



# READY SCOUT, LLC

## LAKE CONSULTING & SERVICES

**West Caroga Lake**

**Date:** Thursday, July 10, 2025

**Activity:** Lake survey

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

**Surveyor:** Glenn Sullivan

**Weather:** Mostly sunny, ~82°F

**Clarity:** 11.25'

**Dissolved Oxygen:** 8.44mg/L (top), 4.9mg/L (bottom)

The lake was surveyed by boat starting approximately 11:30am and beginning along the southwest shore of the lake. Clarity was excellent, so most plants were readily observable in the water column. Plant sample rakes were thrown periodically to confirm visual observations and to check deeper waters. Shoreline residents generally appeared pleased with lake conditions and the results of last year's milfoil control. The Dive Team was met along the shoreline for a discussion of Dive Team milfoil observations, which ultimately coincided with survey observations.

### Plants Observed

Largeleaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*)

Little Floating Heart (*Nymphoides cordata*)

Ribbonleaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton epihydrus*)

Eelgrass (*Vallisneria americana*)

Variable-leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton gramineus*)

Common Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*)

Clasping leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton perfoliatus*)

Watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*)

White Stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*)

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

### Conditions

West Caroga Lake has a lower pH (~7) than East Caroga Lake (~7.5), so vegetative productivity is lower, as is plant diversity. This explains why Ribbonleaf Pondweed and Watershield occur in West Caroga Lake and rarely in East Caroga Lake. It also has an impact on Eurasian watermilfoil in West Caroga Lake, making it not as vigorous or widespread as the invasive plant occupied in East Caroga Lake prior to ProcellaCOR EC application.

The dominant submersed plant species in West Caroga Lake were all pondweeds – Variable-leaf Pondweed, Clasping-Leaf pondweed and Largeleaf Pondweed. Each of these species occurred commonly around the shoreline in 3-7' water depth. In several areas, Largeleaf Pondweed colonies reached the surface and produced emergent seedheads. In shallow areas of the south shoreline, some of the Largeleaf Pondweed growth is likely a nuisance to adjacent lakefront homeowners.



Eurasian watermilfoil (milfoil) was observed in several locations along the west and north shorelines. Most locations supported only a few stems, except for a small cove along the north shore which supported an area of ~300sqft of light to moderate density milfoil. A meeting with the Dive Team on West Caroga Lake confirmed that all sites observed during the survey had also been found by the Dive Team and were scheduled to be removed the following day.

While Watershield (a football shaped waterlily) was present in many areas of the lake, the predominant floating plant was Little Floating Heart, which is especially prevalent along the west and north shorelines. In denser areas of Floating Heart, small white flowers could be seen, confirming this was not the invasive Yellow Floating Heart. Photos of Little Floating Heart with some Watershield are below.



The limited abundance and distribution of milfoil in West Caroga Lake should be easily managed by the Dive Team this season. Additional use of ProcellaCOR EC for milfoil control in West Caroga Lake isn't anticipated for 2026 or 2027 at this point.

*Ready Scout LLC*

