

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

September 11-14, 2023

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 for easy access to the pond and to known aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestation locations. A three-person crew (one-top water, and two underwater divers) devoted 120 individual hours of work in the week of September 11-14, 2023. The divers, trained in AIS identification, found only one type of invasive; Eurasian watermilfoil.

The focus of the week was to first, find and hand-harvest any mature old growth plants that were visible from the surface. Only two larger, multi stemmed plants were found in September. Each management session has produced less larger plants.

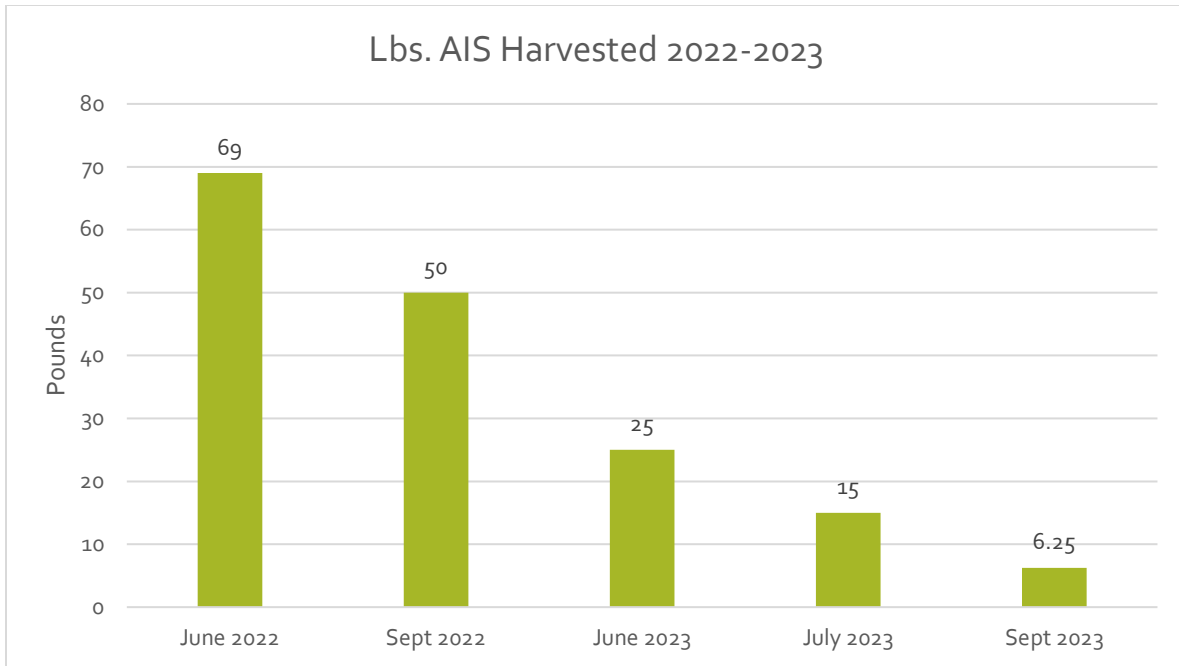
As the week progressed the focus moved towards divers concentrating on known growth areas and utilizing grid or line search techniques to locate plants. The divers also swam the circumference of the pond multiple times throughout the week. Our divers applied a variety of techniques to locate and hand harvest AIS, including surface spotting from paddle boards, Hookah air compressor diving, line swims searches, and snorkeling.

Bag totals and total poundage harvested continue to drop as there is less plant abundance with smaller single stem plants. With the exception of the two large plants, the team was pleased to find just smaller plants. With the possible exception of the two larger plants found, there was little chance for proliferation since the previous harvest that was completed in July. Removal of mature plants, prior to fragmentation or flowering is the key to successful AIS reduction and eradication.

