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**Newsletter**

Editor: Fran Fish  
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**Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program Update**

*by Buzz Roberts*

Our Skaneateles program to help prevent the spread of invasive species into the lake began last August. I remember well that first rain drenched Saturday. Bob Dewitt and I sat hunkered down at the Mandana Town Launch with our recently trained stewards, Matt Wolford and Rachel Dewitt. Both were recent graduates of Skaneateles High School with Matt going off to Union College in the fall and Rachel to the University of Vermont. As the rain soaked stewards inspected a total of two boats that whole day, I recall either Bob or I saying, “Well this is certainly a worthwhile project.” By Labor Day last year, however, our stewards has inspected 701 boats and removed vegetation from 6%. The state average is between 10 and 12 % but Skaneateles has a higher average of boaters having launched from Skaneateles Lake as their previous body of water (521 boats). These boats are less likely to have vegetation on them.

This year we started on Memorial Day weekend. In addition to the State Launch on West Lake Road and the Town Launch at Mandana, which were monitored last year, we have placed our stewards at the south end of the lake inspecting the Glen Haven and Scott launches on weekends. As of July 10, 2013, a total of 1,440 boats (recreational and fishing) have been inspected at all of the launches.

We learned from experience last year that the State Launch was by far the most active site with the Skaneateles Town Launch serving as mainly an overflow site when the state parking spots were filled. As a result, the State Launch is now covered daily from 7am to 5pm and from 5:30am to 5:30pm on the weekends. What we have found this year is that the town of Scott Launch, on a small canal off Grout Brook, is very active with 40-50 boats launched per weekend day. The Glen Haven site sees fewer boats.

Last year inspections paid off with Invasive Asian Clams being removed from boats/trailers. This year, Invasive Water Chestnuts have been found on several occasions and removed prior to boats entering the lake. Hydrilla, a prolific weed, able to grow a foot in one day and mat the lake surface, has yet to be encountered. Hydrilla had been discovered clogging the Cayuga Lake Inlet but, after multiple chemical treatments, there is no evidence of it in the inlet or the lake. Unlike Milfoil, which can be controlled by matting and hand pulling,



**Lake Steward David DuBois inspecting a fishing boat before launching at the State Boat Launch on a cold morning.**

Hydrilla grows with tubers (bulbs) in the sediment of the lake bottom. Hence, it requires chemical treatment in attempts to remove it.

Our initial concern last year was that our stewards would meet with hostility from some boaters. Just the opposite, however, has occurred. Most all of the fishermen and recreational boaters have been compliant and a good many enthusiastic about the program. Our educational message continues to be: “Clean, Dry, and Drained.” It will take a village of boaters with this motto to ensure that our lakes remain free from these invasive hitch-hikers.

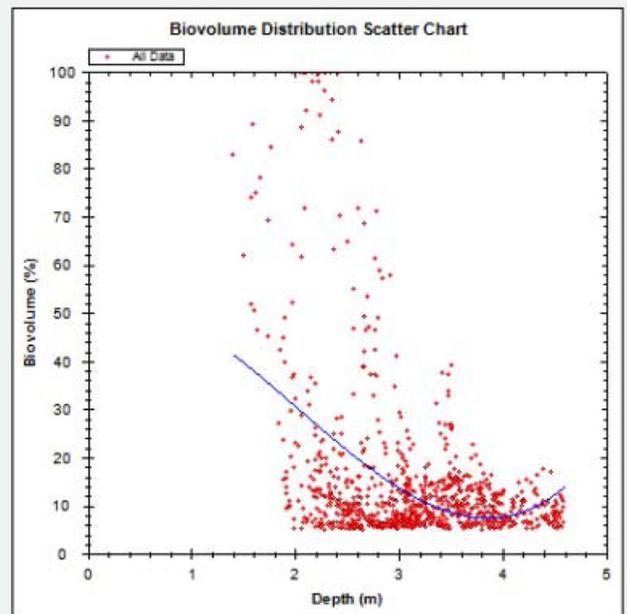
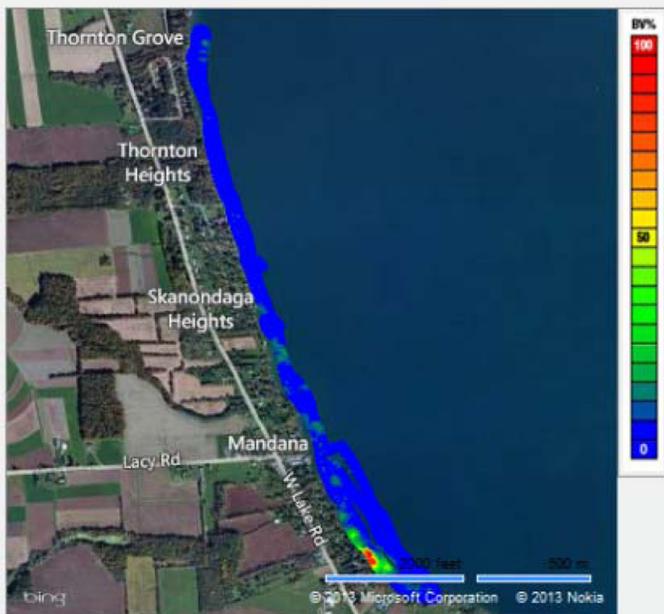
- by Bob Werner

The Skaneateles Lake Association has been working to control Eurasian watermilfoil in Skaneateles Lake for seven years now. As a part of that process we have tried to keep track of the milfoil population using a simple transect methodology. We would circumnavigate the entire lake at about the 10-12 foot contour interval visually noting the size and location of milfoil patches. We are now moving to a new and far better system using ciBioBase computer analysis of sonar gathered data.

