



Eatonbrook Lake Association Newsletter **Fall 2019**

President: Rosalyn Bandy. VP: Colleen McSweeney.
Secretary: Paula Sievers. Treasurer: Amy Coulter.
Trustees: Mike Gleason, Donna Isbell, Ben Rogge, Sarah Roy.

Walleye Stocking & Milfoil: Information and Studies

Several years ago, ELA invited Paul Lord of SUNY Oneonta to an ELA meeting to discuss his research on the biocontrol of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant. His research hypothesis is that *overstocking* predatory fish will reduce panfish that eat the herbivorous insects that can help reduce milfoil presence. Paul's recommendation to ELA was to *overstock* walleye in accordance with his research. What exactly does he mean by "overstock"? NYSDEC's recommended annual stocking rate for fingerling walleye is 20 fish per acre. Eatonbrook is 272 acres, making the annual NYSDEC fingerling walleye stocking rate 5,440 fish per year. Paul's *overstocking* rate is 10x the NYSDEC rate, which would be 54,440 fingerlings per year for Eatonbrook. His research indicates that this is the fingerling stocking rate at which milfoil can be mitigated; below this rate, milfoil mitigation is not successful.

ELA began to stock walleye, but simple math indicates that we have fallen far short of Lord's research levels due to budgetary restrictions. The price of walleye averages about \$2 each.

Table 1. ELA's walleye stocking count compared to Paul Lord's recommended 54,440 walleye fingerlings:

Year	# Fish	% of Paul Lord's recommendation	Cost
2019	2900	5%	\$6,000
2017	2900	5%	\$6,000
2016	3800	7%	\$8,000
2015	2900	5%	\$6,000



*in 2018 the board decided to stock bass instead of walleye due to NYSDEC and Lord studies showing that walleye fingerlings have very low survivability.

(Note: Lord's 2016 research on DeRuyter Lake's walleye/milfoil is available on the ELA website <https://www.eatonbrooklakeassociation.com/> in the "taking care of our lake" section. NYSDEC reports that they performed a 2018 fish survey of DeRuyter Lake and saw 38 walleye. Of those 38, 24 were NYSDEC stocked fry and 14 were Lake Association stocked fingerlings. NYSDEC fisheries scientists say this indicates that fry are succeeding better than fingerlings.)

Walleye, cont'd.

The NYSDEC has stocked approximately 750,000 walleye fry each spring in Eatonbrook for many decades. The fisheries staff did a walleye-only fish survey in October 2016 and no walleye of any size were seen or collected. Due to the lack of results, NYSDEC did not write a report but provided this abstract:

Abstract: Eaton Brook Reservoir was electrofished on the night of October 4, 2016 for 2.5 hours of "on-time". The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the spring stocking of 760,000 walleye fry by collecting some young of the year walleye. No walleye were seen or collected during the survey; walleye (of any size) were the target species so no other fish were collected. NYSDEC Fisheries Biologist

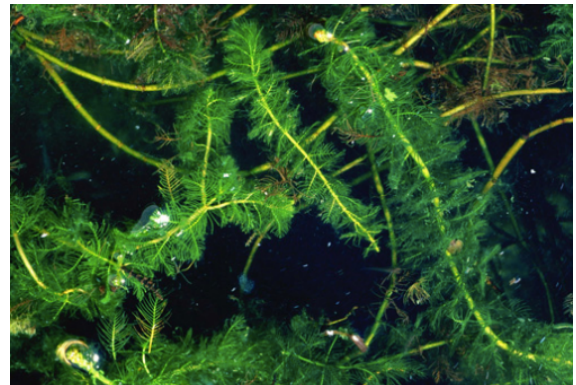
At the ELA membership meeting in August 2019, we had a motion and majority vote to continue to stock walleye fingerlings with a budget expenditure of \$6,000 out of our \$14,000 treasury balance. The fish have been ordered and a NYSDEC fish stocking permit was issued. Stocking typically occurs mid to late October.