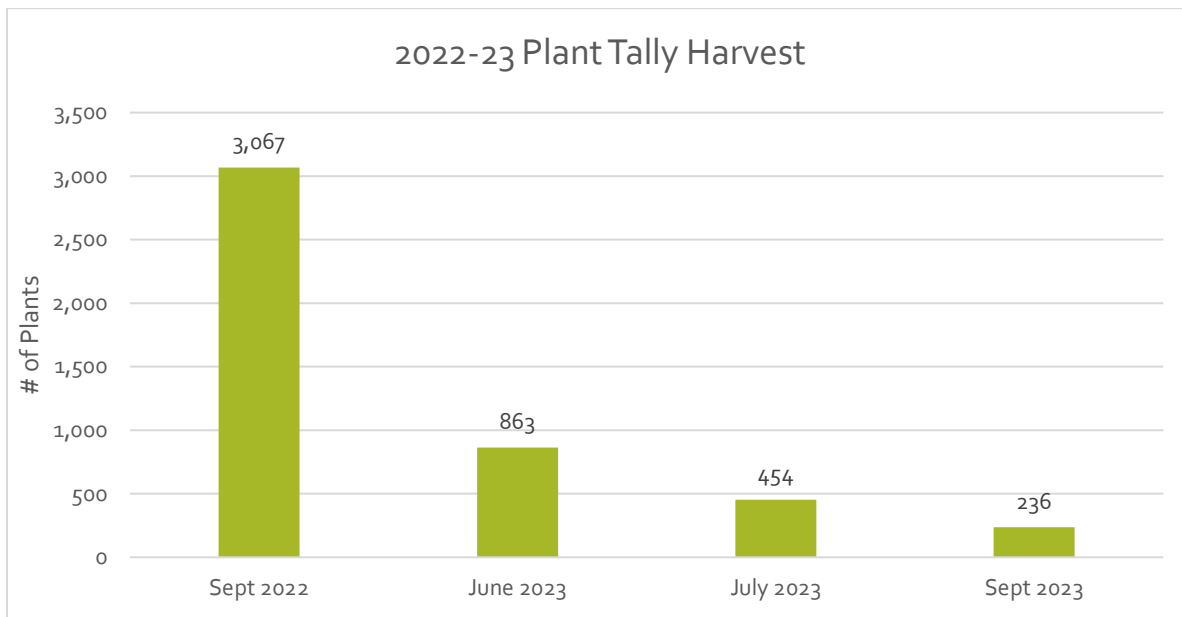
On August 12th the Upper Saranac Foundation, Lake Manager and Dive Crew join the Friends of Moody Pond for their 4th Annual Ice Cream Social. In an outreach and education effort the divers showed off some of the equipment they use for harvesting and provided samples of Eurasian watermilfoil for participants to view.

Operations - Week of September 11-14, 2023

Pounds Removed: The divers removed 1/4 of a bag of Eurasian watermilfoil equaling 6.25 pounds in September. This is compared to July when 6/10th of a bag equaling 15 pounds was removed and June when one bag or 25 pounds were removed. There has been a significant and continued reduction in the poundage found and removed throughout the past three years. In 2023 the reduction in the pounds found and removed fell by an average of 47% from each previous management session. Attributing to the reduction in weight is that the majority of plants found are smaller in size and volume.



Plants Removed: In a similar manor, the total number of plants removed is also being reduced. In September divers removed 236 plants. This is a reduction from July when 454 were removed, and June when 863 were removed. In 2023 the reduction in the number of plants found and removed fell by an average of 56% from each previous management session.



The reduction of the number of plants found and harvested, and the total poundage of AIS removed are both strong indicators of successful management accomplishments.

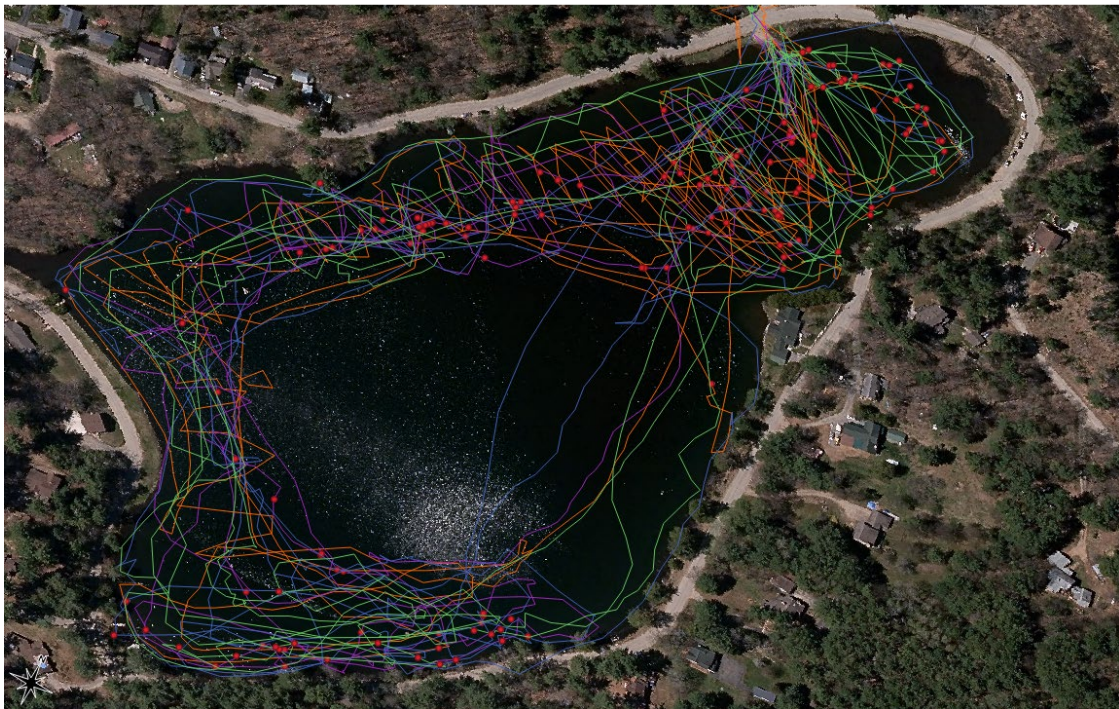
Plant Harvest Locations (September 11-14, 2023)

