

CLCS SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER LAKE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Another winter past, another spring sprung and Copake Lake is getting ready for summer 2009.

The fall, winter and spring are times the Lake Management Committee (LMC) activity is highest:

- In November the lake was lowered to reduce shoreline erosion. The valve was closed in February to have the lake full by Memorial Day. The Town of Copake removed sediment from the drainage into the lake west of Copake Lake Boat & Ski Marina. This shallow area was starting to become a hazard. Thanks Town of Copake!

- In April, NY State issued a permit for treating Copake Lake to control invasive weeds and algae blooms. In May, 45 acres of the lake were treated with Aquathol K® to knock down the Curly Leaf Pondweed and retard growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil. In an attempt to knock down persistent Milfoil along Route 7 at the south end of Copake Lake, Renovate 3® was added in this 10 acre area.

- The NY State permit included copper sulfate treatment tentatively planned for June 24 and August 5, 2009. Weekly water clarity measurements will determine if the copper sulfate is required or not. (In 2008, the lake clarity stayed at more than 5 feet without adding copper sulfate).

The Lake Management Committee asks everyone using the lake to observe some common sense guidelines to help keep Copake Lake clean and safe:

- Shoreline erosion is an increasing problem. To minimize the effect, run your watercraft at a speed that throws the smallest wake and stay at least 100 feet from shorelines when you are at speeds above 5 MPH.

- Cut back on fertilizer near the shore. Get your septic system cleaned and do not let leaves, grass and trash get into the lake. All of these things add nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. If you fertilize your property, please use a low phosphorus selection.

- Stay clear of weedy areas with your watercraft. We leave some sections of Copake Lake untreated to encourage habitat for fish and wildlife.

- If you have nuisance weeds along your shoreline, remove them carefully. Get the plant with the roots and dispose of the plants away from the lake. Milfoil spreads easily from fragments. If you are removing it, be careful to gather up stray pieces and remove them from the water.

Happy summer 2009 at Copake Lake!

Fred Bunger, Chairperson
Lake Management Committee



Photo by Denise Chickery

Chase Booth and Gray Davis
taking a beautiful sail on
a sunny day on the lake.

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