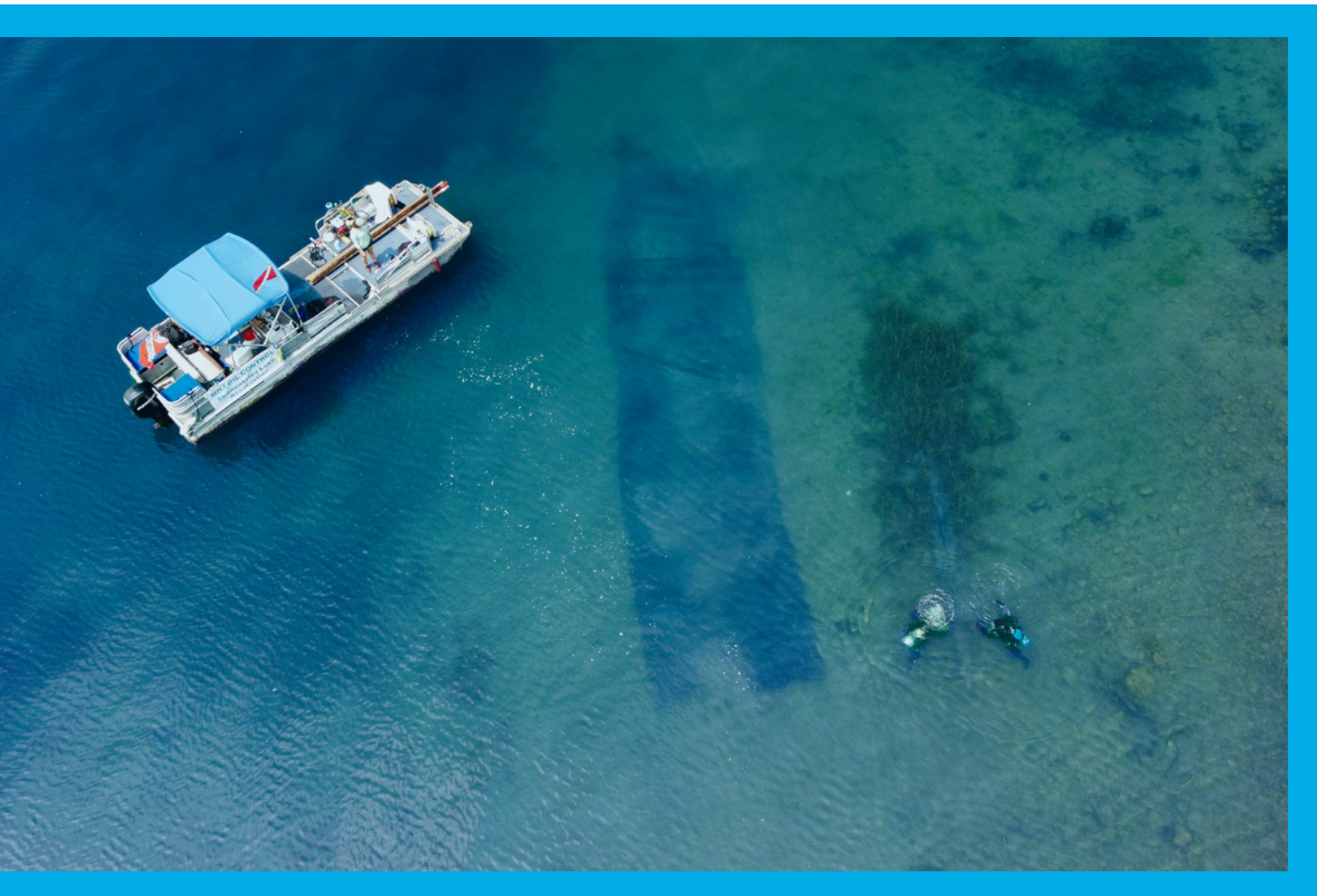




NOVEMBER 2025

MILFOIL REPORT

SA
SKANEATELES
LAKE ASSOCIATION
CLEAR LAKE. PURE WATER.

Program Overview

Eurasian watermilfoil is a non-native invasive species that forms thick mats in shallow areas of a lake, quickly growing and spreading, killing off native aquatic plants that fish and other underwater species rely on for food and shelter. The plant threatens the diversity and abundance of native plants as well as the ecological balance of lakes and ponds, which in turn adversely affects recreational opportunities and threatens waterfront property values.

The Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) created a Milfoil Control program that has reduced the species' coverage on Skaneateles Lake to a level now requiring "maintenance" control.

The SLA Milfoil Control program consists of a lake survey each fall to locate and document large growth patches of milfoil, and then the following spring, Aquatic Invasives, Inc., is hired to "cover" those patches with benthic mats constructed from geotextile material. Each mat is left on a milfoil patch for a minimum of 8 weeks to ensure complete elimination.

THE MILFOIL CONTROL
PROGRAM COSTS ~\$200K
ANNUALLY AND IS FUNDED
BY SLA MEMBERSHIPS AND
OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING
\$25K IN FLOWPA* FUNDS
ADMINISTERED BY
ONONDAGA COUNTY.

SLA's overall commitment in preventing and addressing invasive species through Milfoil Control, the Boat Launch Steward Program, and Hemlock Tree Protection represents more than a \$300K annual investment for Skaneateles Lake and its watershed. This work could not be possible without dedicated members, the SLA Legacy Fund, public funding, and other donors.

**Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance*

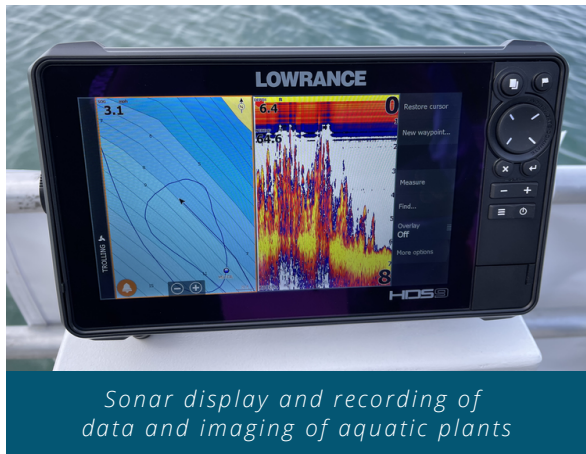
Cover photo: Milfoil Control divers placing benthic matting.



Since 2006, SLA has
conducted the most
robust, continuous effort
of milfoil control in the
Finger Lakes.

Data-Driven Decision Making

SLA's Dr. Robert Werner research and education boat ("The Bob") surveys the lake waters using sonar with GPS along with visual verification from rake tosses to locate milfoil growth. Large growth patches are then mapped and analyzed.

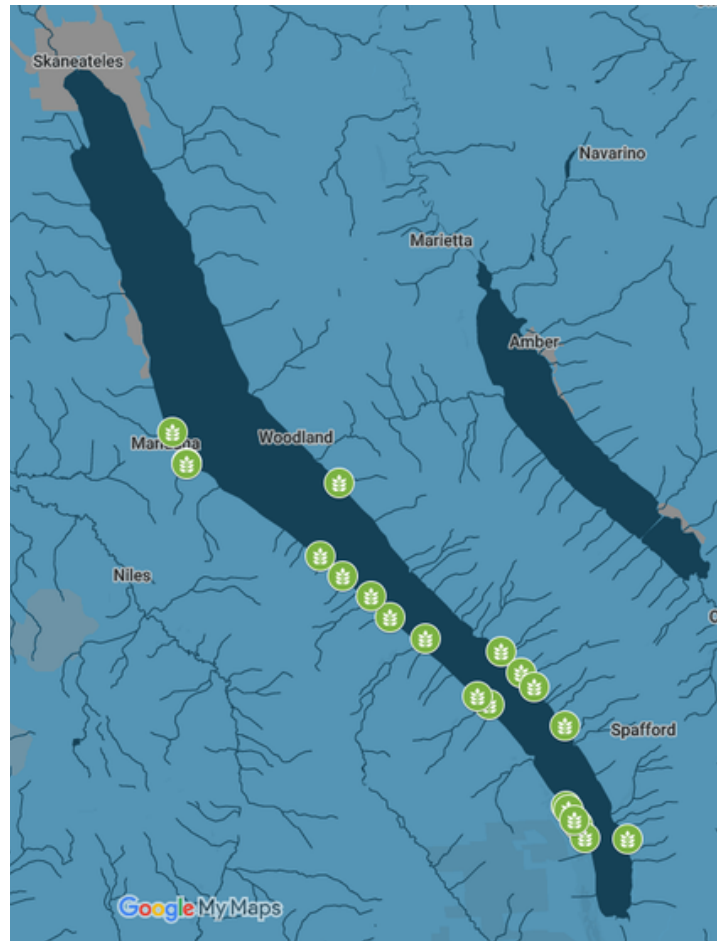


Sonar display and recording of data and imaging of aquatic plants

The matting sites for the following year are prioritized by area size with highest priority going to the largest patches with density of 70% or more. Other factors such as lake depth, slope and stability of lake bottom and boat launch activity are decision factors in matting locations as well.