## Area of Interest Summary

AOI ?	Type ?	PAC ?	Avg BVp ?	SD BVp ?	Avg BVw ?	SD BVw ?	Depth Range	Avg Depth	Distance	No. Points
1	Point	25.6%	15.1%	±17.2%	3.9%	±10.9%	1.42-11.55 m	4.07 m	8.22 km	3,702
	Grid	18.2%	15.9%	±17.6%	2.9%	±9.7%	0.11-11.65 m	4.29 m	-	10,414

## Vegetation Biovolume Heat Map      Biovolume Distribution Scatter Chart



It works like this: a boat equipped with a Lowrance sonar with an integrated global positioning system (gps) travels around the lake digitally mapping the lake bottom and any vegetation encountered. It records all vegetation in water less than 60 ft deep. Since all submerged aquatic vegetation is limited to water no deeper than 33 feet this will cover all possible habitat for rooted aquatic vegetation.

The data gathered is stored using a SD card. It is then uploaded to cloud-based computers for a very sophisticated analysis of the date providing us with maps of the exact size and location of the vegetation, as well as tables and graphs with statistical information.

A polygon tool is also available which allows us to accurately identify a particular patch and automatically calculate the area and volume of the patch, as well as the depth range in which it is found. This will be a powerful tool for us as we work to maintain control over milfoil in the lake. We will be better able to find the plants and target their removal with this system.

We are currently working with the system to learn more about when milfoil begins to appear and how rapidly it grows by taking weekly surveys of an area centered on Mandana Bay. (Note green and red patch at southern end of map. This is a large patch of pondweed and milfoil about ¼ mile south of marina. Note also that the rest of the bay is essentially clear of weeds.)



<b>Data Collector</b> Robert Werner	<b>Survey Size</b> Area: 30.04 ha (74.20 acres)	<b>Average Water Temperature</b> 26.69° C (80.04° F)
<b>Data Collection Date</b> 7/17/2013 12:28:51 PM (UTC)	Percent: 0.85% of waterbody Volume: 1,320,113.00 cu. m (1,070.20 acre ft)	<b>Location</b> Start: 42.87084961, -76.40323639 End: 42.87343216, -76.40410614

If you are interested in the product and the types of maps you can check it out at: [www.cibiobase.com](http://www.cibiobase.com). We will be surveying the entire lake early next month to identify and prioritize work for next year. We'll keep you informed.

**The Lake Association...**  
Keeping the Waters Clear and Pure  
for the Next Generation

**Join the Skaneateles Lake Association  
TODAY at SkaneatelesLake.org**

### *A Message from President Paul Torrisi*

For the next generation.....

With efforts to keep our lake “clear and pure” the main focus over the past several years has been to try to eliminate the very invasive Eurasian Milfoil weed. This has been tremendously successful with about 90% of the lake remaining weed-free!

While we are now in a maintenance mode, it is still very expensive....this year’s maintenance work is costing the Skaneateles Lake Association \$130,000.....and this will most likely need to be continued annually into the indefinite future!

For the next generation.....

In order to continue to keep the lake “clear and pure “ efforts will need to be made to keep other invasive species OUT. The

Milfoil is here to stay, despite being currently under control with great effort and expense. Asian clams and Hydrilla loom in neighboring lakes. Both of these invasives have the potential of being even more destructive and disruptive than our “beloved” Milfoil! Asian clams and Hydrilla need to be kept OUT if at all possible! Once they establish a foothold we’re into the” vicious cycle” of additional great effort and expense!!

For the next generation.....

The SLA has established the Stewardship and Monitoring Patrol at several boat launches around the lake. Many dedicated young people are serving as Stewards, inspecting and educating boaters concerning potential invasive species as they launch their watercraft into Skaneateles Lake. Please read more about this program in this newsletter.

For the next generation.....

With the SLA membership continuing to grow and becoming more of a unified voice we need to establish a consortium of the 5 municipalities bordering the lake in all 3 counties so that further cooperation of government and private citizens continues to keep our lake “clear and pure” not only for us but future generations!

For the next generation.....

If you have not become an annual member of the Skaneateles Lake Association, join today. A mini registration form is on the back of this newsletter or you can join online at SkaneatelesLake.org.

**Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.**

**P. O. Box 862**

**Skaneateles, NY 13152**



Erica and Ken Byrnes sailing Skaneateles Lake on a perfect day!

Erica and Ken are the youngest members of the Skaneateles Lake Association.

They have donated over \$1,000 to the SLA over the past two years.

They raised the money through the Mottville Boat Race which they organize and direct. They will be holding the event again this year.

**Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc. Membership Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*(Enter winter contact information below, if different.)*

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Family: \$100     Individual: \$50     Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Milfoil Boat Sponsor & Membership: \$1,000     Milfoil Boat Co-sponsor & Membership: \$250

Lake Steward Sponsor and Membership: \$175

Please make checks for your membership dues and any donations payable to the **Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.**  
**Mail your membership application and check to: Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc., P. O. Box 862, Skaneateles, NY 13152**

You may also join SLA, pay your dues, and make donations at: [www.SkaneatelesLake.org](http://www.SkaneatelesLake.org)