

# **Invasive Species Report to the Town of Caroga**

**September 11, 2024**

## **1. ProcettaCOR Pilot:**

Post ProcettaCOR Application results in East and West Caroga Lake which included, West Caroga Lake Football Field, East Caroga Lake bay at the Campsite Boat launch, bay off Avery road, Kowalski point and the Channel (Marina location) along with the adjacent area to the beginning of the outlet stream, are still free of residual Milfoil and new growth.

2. As I mentioned last month, Glenn Sullivan, the ProcettaCOR applicator, returned for a Visual survey and rake tosses looking for Milfoil the week of Aug. 5th. I have received his written report (Included). In addition to no Eurasian Milfoil in any Pilot areas, he did not see any in non-Pilot locations. He also did not see any unusual effects to native species.

We are waiting for the Post ProcettaCOR application survey results from Adirondack Research, the independent survey requirement of the APA and DEC,. The report could be as late as November.

## **3. 2024 Milfoil from the DASH program –**

2023 Milfoil removal was 1436 Bushels. Of that total, 828 bushels were from the Pilot locations. Assuming the # of Bushels would be close to 2023 using the DASH program and with no diving done in the Pilot locations, there would be approximately 608 bushels to remove this year.

Total Bushels was 270. A little less than half of what was expected.

There are several possible reasons for this:  
the diffusion of the ProcellaCOR was more than expected and reports from the Nature Conservancy are showing all lakes in the Adirondacks are experiencing a reduced growth of Milfoil in 2024. We will continue to investigate this result.

**4.**The divers have scouted E. Stoner Lake, Pine Lake, West Lake and Canada Lake with the free time made available from the reduced Milfoil. There were no visual observations of Milfoil.

**5.** Lake Management and Jon Boats along with the trailer have been relocated to the town hall for winter. The motors are being serviced at Canada Lake Marine and will be stored in the Shed.

The harvester is in Johnstown to have the left front inside splash guard welded as it is separating from the pontoon. Will be back Friday.

**6.** Looking at 2025 – A few thoughts to discuss.

**a.** With the success of ProcellaCOR, we need to put more emphasis on monitoring for Milfoil to achieve Early Detection resulting in a rapid response for rapid removal in both lakes and while the DASH program will be modified, it should not be downsized at this time.

There will be a cost to upgrade our monitoring equipment and replace the Lake Management Boat Motor.

**b.** Underwater Radio Communications between divers and the Harvester should be added to increase diver safety.

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- c. Those areas that were possibly affected by the Diffusion of ProcettaCOR will likely regrow Milfoil next year as they did not receive its full effect. It is unknown how much diver activity will be required
- d. Should ProcettaCOR to be applied in some of the remaining high-density areas. i.e. Bennet's Cove. (Between Kirchen's Grove and Garlock Rd), and possibly the East Shore Road of West Caroga Lake
- e. Have discussions with Peck's lake to lease the harvester/personnel to assist in their Milfoil infestation.
- f. Investigating the calls from West Caroga Lake residents on South Shore Road concerning the heavy thick weeds appearing on the bottom of the lake along their shoreline which started appearing 2-3 years ago.

7. Brian Greene from The Nature Conservancy (APIPP) is returning September 19<sup>th</sup> to take a second set of water samples for a new test being evaluated, which measures the presence of Eurasian Milfoil DNA in the water. Should this test proves to be reliable, it will be very helpful for early detection.

  
Walter Hogan,

Director Invasive Species Program



# READY SCOUT, LLC

## LAKE CONSULTING & SERVICES

**East & West Caroga Lakes**

**Date:** Monday, August 6, 2024

**Activity:** Post-treatment survey

**Equipment used:** 16' boat with outboard

**Surveyor:** Glenn Sullivan

**Weather:** Mostly cloudy, ~75°F

### West Lake – 77.8°F, Secchi (clarity) 12.5'

West Lake was surveyed first, focusing on the treatment area and the shoreline going northwest to the cove. No Eurasian watermilfoil was found in the treatment area. Instead, the area was dominated by dense, low-growing southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), with scattered pondweeds (*Potamogeton* sp.) and Little Floating Heart (*Nymphoides cordata*, Figure 1).

