

## Blue Lake Eurasian Water Milfoil Harvest w/ Aquatic Plant Management

June 13, 2022

Oneida County Staff in Attendance: Madeline Hetland, Aubrey Nycz, and Stephanie Boismenu

Report by: Madeline Hetland, AIS Project Assistant

We started off in the morning to meet with the crew of volunteers from the lake association that would help pick up floating fragments of Eurasian Water Milfoil while it was being harvested by APM. Aubrey gave them an overview of Eurasian Water Milfoil and its effects, and we passed around images and identification cards. Currently, Blue Lake only has native milfoil and the hybrid variety, so we explained that we would be harvesting any milfoil due to the risk of it becoming invasive. We gave the volunteers maps of the lake and went over where the milfoil had been found in previous years and the suspected areas that we would be looking at today. We also showed them all the equipment we use in the field so they could have a better idea of how the harvesting works and what they should do if they find a plant themselves. The volunteers went out in kayaks with nets to collect any fragments. Stephanie also took out a kayak with an aquascope and net, and Aubrey and I followed behind in the county canoe. Aquatic Plant Management sent their divers/ snorkelers out in a few different areas of the lake. We also inspected the shoreline and shallower areas for other invasives. Stephanie found Chinese Mystery Snails and Banded Mystery Snails. Neither of which were previously recorded or confirmed to be on this lake, so Stephanie took a few samples and pictures of each. There were 7 milfoil plants found in one bay and a few plants by a private boat landing next to the bridge. All plants were removed successfully. Their next stop was by the resort that had confirmed milfoil growing and needed to be removed. It was a very windy and rainy day and there was a chance of thunderstorms so Aubrey and I headed off the lake before we could help out at the last stop for APM. There were many volunteers out in kayaks and a fishing boat helping out wherever they could.

● =Milfoil site

