

Greetings Garfield Lake Lovers,

I realize that this update is way overdue. It has been a tough ending to our season. The lake has been confirmed to have two new invasive species. The first one being Curly Leaf Pond Weed (CLP) and the second is Starry Stonewort (SSW). Here is where we are currently at with actions and plans

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)

- Curly Leaf Pondweed was found and identified by the DNR who was conducting routine fish research. They found a couple of plants stuck in their nets in July.
- We need to perform a delineation (which determines the locations of the CLP) to determine how widespread the infestation is. This will be done in the spring of 2026. Timing of the find was too late in the life cycle of the CLP as it starts to die back in July and August, leaving the accuracy of a delineation in question.
- There are a couple of control methods to help keep the CLP in check. Methods used will be determined by the delineation for best fit.
- A proposal for the delineation came in at \$2,100.00. A grant application has been submitted. The grant is a matching funds grant. This means the association will have to come up with \$1,050.00 This does not cover the cost of CLP control that needs to be performed.

Starry Stonewort (SSW)

- Starry Stonewort was discovered in August by a volunteer group checking on various lakes within the county.
- A professional delineation study was completed as quickly as possible with 518 samples pulled from the perimeter of the lake. Fortunately, it was found that the SSW is confined to the boat ramp area extending out approximately 100 feet by 40 feet wide.
- Once we knew the extent of the infestation, we immediately hired a diving company to come out, and hand pull the biomass. She removed 10 bags of biomass totaling about 200 pounds. The biomass was then transported off site under permit to an acceptable location for composting.
- The next step was to apply a chemical control agent under DNR permit to enhance the hand pulling and hopefully destroy any remaining plants and fragments. Our success won't be known until next summer.
- The costs to date for the delineation are \$2,100.00 and the cost for the diver hand pulling biomass was \$2,500.00 for a total of \$4,600.00 This has depleted our savings account. In addition, the diver hand pulling takes place at least twice per year.
- The chemical and chemical treatment under DNR permit was done by a board member with extensive experience in herbicide application. The chemical called Komeen Descend was also donated by the same member. Cost for this would be roughly estimated at \$1000.00 per acre plus mobilization costs.

Other Happenings

- A matching dollars grant has been applied for to help with the CLP delineation
- More grants will be applied for once the application windows from the various agencies open later in November.
- Letters will be going out to the various local businesses asking for donations.
- People who own property on the lake will be contacted this winter to obtain and confirm contact information. We have found that we have property owners who use various ways of getting their information. This ranges from snail mail only to those who use social media and e-mail. We don't have a single method of contact.
- In September, through a grant from the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, a CD3 boat cleaning station was granted, which is a solar powered station that has an air compressor for blowing out corners and tight areas, a vacuum system for sucking water out of wet wells etc. and has a host of boat cleaning tools attached by cable to the machine. It also has flood lighting for nighttime illumination. The unit is currently located on First Ave and Main St, near the Post Office. The efficiency of the location is yet to be determined by using records collected by the CD3 unit. The ideal location would be closer to the actual boat ramp; however, there was concern raised by a neighbor to the ramp regarding noise of the unit in operation. The City of Laporte made the final decision on the location.

Thank You for your interest in these issues. Going into 2026 we are at an estimated deficit of \$7,100.00 not including dollars needed for Inspection hours at the boat ramp. This amount may change based on the amount of CLP found during the delineation.

We want to thank the 15 individuals who have already made financial contributions. Your generosity is key to the success of our mission. THANK YOU!

We are doing everything we can to "KEEP GARFIELD HEALTHY" and property values intact. Your contributions are needed and will be put to good use. Please send donations to:

Garfield Lake Association
P.O. Box 31
Laporte, MN 56461

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Garfield Lake Association email address
GARFIELDLAKEASSOCIATION@GMAIL.COM

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