

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

September 12-15, 2022

Prepared By:

Upper Saranac Foundation
It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality



Upper Saranac Foundation

P.O. Box 564, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

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Overview

The Upper Saranac Foundations Aquatic Invasive Divers (AID) worked out of the private beach residence of the Dumas family on Moody Pond. This location provided convenience to known aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestation locations. A three-person crew devoted 120 hours of work in the week of September 12-15, 2022. The divers, trained in AIS identification found only one type of invasive; Eurasian watermilfoil. The team was pleased to find mostly small plants, with little larger old growth milfoil.

For the week, divers removed 3,067 plants totaling 2.0 bags of Eurasian watermilfoil or 50 pounds. While the total number of plants harvested slightly increased from the initial week in June, the total poundage of plants collected decreased. The decrease in weight is expected as the majority of plants found are smaller and less developed. It is also encouraging that following the height of the growing season, we continue to see reduced growth.

Similar to the initial week in June, the majority of milfoil was located in the north-western part of the pond nearest the Baker Mountain trailhead. Thirteen Eurasian watermilfoil plants were located along the opposite and southern shores.

Our divers utilized a variety of techniques to locate and hand harvest AIS, including surface spotting from paddle boards, Hookah air compressor diving, line swims, snorkeling, and even a submersible diver assisted scooter.

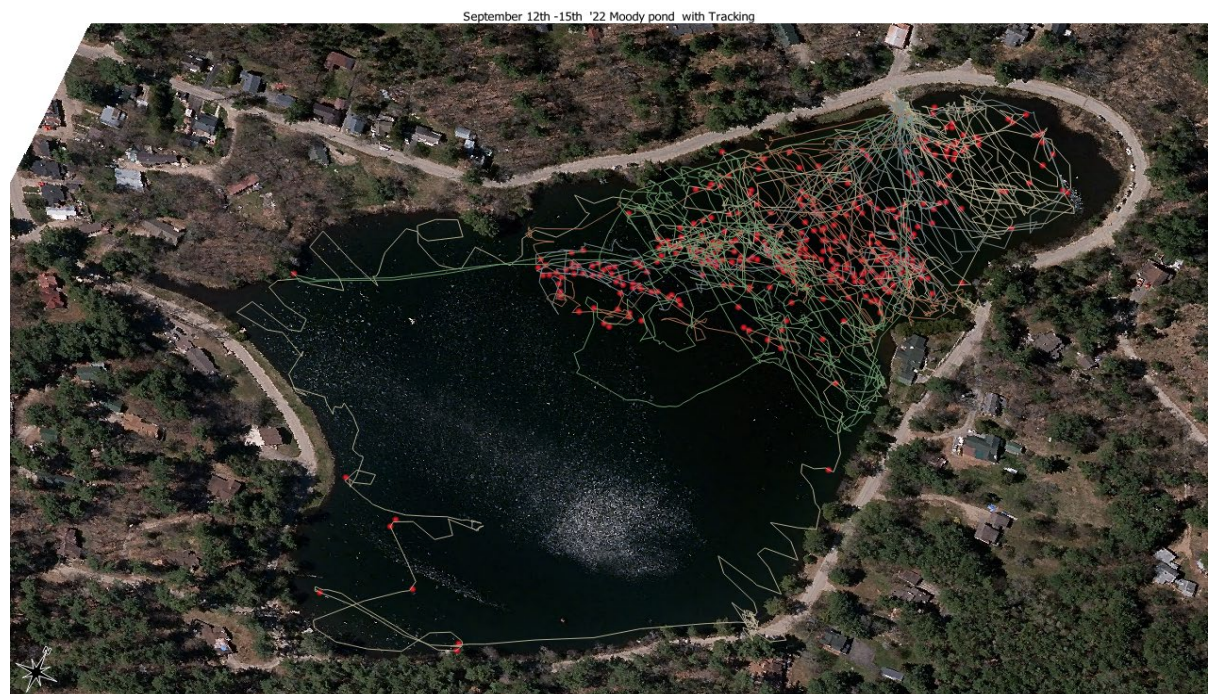
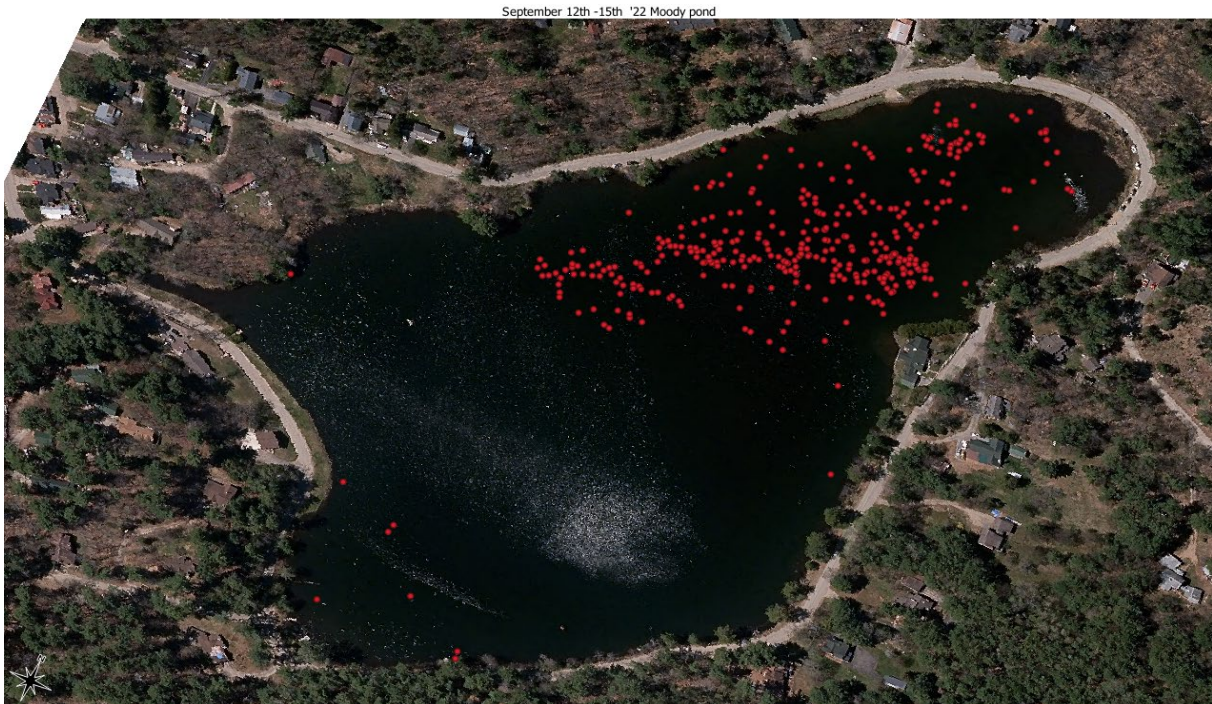
The focus of the week was to first hand-harvest any mature old growth plants that were visible from the surface, removing plants that are fragmenting. Following harvesting of observable plants, divers concentrated on known growth areas and utilized grid or line search techniques to locate plants.

