

Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force



Steering Committee

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

Darrin Fresh Water Institute

FUND for Lake George

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Lake George Association

Lake George Watershed Coalition

NYS Adirondack Park Agency

NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation

NYS Lake George Park Commission

Advisory Committee

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Innerspace Scientific Diving

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NEWS RELEASE

Fall Treatments on Lake George Tackle Invasive Asian Clams at Norowal Marina, Middleworth Bay, and Lake George Village

Aggressive Asian clam control efforts push forward through the Fall months to control populations at Norowal Marina, Middleworth Bay, and the Lake George Village sites. Benthic barrier mats have been installed at the Norowal Marina and the shallow water and beach areas of the Lake George Village sites. A suction harvesting treatment is underway in Middleworth Bay.

For more information see media contacts below.

November 23, 2011

Lake George, NY – The Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force (LGACRRTF) has redoubled its efforts this fall to implement fullscale treatments of the invasive Asian clam at three locations in Lake George. In Lake George Village a secondary treatment with benthic barriers on over 3 acres is underway, at Norowal Marina in Bolton a treatment utilizing benthic barriers on over 2.5 acres is underway, and in Middleworth Bay a treatment project using suction harvesting is now operational.

Lake George Village Treatment Site Secondary Treatment with Benthic Barriers Underway

Benthic barrier mats that were installed over a 6-acre area last spring as part of the Lake George Village treatment effort were removed

(over)



Contracted dive crews install benthic barrier mats at Lake Avenue. Photo courtesy of Lake George Association

earlier this Fall and preliminary results from the scientific monitoring indicates that the mats were over 99% effective in killing the Asian clams. This fall a secondary treatment was undertaken on over 3 acres to treat areas that were too shallow or busy with boats in the summer months. These include beach and dock areas or shallow areas near the English Brook delta. AE Commercial Diving and Aquatic Invasives Management (AIM) divers installed over 350 benthic barrier mats secured with rebar and sandbags in the Village area. A permit for this treatment was obtained by the FUND for Lake George from the Adirondack Park Agency (APA).

All of the mats used in this second installation were pressure washed and reused from the first treatment at Lake George Village. The removal and re-installation effort at the Village site was supplemented by many volunteers from many different organizations and divers from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM). In addition 11 mats were installed on the southern end of the Lake George Village treatment site by Shepard Park where a few live clams were discovered. All mats are scheduled to be removed from the Village waters by December 12th.

“Our goal with the second installation of over 300 mats in the Village area is to fully treat a large area at the north end of the site that we could not treat last spring and summer due to docks, shallow waters and extensive boat traffic. We also went in and re-installed mats on all the beach areas as well as in a half dozen locations where scientists found live clams. We anticipate having good information by the end of the year on the overall success rate of this massive effort” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George.

Norowal Marina Benthic Barrier Treatment Installed

Contracted crews completed the installation of 275 benthic barrier mats at Norowal Marina on October 21st. This site is over 2.5 acres in size with many docks. The Norowal site was one of three new sites found this



AquaCleaner staff suction harvesting at Middleworth Bay. Photo courtesy of Lake George Association

summer to be infested with Asian clams outside the Lake George Village Area. Boon Bay and Middleworth Bay areas in Bolton also have infestations.

The treatments using benthic barrier mats will be monitored by scientists with the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute. Water quality samples will be taken from under ported mats to monitor dissolved oxygen and ammonia levels to ensure treatment efficacy through the end of November. These scientists will also monitor the perimeter of all treated areas in an attempt to identify any populations of live clams outside the treatment areas. The treatment at the Norowal Marina also required a permit from the APA, which was awarded to the FUND for Lake George. All mats at Norowal Marina will be removed by December 12th.

Middleworth Bay Site is Testing Suction Harvesting Treatment Method

Members of the LGACRRTF have coordinated and installed the necessary equipment for suction harvesting at Middleworth Bay. “Due to a mixed substrate of rocks and soft sediment benthic barriers may not work well here,” said Emily DeBolt of the Lake George Association. “It could be challenging to get the seal between the barriers and the lake bottom that is needed to smother the clams and starve them of oxygen and food. We are hopeful that this alternative approach will work.” The infested area at Middleworth Bay is roughly 1 acre in size. The plan is to remove the top 6 inches of sediment in the infested area in order to rid the cove of Asian clams. Dewatering bags have been set up on shore and a sediment curtain has been installed across the mouth of the treatment site to ensure that no suspended sediments or clams are spread. Permits from the APA, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and US Army Corp of Engineers were secured by the FUND for Lake George. This treatment is expected to take 3-4 weeks.

The LCMM conducted an archeological survey of the cove to ensure no historical artifacts would be damaged during the operation. AquaCleaner Environmental was awarded the contract and work began on November

11th. “The suction harvesting effort at Middleworth Bay will allow the Task Force to compare the efficacy and costs on an acre-for-acre basis of this method and benthic barrier treatments. This will be enormously helpful as we plan for further treatments in 2012,” said Meg Modley of the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force

The Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force is managing the eradication effort. This Task Force includes a wide variety of organizations, scientists and agencies. The Task Force includes the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, FUND for Lake George, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake George Association, the NYS Lake George Park Commission, Dome Island Committee, Lake George Watershed Coalition, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Adirondack Park Agency, Bateaux Below, Inc., InnerSpace Scientific Diving, Scientific Diving International, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as well as researchers from Lake Tahoe.



Volunteers wash mats for re-use at Shepard Park. Photo courtesy of Lake George Association.

In 2011 the Task Force will have treated over 12.5 acres in the lake for Asian clams. This is a huge accomplishment given the permits and logistics and costs involved. Since late April the LGACRRTF and Lake George community have become keenly aware of the challenges posed by this invasive species. There is significant work to do in 2012 in Boon Bay and based on the results from treatments this fall in the Village, Norowal Marina and Middleworth Bay the LGACRRTF will assess what steps are needed at these sites next year.

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