate New York and a number of Lakes in Vermont. On a comparative basis Long Pond shines. Like the jewel it is.

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Concerns include a once again rising duck population and 13 to 16 permanent resident geese. These guys go where they are treated the best so please remember to remind folks DO NOT FEED the waterfowl. Absorbing their "nutrients" along with unbelievable amounts of pollen and leaves from our huge number of shoreline trees is hard work for the Lake. The other concern is the reemergence of our friend the purple loosestrife. Pretty but they get too aggressive and can multiply rapidly. I have some and have begun to remove them. Hard work but it should be done. The large number of loosestrife plants on the former Scibelli estate have been removed.

Getting close to Annual Meeting planning time. If you have any ideas, please let Jerry know. Our Lady of Victory has worked well so that is the leading candidate for now.

A membership letter is still in the works and should be ready to go by the end of this week.

Best regards to all.

Ron