Upcoming NYSDEC Meeting on Fish Stocking: The NYSDEC fisheries team intends to hold a public meeting during the winter months to review walleye and rainbow trout stocking proposals for both Eatonbrook and Lebanon. They would like to see just one species stocked in each lake rather than both species in both lakes. They will be discussing their fish survey findings, angler catch, and opinion data that they have collected to this point. Please watch for further communications on this topic.

Pyralid Moth larva



Eurasian watermilfoil



Recent field studies are showing that the naturalized pyralid moth, an herbivore which feeds on aquatic plants, is associated with declines in milfoil populations in Ontario and in New York State. The insect larvae are reducing biomass, plant height, and are preventing canopy formation. Read more at the New York Invasive Species Information website http://nyis.info/invasive_species/eurasian-watermilfoil/

Member News:

- The ELA bylaws update was approved at the August membership meeting. You can find the bylaws on our website.
- The Board is exploring the use of LED flares for next year's July 4th instead of conventional flares. The main reason is that conventional flares leave a residual pile of phosphorus ash which can end up in the lake. For more information on phosphorus in lakes:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77704.html>

- Mike Gleason is retiring as our CSLAP citizen scientist. Many thanks to Mike for his diligence and dedication. Jim Crawford will be stepping in as our new CSLAP citizen scientist.
- Are you interested in becoming an ELA trustee? Donna Isbell and Ben Rogge are in their final year of their term limit.
- Recording Secretary Paula Sievers has resigned. Please contact Roz or any member of the board if you have an interest in becoming interim secretary.
- The NYSDOT will begin the Fall drawdown in mid-October.

WMP:

ELA is partnering with Tuscarora Lake Association to collaborate with the Town of Nelson in watershed management planning. A stakeholder input meeting was held in August to capture initial TLA and ELA member concerns and ideas. Thanks to all who provided their input! We are in the process of documenting that meeting in a report that will be presented to the Town of Nelson in the coming weeks. The report will also be shared with all ELA and TLA members. Since the watershed spans many boundaries, we will also be including the Town of Eaton in the future. This is the very first step in a collaborative process and more opportunities will be available for lake stakeholders to be engaged and share your valuable ideas and thoughts.

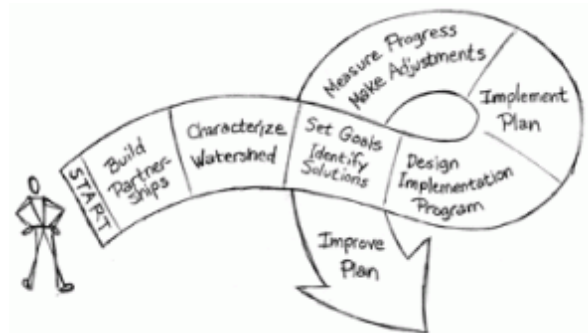


Photo courtesy of Amy Will

Let's all be citizen scientists and be on the alert for these
invasive aquatic plants



Water Chestnut. In August 2019, a large population of water chestnut was found in the south pond. Jim Cunningham reports that over 1800 plants were removed and the NYSDEC was notified. This is the first time this plant has been seen on our lake and it is possible that it may be in other parts of the lake, yet to be discovered. Tuscarora Lake had a small population of water chestnuts last year. **Please be on the lookout for these rapidly spreading plants.** If you think you see one, get a sample and put it in a container and contact Jim. jimcnwt@gmail.com



Hydrilla. Also known as water thyme, it is a submersed perennial plant that roots in the bed of a waterbody. It has long stems, up to 25 feet, that branch at the surface where growth becomes horizontal and forms dense mats. This is one of the **world's worst** invasive plants due to its extremely rapid growth and difficulty to eradicate. It is already in the finger lakes and many surrounding waterbodies.

http://nyis.info/invasive_species/hydrilla/

