

CLCS LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2009 REPORT/2010 PLANS

Copake Lake weathered another year. The water was clean and clear, the rains raised the water level higher than anyone wanted and the invasive milfoil weed made a strong return. The Lake Management Committee (LMC) works hard to keep up with the challenges presented by the evolution of the lake. Here is a summary of what happened and what is being done:

Clarity and Algae: The lake stayed clearer than any year in recent memory. Even on Labor Day the lake clarity was 7 feet, much better than our 5 foot target. For the second year in a row the permit to add copper sulfate to the lake was not used. The green scummy algae (filamentous algae) brought some complaints in areas around the shore, as was also the case in 2008.

- 2010 Plan is to again obtain permits for the application of copper sulfate in June and August in order to maintain water clarity. Copper sulfate was not used in 2008 or 2009, so it may not be needed for clarity. In addition, there is a plan to address the filamentous algae. George Knoecklein, Ph.D. (our Lake Management Consultant) will survey the lake in June and July and if the filamentous algae is widespread, spot copper sulfate treatments close to shore may be proposed to reduce it. This spot application would fall under the planned permit and treatment dates would be coordinated in order to limit lake closings during the summer.

Weed Management: The invasive milfoil got worse in 2009. There was complete control of curly leaf pondweed, but milfoil was showing up in more places. As of September, milfoil increased 50% (7.6 acres vs 4.9 acres in 2008). Other lakes have also seen more weeds this year. The clearer water and higher nutrient content washed in by the heavy rains probably contributed to more growth. Some historical perspective is needed. The lake was treated with Sonar® in 2002 to kill the milfoil giving 3 to 5 years of relief. Spot treatments with Aquathol® started in 2005 to control curly leaf pondweed and milfoil. To maintain fish habitat, all sides of Mosquito Island and the south and east sides of Country Club Island were no-treatment areas. This year the milfoil growth in the untreated areas was thick, abundant and infringing on boat traffic. It is now time to control these areas to reduce the amount of milfoil which throws off fragments that seed other areas of the lake. Aquatic Control Technology (CLCS's licensed applicator) recommended that CLCS apply for a permit to use diquat dibromide (Reward®), which is both more specific to milfoil than Aquathol® and considerably less expensive than Renovate®.

- 2010 Plan: Submit the same permit application as in 2009 to spot treat invasive weeds with Aquathol® and Renovate®. Submit a parallel permit for alternate to apply Reward®. Treatment areas will be expanded to approximately 50 acres.

Lake Level / Shoreline: The lake level was low through June when the rains began. Copake Lake saw 10 inches of rain (vs normal 3 inches) in both June and July which kept the lake level as much as 6 inches above normal. The high level contributed to shoreline erosion and washed organic material into the lake.

- 2010 Plan. Draw down the lake after Columbus Day and close the dam in late winter to reestablish lake level by Memorial Day.

Zebra Mussels: The discovery of zebra mussels in Laurel Lake in Lee, MA raised questions about Copake Lake. Zebra mussels have not been found in Copake Lake, so inspection and cleaning of incoming boats is encouraged. Communication with lakes that have zebra mussels indicate that they are a nuisance, but not a menace.

Lake Water Quality: The sampling for fecal coliform and e-coli bacteria taken in July indicated that Copake Lake water quality is better than all NY state requirements.

In summary, Copake Lake is in good shape. It does not get that way on its own. It takes vigilance, hard work and money. The Lake Management budget for 2010 will be over \$80,000 for monitoring, testing and treatment.

Fred Bunger
Lake Management Committee

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SAFETY DURING THE EVENING HOURS ON COPAKE LAKE

It's a beautiful summer night, the moon is full – time for a kayak ride. What a great idea!

But just as with all boating, safety precautions must be taken. All vessels, with or without engines, must have appropriate lights.

This past summer on a full moon evening, some of us paddlers got together and it was spectacular. We all had PFDs (personal floatation devices), flashlights or lanterns, proper foot wear and we dressed according to the temperature.

Colleen Gursky found that if you put your light in the hull of your kayak, the whole front of it will glow! Try it out. It was wild looking. That evening we even had Phil Hauseman join us paddling his canoe. In total, there were eight of us enjoying a summer's night on the Lake.

The next night four of us went out. I saw a motor boat and a kayak after dark without any lights. This is very dangerous. We all love having fun on the lake, but let's keep in mind that we all need to be safe on the water.

Denise Chickery



Kevin M. Hill

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KIDS DISCOVER COPAKE LAKE

With nets in hand and much enthusiasm thirteen young folks from the lake community explored the Copake Lake habitat on a beautiful Friday afternoon in August. Jenny Brinker, a conservation specialist from the Columbia Land Conservancy, assisted the kids. The children collected plants, animals and learned about the interdependence of species within the lake. They also gained an appreciation for the variety of organisms living in and around the lake. Participants included Angelina Oliveira, Sam and Alex Fleitz, Samantha, Nicholas and Nadine Karchmer, Michelle and Troy Spiezia, Lillian Shiller, Austin and Serena Green, Alison Miller and her friend Leslie.

This was the second year the CLCS has offered the program for young people. And from the response, it is a program that will be continued. A big thank you goes to Frank and Nancy Bader for graciously offering the use of their boat basin for our study.

Barbara Bunger
Education Committee



2009 BOAT CENSUS ON COPAKE LAKE

Since 2000 (except for 2008), an informal boat census has been taken in August. It is not a scientific survey. We only count the boats that can be seen from the lake so is not very accurate or repeatable. The trends, however, are interesting.