Future Plans

The Upper Saranac Foundation will complete a final report compiling survey and harvesting data. The specific objectives are to assess the efficacy of our management by analyzing current and historical milfoil abundance. This report will establish and identify trends that will help guide future management practices. Submission of this report by the Friends of Moody Pond to the Adirondack Park Agency will satisfy permit requirements as outlined in APA General Permit 2020-0249.

Operations

Week of September 12-15, 2022



Harvest Data for the Week: 120 of diver hours removed 3,067 plants totaling 2.0 bags of Eurasian watermilfoil or 50 pounds. Eurasian watermilfoil plants removed marked in red.

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Monday September 12, 2022

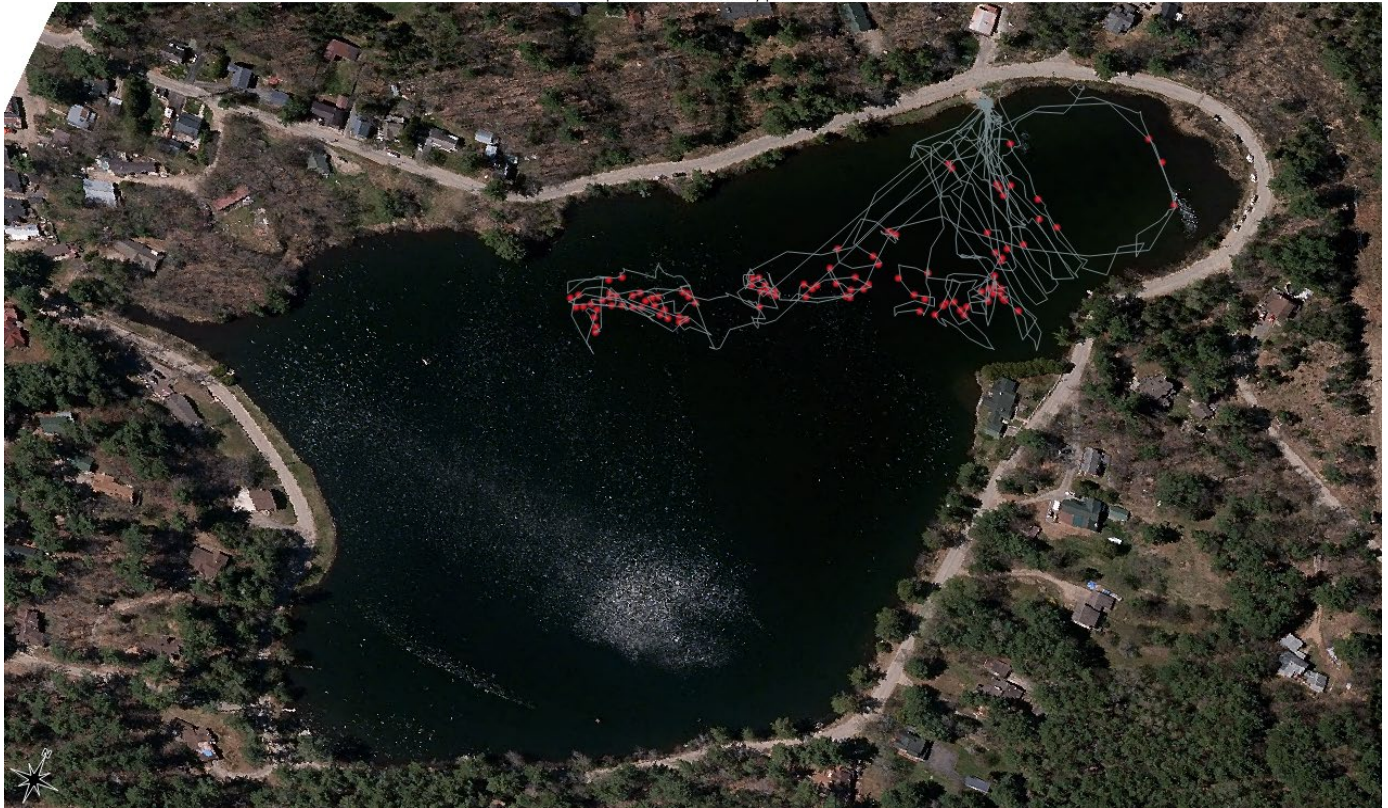


Description: The dive team did a preliminary survey of the pond and marked visible milfoil with buoys. The divers began the dive by removing these larger observable plants. Divers swim the perimeter of the pond retrieving plants marked by buoys including plants that were marked by Friends of Moody Pond. Exploratory dives were completed in of areas of known growth before the divers began a grid search pattern. The line swims began in the shallow northern end of the pond and worked south out towards deeper water. This grid pattern using GPS tracking can be observed on the above map.

Harvest Data: 840 plants totaling one bags or 25 lbs. Eurasian watermilfoil plants removed marked in red on the map.

Tuesday September 13, 2022

September 13th '22 Moody pond



Description: Buoys were utilized to mark the extent of the littoral zone (an area of suitable habitat where light penetrates to the ponds bottom supporting photosynthesis). Divers continued to focus efforts at known growth areas and along the edge of the littoral zone. The extension of the grid search progressed in a southwesterly direction. Buoys were also used to guide the underwater divers search patterns. Many small plants less than a foot are retrieved as well as rooting fragments caught up in native vegetation. Only a few sporadic two to three-foot multi-stem plants are found out along the littoral drop off.

Harvest Data: 1217 plants totaling 8/10th bag or 20 lbs. Eurasian watermilfoil plants removed marked in red on the map.

