

CASE STUDY of WEST POND

Curley-Leaf Pond Weed in Spring Fed Water Body

By Joseph Howes and Dennis Spinney

Waterbody: West Pond (MIDAS-3186) Basin: Primary-01

Lake Association: West Pond Association

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Town/County: Parsonsfield /York County

Waterbody History: Formerly Mudgett Pond. West Pond is a warm water pond covering about 140 acres. Average depth 5'-12'. Greatest depth – 28'.
The pond is used for swimming and recreational fishing.
Semi-Private (for donation) boat launch closed by owner in 2003.
No public access remains.
Earthen berm dam installed, at the South East corner in the 1930's?
Believed to be as a result of the 1938 hurricane. Blown down trees were sent to Mudgett Pond and at least three sawmills are erected.
Dam outlet controlled by General Electric in Limerick, ME till sold to West End House Boys Camp.
Several concrete dam outlets were built over the years, by waterfront owners. Water flows out south and easterly toward Long Pond and Noah's Pond. New concrete dam erected 10/2007, with screens for Trapping invasive plant fragments.

Target Invasive Aquatic Plant: Curley-Leaf Pond Weed (potamogeton crispus)

IAP History:

2003 - Floating fragments found by Department of Conservation (DOC) field biologists.
2004 - Rooted plants confirmed by DEP and DOC in about 20' x 20' patch near the Northwestern shore of pond. Floating plant fragments were mostly scattered at low density.
DEP SCUBA divers hand removed plants from the one patch to determine effectiveness of this control option. West Pond divers then alerted DEP to a larger (20' x 100') area. DEP and WPA personnel did GPS survey of known beds.

2005 - Major funding by DEP supported three week manual harvest of several beds ending May 27th and producing 854 cubic feet of plant material. July collection of floating Fragments produced another 50 cubic feet.

2006 -Trimble GPS survey of pond done to catalog spread of invasive plants (see map insert). 188 point GPS survey completed.
All four quadrants of pond showed some growth. Maine DEP short of funds to help with Manual harvest. DEP sanctioned Benthic Barriers were placed over selected beds of Curley-Leaf

2007-Received DEP Cost Share Grant Funds, (\$2,000.00) - (administered by the Lakes Environmental Association) for IAP Management. West Pond Association decides to begin building DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) Boat.
Boat completed in 7 weeks, 415.5 hours. 5"-7" plants forming in early September. New strategy will be to do DASH Boat harvesting in October when Curley Leaf bio-mass is relatively small and there are no turions to disturb. October 1st-5th harvest took 18.5hours with one DEP certified diver. Approximately 140 cubic feet of young shoots were removed in a 2 acre area. Did GPS harvest site survey for report to the Governor's Interagency Task Force on Invasive Species meeting 10/30/2007.

IAP Management Plan:

Evaluating the Infestation: GPS surveys to continue every year in May and October, before harvesting done.

Informing and Engaging the Community: Waterfront owners encouraged to contribute time, materials and funds to further harvesting efforts.

Determining Existing and Needed Resources: Since it is not believed that this plant can be completely eradicated, continued funds from Cost Share Grants will be essential in the steady harvesting and disposal of this weed.

Project Successes:

DASH boat outfitted and operating in a 7 week period, mostly by 3-5 volunteers, with funds from approximately 50% of waterfront owners.

Project Challenges:

Finding volunteer deck hands to work topside while divers are working below.

