

2008 Vermont Water Chestnut Management Program Summary

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

November 2008

2008 Successes:

- A new lake access was developed over 4.5 miles south of Benson Landing on private property adjacent to Red Rock Bay in Benson, Vermont for spoils off-loading and on-site composting.
- Of 68 Lake Champlain sites targeted for management in 2008, 16 had no water chestnut.
- 100% of mechanically harvested spoils were composted.
- Rapid response efforts were initiated at the new Lake Champlain infestation site in northern Bulwagga Bay.

Confirmed Vermont Locations (21):

- **Big Marsh Slough**, Highgate
- **Lake Bomoseen**, Hubbardton *controlled*
- **Brookside Pond**, Orwell
- **Bullis Pond**, Franklin
- **Lake Champlain**: 68 lake or associated tributary sites between Ferrisburg, Vermont and Benson, Vermont on both the New York and Vermont sides of the lake including Missisquoi Bay and the Pike River. One **NEW** infestation site was discovered in 2008 in northern Bulwagga Bay, Port Henry, New York.
- **Coggman Pond**, Benson
- **Cranberry Pool**, Highgate
- **Dead Creek**, Addison
- **Lemon Fair River**, Middlebury
- **Lily Pond**, Poultney
- **North Springfield Reservoir**, Springfield
- **Lake Paran**, North Bennington
- **Parsons Mill Pond**, Benson
- **Pelkeys Swamp**, Benson
- **Richville Pond**, Orwell
- **Root Pond**, Benson
- **Porter Lake**, Ferrisburg
- **small pond**, Bennington
- **small pond**, Benson
- **small pond**, Benson Landing
- **small pond**, North Bennington

Cost: \$484,242 (\$497,046 in 2007)

▪ Mechanical Harvesting	\$250,000
▪ Handpulling	\$127,637
▪ Composting	\$4,500
▪ TNC grant	\$15,000
▪ VTDEC field supervisor (2008-09)	\$69,500
▪ VTDEC administration(estimate)	\$15,000
▪ Off-load site improvements	\$2,605

Funding Sources:

▪ LCBP	\$84,500
▪ USACE	\$208,169
▪ USF&W ANS Basin Plan	\$14,026
▪ USF&W Partnership	\$12,900
▪ VTDEC	\$164,647

(over)

Partners: Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Otter Creek Audubon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USF&W Service, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) and numerous volunteer groups and individuals.

Elements Summary:

Mechanical Harvesting¹

- Contracted to Aquatic Control Technology, Inc.
- New access and off-loading site at Red Rock Bay, Benson, Vermont.
- Began July 8 and continued until August 21 for a total of 655 mechanical harvesting hours (816.5 hours in 2007) at 7 Lake Champlain sites; 3 harvesting sites also hand pulled.
- Approximately 7,350 cubic yards (5,908 in 2007) of water chestnut removed.
- 100% of harvested spoils (7,350 cubic yards) composted at 1 site adjacent to Red Rock Bay, Benson, Vermont (via contract to Champlain Valley Composting Co.).
- NYSDEC conducted a mechanical harvesting Program independent of the VTDEC contracted effort. The NYSDEC program was managed by the town of Dresden. Harvesting occurred in Dresden, New York and West Haven, Vermont at a cost of \$60,000.



Lake Bomoseen wetlands (ACT, Inc.)

Handpulling¹

- Contracted to Lakeside Restoration Services Inc. with additional efforts provided by VTDEC, TNC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, VYCC and private citizens.
- Contracted handpulling began July 7 and continued until September 5 for a total of 2,973.45 hours (3,515.5 hours in 2007). Other groups' handpulling efforts totaled over 1,500 hours.
- 64 Lake Champlain sites spread over a distance of 80 miles of Vermont and 46.5 miles of New York shoreline targeted.
- All 20 other waters were surveyed; handpulling occurred if needed.

Surveying

- 13 days, includes both surveys of Lake Champlain and other waters.

Education

- Distribution of water chestnut identification and search techniques materials.
- Maintained user awareness signs posted at public access areas.
- Water Chestnut Workgroup active; represented by the LCBP, TNC, NYS Canal Corporation, NYSDEC, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Quebec Ministry of the Environment, and VTDEC.

New Infestations:

- Only one: in Lake Champlain adjacent to Bulwagga Bay Campground at the northern end of Bulwagga Bay, Port Henry, New York. A total of 159,697 rosettes were removed from this site during 5 days of handpulling.

¹ Of the contracted mechanical harvesting effort, 73% of the budget was spent on the Vermont Lake Champlain shoreline and 27% on the New York shoreline. Of the contracted handpulling effort, 28% was spent on the Vermont side of the lake and 72% on the New York shoreline.