Type of watercraft	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009
Inboard	145	71	92	100	94	98	119	111	119
Large outboard	Incl	73	67	71	68	74	64	64	55
Small outboard (<15 hp)	22	34	29	23	23	18	20	20	20
Pontoon boats	27	35	39	46	62	66	70	78	71
Personal Water Craft	44	40	49	57	58	83	71	55	54
Row boats	?	48	55	46	63	59	51	65	58
Sailboats	?	30	30	27	37	31	36	32	18
Canoes	?	51	46	52	53	42	48	49	43
Kayaks	?	19	33	47	60	74	98	109	112
Paddleboats	?	20	20	29	26	21	16	18	19
Total watercraft		421	460	498	544	566	593	601	569

Comments:

- For the first time, the total number of craft decreased. We noticed that several docks were not even installed this year and that there were empty slips at the marinas. Recession?
- The total number of motorized craft decreased slightly. And for the first time the number of pontoon boats fell rather than increasing.
- The number of PWC has remained about the same.
- Kayaks continue to increase. Keep fit!
- Rowboats, canoes and paddleboats have shifted a little, but that may be due to seeing fewer boats on the shore this year.
- Where have the sailboats gone?

Data by **Fred & Barbara Bunger** with no guarantee of accuracy.


"THIS COULD BE COPAKE LAKE..."

No, this is not Copake Lake; but it could very well be if it weren't for those community members who join the Copake Lake Conservation Society (CLCS). It is not a natural phenomenon that Copake Lake is in such wonderful condition. It takes a lot of hard work and money to keep a lake in pristine shape. Left to nature, the lake would evolve into a swamp not fit for swimming, boating, fishing, water skiing or any other water activity. But this is not the case. CLCS carefully monitors the water quality and takes whatever action is necessary to insure that the lake remains clean and ecologically balanced. This includes hiring a lake expert (limnologist), treating the lake with safe chemicals to control evasive weeds and algae, protecting native plants and fish populations as well as acting as liaison to governmental and community organizations.


All the members of the CLCS are volunteers who live on or near the lake; some are full time residents while many are seasonal residents. The one common denominator is the love for Copake Lake. You may be surprised to learn that we spend more than \$50,000 annually to maintain the lake's water quality. We also sponsor boating safety courses, children's programs, lake educational and social events. This is all accomplished entirely through donations and various fund raisers during the summer. We receive no federal or state funding of any kind.

To help support our efforts, please become a member of CLCS by donating \$100 or more to our organization (it's tax deductible to boot). Without your help, our beautiful, picturesque lake could easily resemble the picture above. What a tragedy that would be.

John Mastropolo
CLCS Secretary



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COPAKE LAKE – COPAKE, NY
Riparian Owner/User - Notification/ Consent Letter

Date of Notice: October, 2009

Dear Riparian Property Owner:

The Copake Lake Conservation Society, Inc. plans to continue aquatic weed and algae management at Copake Lake in 2010. Spot-treatment with an aquatic herbicide is planned to control the excessive growth of the curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. Due to re-growth and expanded cover of Eurasian watermilfoil seen in August 2009, a permit application is being filed to treat up to 50 acres with Reward Herbicide (active ingredient Diquat). Reward effectively controls both Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed, and it is considerably less expensive than the herbicides that have been used in recent years.

In the State of New York, the following water use restrictions must be imposed following treatment with Reward herbicide:

- Do not use the treated water for fishing, swimming, animal consumption, spraying, irrigation, or domestic purposes 14 days after treatment

These water use restrictions are more extensive than what is listed on the current EPA product label, but are consistent with the Section 24 (c) Special Local Need Label for use within the State of New York, to comply with rules and regulations of the Environmental Conservation Laws that date back to the 1960s and 1970s.

Treatment with Reward herbicide is tentatively scheduled for May 12, 2010, so that the required 14-day swimming restriction will end on Friday, May 27, 2010 in advance of the Memorial Day weekend.

If during the permit review process it is determined that a permit cannot be issued or that water use restrictions would be untenable, then another notice will be sent to abutters for treatment with Aquathol K herbicide and/or Renovate 3 herbicide, which were used at Copake Lake in 2009.

Permit approval is also being sought to be prepared to treat the lake with Copper Sulfate algaecide to control nuisance algal blooms, if required. Two treatments are tentatively scheduled for June 30, 2010 and July 28, 2010. These copper sulfate algaecide treatments will only be performed if CLCS determines that they are needed. No copper sulfate algaecide treatments were performed in 2008 or 2009.

In the State of New York, the following water use restrictions must be imposed following treatment with Copper Sulfate algaecide:

- Do not bathe, swim, water domestic animals or use for domestic purposes for 24 hours after treatment

These treatments will proceed only after the CLCS obtains a permit for the treatment from the DEC. Prior notification of the exact dates of treatment will be provided by posting of the lake shoreline.

As an affected riparian owner/user, you have the right to consent or object to the restrictions of water use listed above resulting from the proposed treatments.

You have twenty-one (21) days to respond to this notice. If you wish to object to the proposed treatment(s), please file a written document stating your objection to the proposed treatment and the water use restrictions resulting from the treatment. Send your comments to the person listed below:

NYS DEC

Bureau of Pesticide Management
1150 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306

If you would like further information about the treatment, copies of the product labels, or information on the exact dates of the pesticide application, please contact the following person:

Name of Contact Person: Marc Bellaud, Aquatic Control Technology, Inc.
Telephone Number / E-mail: (508) 865-1000 / MBellaud@AquaticControlTech.com
Hours Contact Person is Available: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. weekdays

If you do not respond to this notice, your lack of response will be considered to be consent to the proposed treatment. If you have any questions on the permitting process please contact the Department representative listed above.