Sept 11- 14 '23 Moody pond Plants



Diver Tracking and Plant Harvest Locations (September 11-14, 2023)

Sept 11- 14 '23 Moody pond coverage

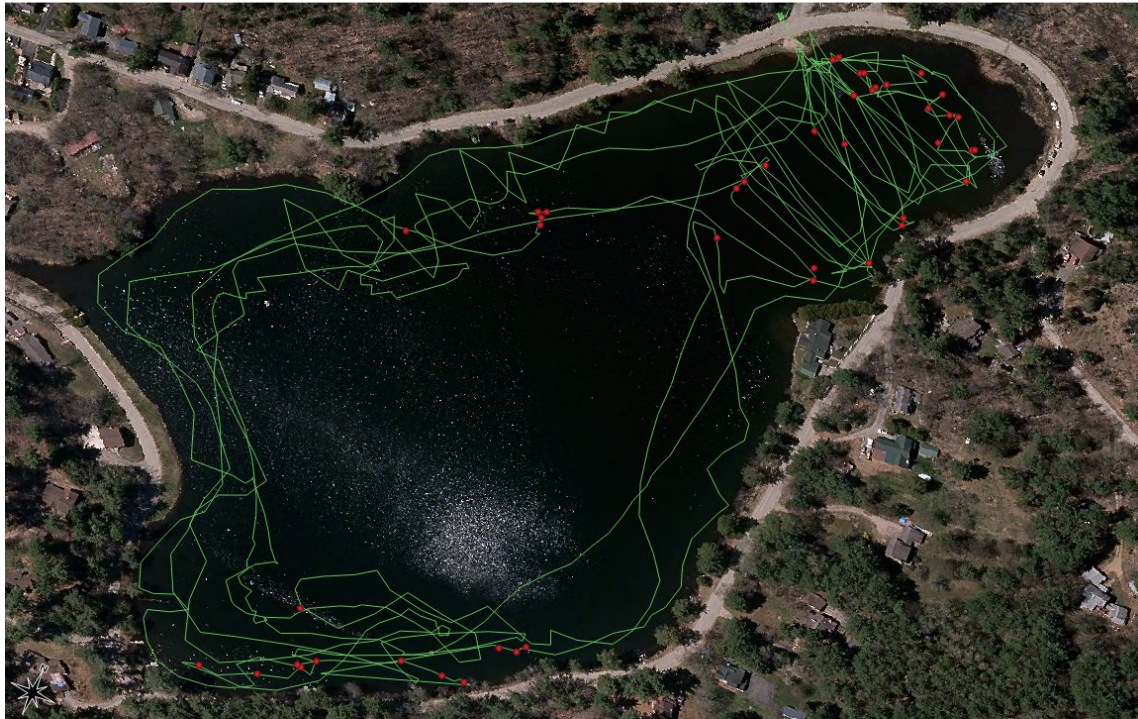


Each tracking color represents a different day

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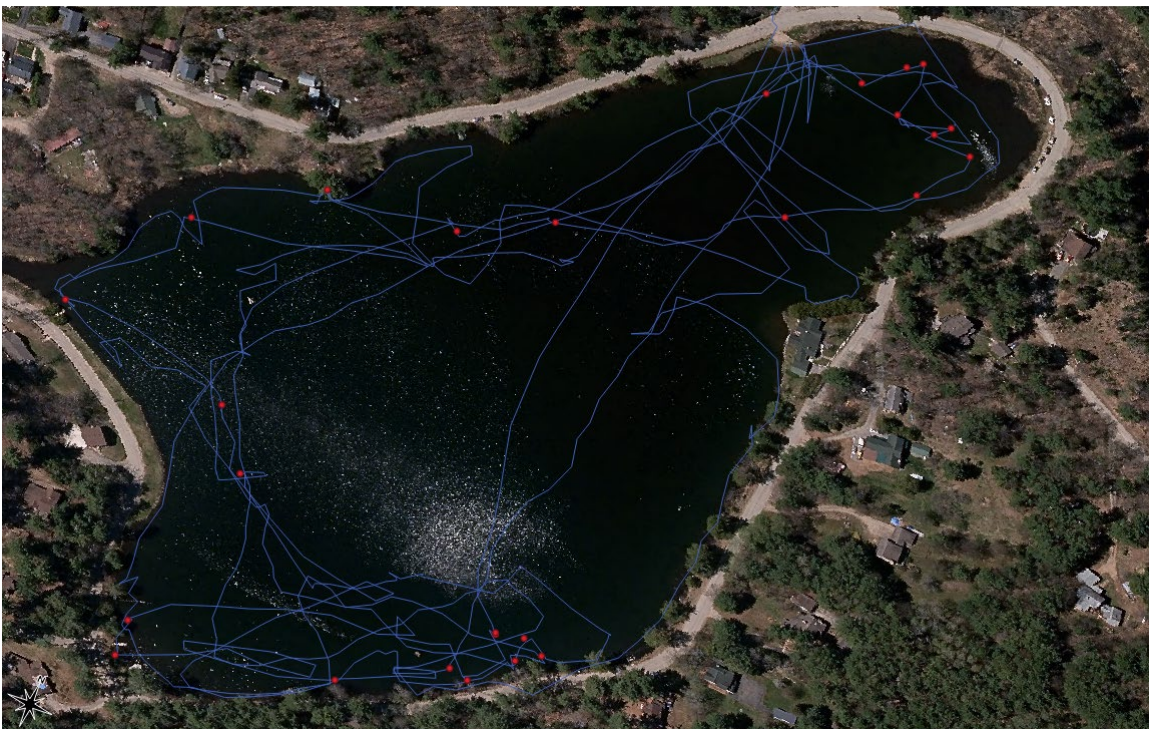
Monday September 11, 2023