At the time of treatment, dense Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was present adjacent to the treatment on the west side. This EWM was no longer present, and various waterlilies occupied the area, including some watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*), which is susceptible to ProcellaCOR EC.

Continuing up the north shore to the northwest cove, Little Floating Heart was prevalent, and likely created a nuisance for some shoreline residents. Other areas of the shoreline were not surveyed.

### East-West Channel -77.2°F

The area from the bridge to the opening with East Caroga Lake was included in the treatment zone. No EWM was found in this area, and boat docks and navigation were significantly improved. Small patches of White water lilies (*Nymphaea* sp.), Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) and pondweeds were found in the channel, despite the lilies having some susceptibility to ProcellaCOR EC. A large patch of watershield (Figure 2) was also found adjacent to the channel opening in West Lake. It's possible these plants had temporary damage from treatment that was no longer evident at 7 weeks after treatment.



Figure 1 – Little Floating Heart

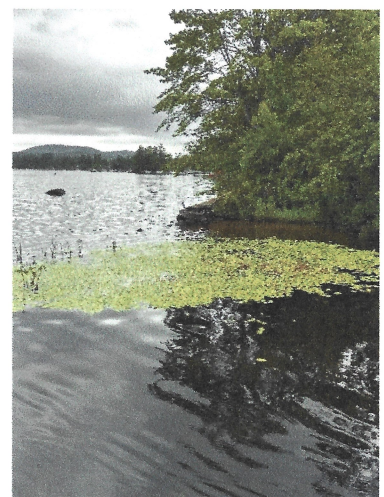


Figure 1 - Watershield



### East Caroga Lake – 78.9°F, Secchi (clarity) 10'

No EWM was found in the Avery Cove or Campground treatment areas, nor in Bennett Cove. Dense southern naiad (Figure 3) and Robbins pondweed (*Potamogeton robinssii*, Figure 4) were abundant and covered the bottom of the lake in all treatment areas, along with scattered pondweed species. A similar plant composition was found in Bennett Cove.

Southern Naiad and Robbins Pondweed also dominated the deeper portions of the treatment area near the outlet channel of East Caroga Lake. Moving into the channel, EWM was not found at least 350' down the channel to the large red buoy, which was the extent the survey boat traveled. This area remained well vegetated with waterlilies and pondweeds, so habitat remained intact while navigation likely improved.

### ProcellaCOR residue sample results

ProcellaCOR EC concentrations measured above 1 ppb (1.4-3.5 ppb) within the three East Caroga Lake treatment areas from samples collected on the day of application. (The application rate was 3.86ppb) The day after application samples had only one result above the 1 ppb irrigation threshold, which was 1.1 ppb in the campground treatment area. All samples from 3 days after treatment returned results of <1ppb, therefore irrigation restrictions could be removed and additional samples at 7 days after treatment were not required.

### Summary

The ProcellaCOR EC application to control Eurasian Watermilfoil in portions of East and West Caroga Lake was successful. The dive team reported that it was difficult to find other areas of EWM to harvest following application. It appears that the three treatment areas which formed a triangle of sorts in East Caroga Lake diffused sufficiently to impact EWM in other areas. Any control achieved outside of the treatment areas will not maintain the same duration as the treatment area themselves since other areas were subject to lower concentrations and/or shorter contact-exposure times.

As expected, control of non-target native plants in East and West Caroga Lakes from the ProcellaCOR EC application was minimal, demonstrating the herbicides outstanding selectivity to milfoil. The herbicide effectively improves recreational use and navigation without reducing habitat, soil stability or oxygen levels.

### *Ready Scout LLC*



Figure 2- Southern Naiad



Figure 3 – Robbins Pondweed