Wednesday September 14, 2022

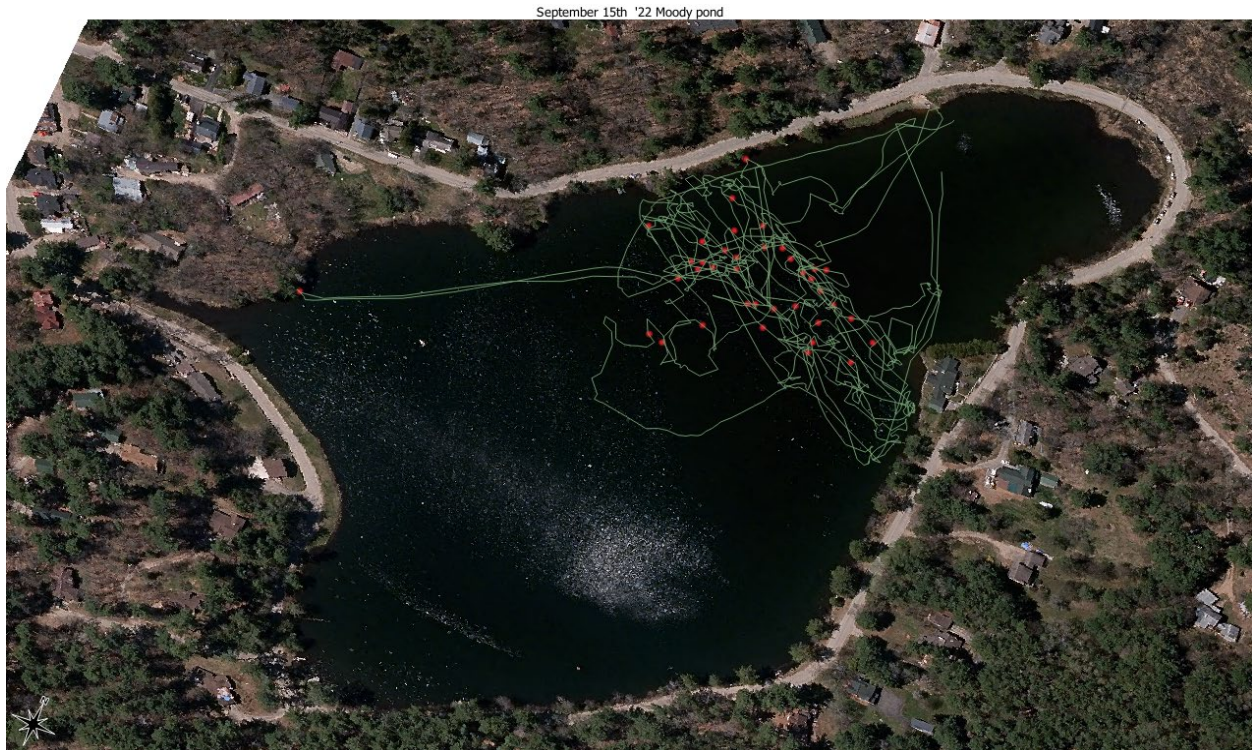
September 14th '22 Moody pond



Description: Similar to the prior day, divers continued to expand the grid search pattern southwesterly. On occasion the divers venture out ahead of the line swim to harvest clusters of plants in order to clear the way and make the line swim more efficient. The divers also continue to explore the littoral drop off (a transitional area that is the extent of plants desired territory and the more unsuitable deep-water habitat). An occasional taller plant is found along this edge. Most plants found continue to be less than one foot in height.

Harvest Data: 527 plants totaling 1/10th bag or 2.5 lbs. Eurasian watermilfoil plants removed marked in red on the map.

Thursday September 15, 2022



Description: The divers utilized calm weather to surface spot and survey the pond. While much of the ponds littoral zone is searched, only one visible plant is located along the eastern shore. Buoys are again applied to develop grid search patterns. The grid search area continues to expand and move southeasterly into deeper waters.

As we reduce milfoil presence in the shallower and more favorable habitat we push our search efforts into a less desirable and deeper environment. Although plants found in the deep are rare, we do expect to locate some. The deepest portions of the pond has a subtle rolling bottom contour and the growth line of milfoil and other plants is indistinct in many locations. We feel these outliers are a product of fragmentation which frequency has been decreasing significantly.

Harvest Data: Harvest Data: 483 plants totaling 1/10th bag or 2.5 lbs. Eurasian watermilfoil plants removed marked in red on the map.

Photos



Daily milfoil harvesting bag count



Varying plant sizes found – the majority at approx. 6 inches

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