Sept 11 '23 Moody pond coverage & Plants



Tuesday September 12, 2023

Sept 12 '23 Moody pond coverage & Plants



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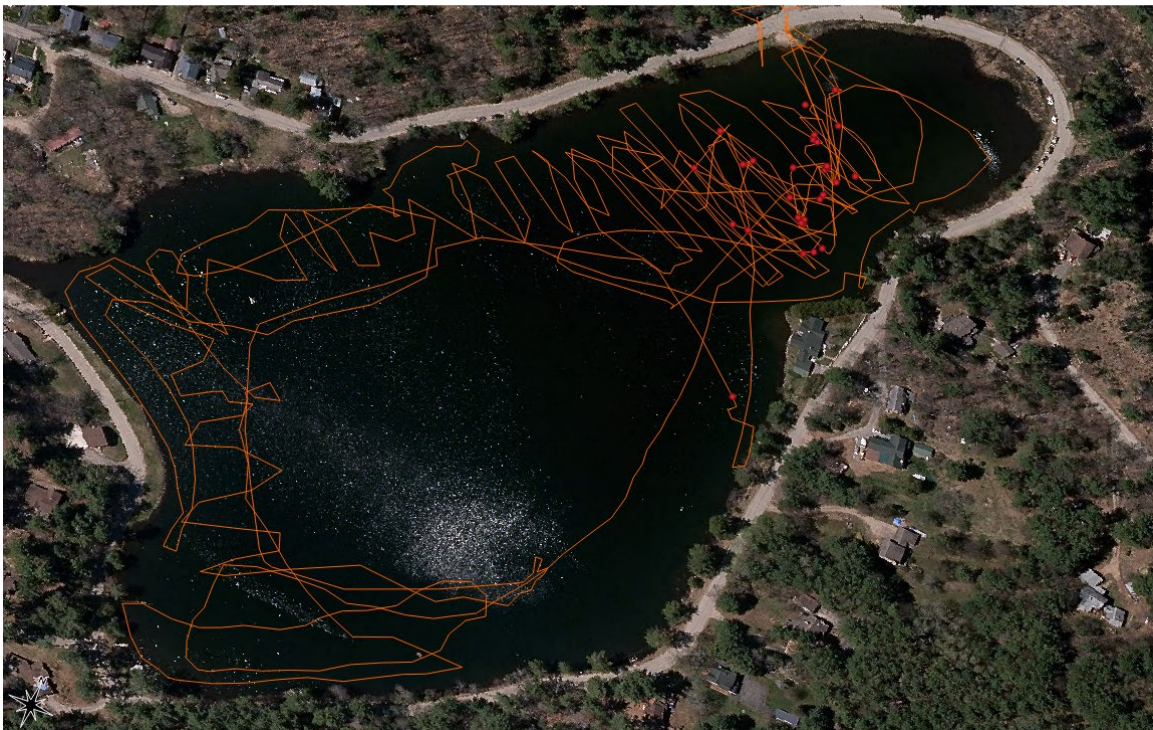
Wednesday September 13, 2023

Sept 13 '23 Moody pond coverage & Plants



Thursday September 14, 2023

Sept 14 '23 Moody pond coverage & Plants



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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.

Photos



Upper Saranac Foundation participating in the Save Moody Pond Ice-cream Social



Lobster buoys marking milfoil plants located from surface spotting



Week of September 11-14, 2023 AIS Bag harvest

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