2025 Fall Survey Locations

The 2025 Milfoil Survey was completed in 54 hours over 9 days covering 35 miles of shoreline.



Thank you Survey Volunteers!

Many thanks to all who joined and raised their hands to support the Milfoil Survey this year:

Dana Hall, Buzz Roberts, Dick Ridings, John McDevitt, Jim Tift, Bob Dean, John MacAllister, Brian Harkins, Vic Duniec, Paul Torrasi, John Rizzo, Mike Cooper, Doug Allis, Phil Dean, Bill Dean, Dave Figura, and Ellen Donovan.



Drs. Paul Torrasi and Bill Dean verify Milfoil with a rake toss survey technique

20 Years of Milfoil Control

2025 marks the 20th year of lake wide community support of SLA's Milfoil Control and services provided by John Menapace and his team at Aquatic Invasive's Inc. including: Rachael Christman, Kindra Ritter, Bay Holmes, PJ Kennedy, Max Paciorek, and Sarah Martin.



Many thanks to all the volunteers, donors, government representatives, and staff who help make critical lake protection a reality.

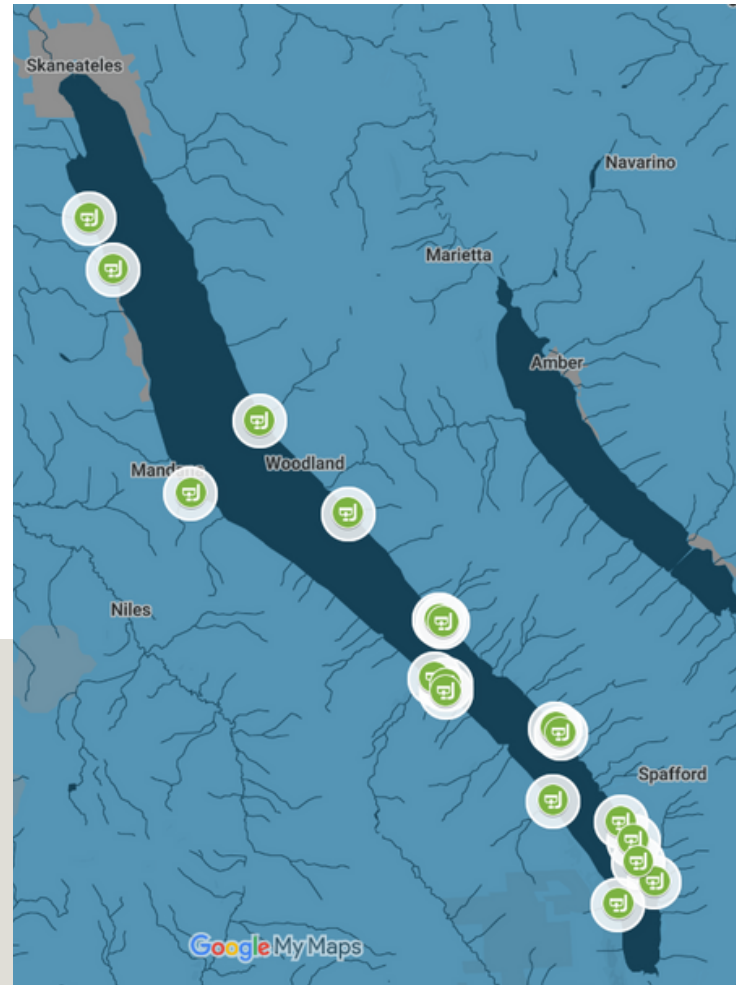
SLA looks forward to many years ahead on the water and is already planning for a robust 2026!

2025 at-a-glance:

- Matting began on June 9, 2025
- 326 mats were placed covering 6.3 acres
- 6 divers and one boat pilot were staffed
- Mat sizes are approximately 12' x 60'
- That last set of mats were retrieved on September 16, 2025

2025 Matted Locations

Matting was completed this summer at the following areas:



The mission of the Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) is to promote the protection of the water quality of Skaneateles Lake and environmentally sound regional management of its watershed.

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