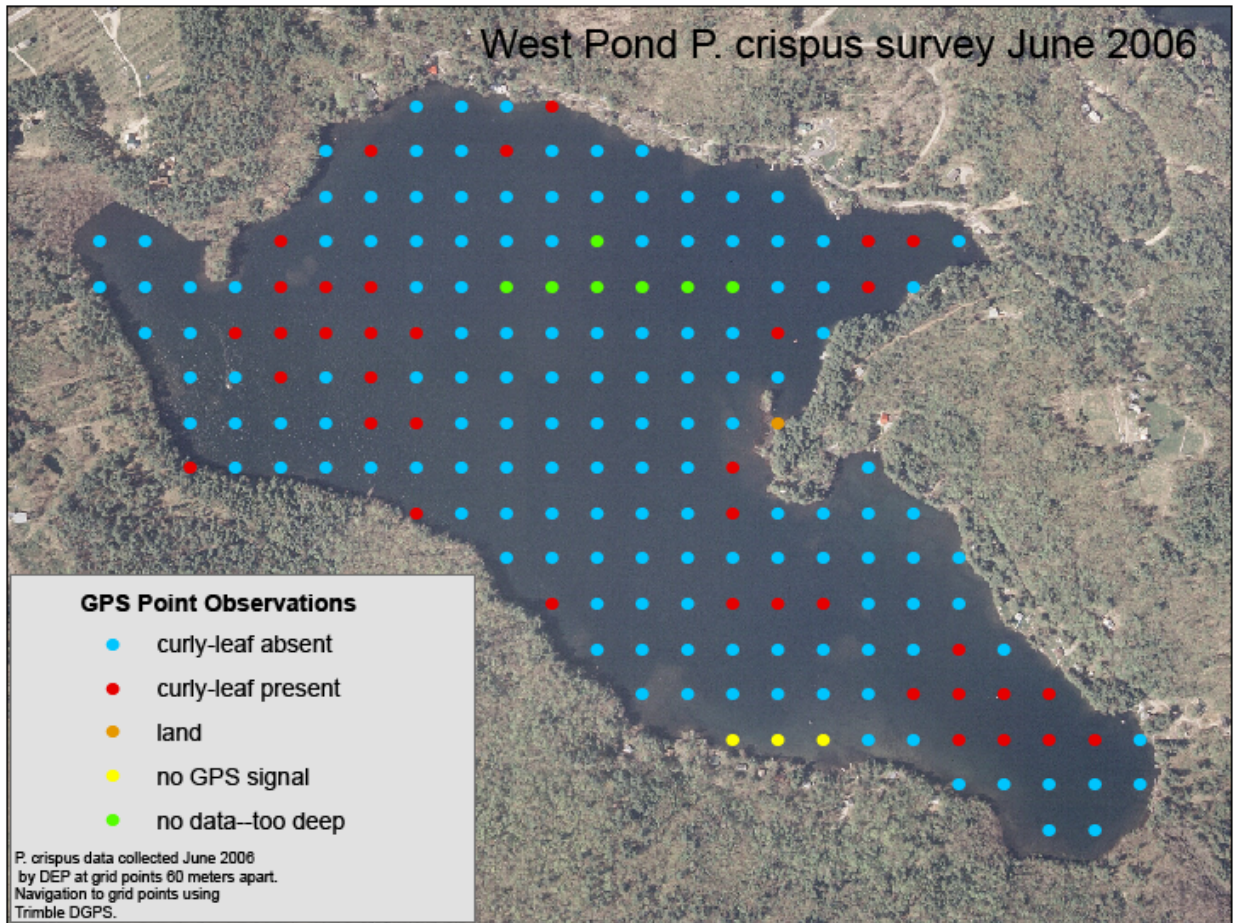
Funding Sources:

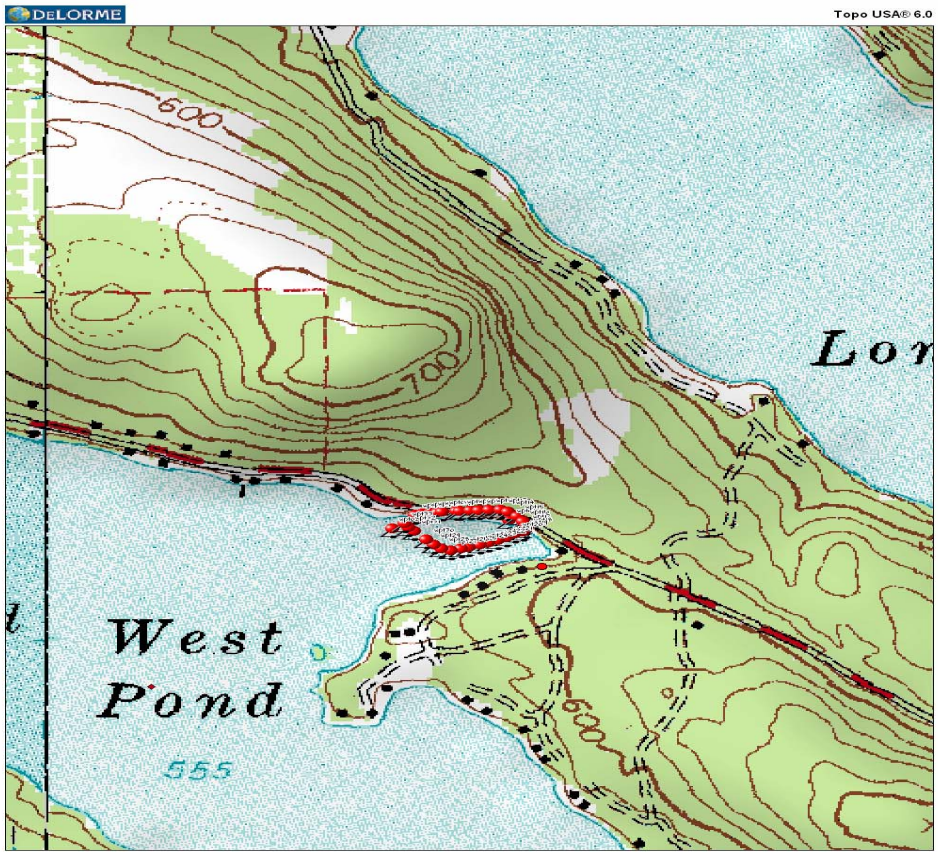
Continues to be problematic. Looking for sources wherever possible.

Other: (Additional thoughts, suggestions, lessons learned, etc.)

Benthic barriers ended up not being a suitable solution for this species in this pond. Donate Seven (7) Benthic Barriers to Little Sebago Lake Association.

Map Showing Extent of Infestation





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MN (15.8° W)

0 180 360 540 720 900 ft
Data Zoom 15-0

HARVEST AREA- Sunset Cove-Northeastern Quadrant October 1-5, 2007