

# Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

September, 2024

Prepared By:

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



Upper Saranac Foundation

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## Overview

The Upper Saranac Foundations Aquatic Invasive Divers (AID) hours of management in 2024 on Moddy Pond will range between 300 and 320 hours. The amount of time used is determined based on invasive growth and harvesting needs. Management periods will be spread out with work being completed between June and September. With this slight modification to our management approach, we will no longer spend a full week for each management session. Our staff will monitor growth and return to harvest as needed. We are confident that with this flexibility in scheduling we can be more effective and provide a better outcome for less cost.

Our AID team 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. Special thanks to the Dumas family for being so accommodating.

The focus for AIS management in September was to periodically check growth of known areas of past invasive species locations and harvest plants prior to their ability to mature enough to fragment. 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 searches, and snorkeling.

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. With few large and mature plants, chances for propagation become less. Plants found and harvested continues to decrease each year the pond is managed. The poundage retrieved also remains low since most growth were small immature plants.

There is an abundance of immature Common Bladderwort (a lookalike native plant) growing in shallow waters of the pond that we do not harvest. This is mentioned so there is no confusion with shore owners believing we are missing invasive plants.

**Harvest Data for the Month:** The Upper Saranac Foundation dive crew visited Moody Pond two days during the month; September 11 and 19. Our crew devoted 66 hours of work and found and removed 46 plants, totaling approximately 4.2 lbs.

On Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> our crew of four divers utilized the calm morning for surface spotting and marking milfoil plant locations before entering the water. Of the 39 plants found this day, only one was a large 5 stem plant. This plant was found out in the deeper norther zone. All remaining plants were single or double stem plants shorter than 18 inches.

Two plant fragments were found floating among the shallow vegetation. It is not uncommon for plants to become more fragile in the later part of the season in an effort to propagate for next season. These fragments were likely offspring of the one larger plant found on this day.

On Thursday, September 19 the same four diver crew returned at 8am. The day was cut short when the divers were convinced that there were no more visible plants remaining, concluded their day at 2:30pm. Only seven invasive plants were found and retrieved with only one being a larger plant.

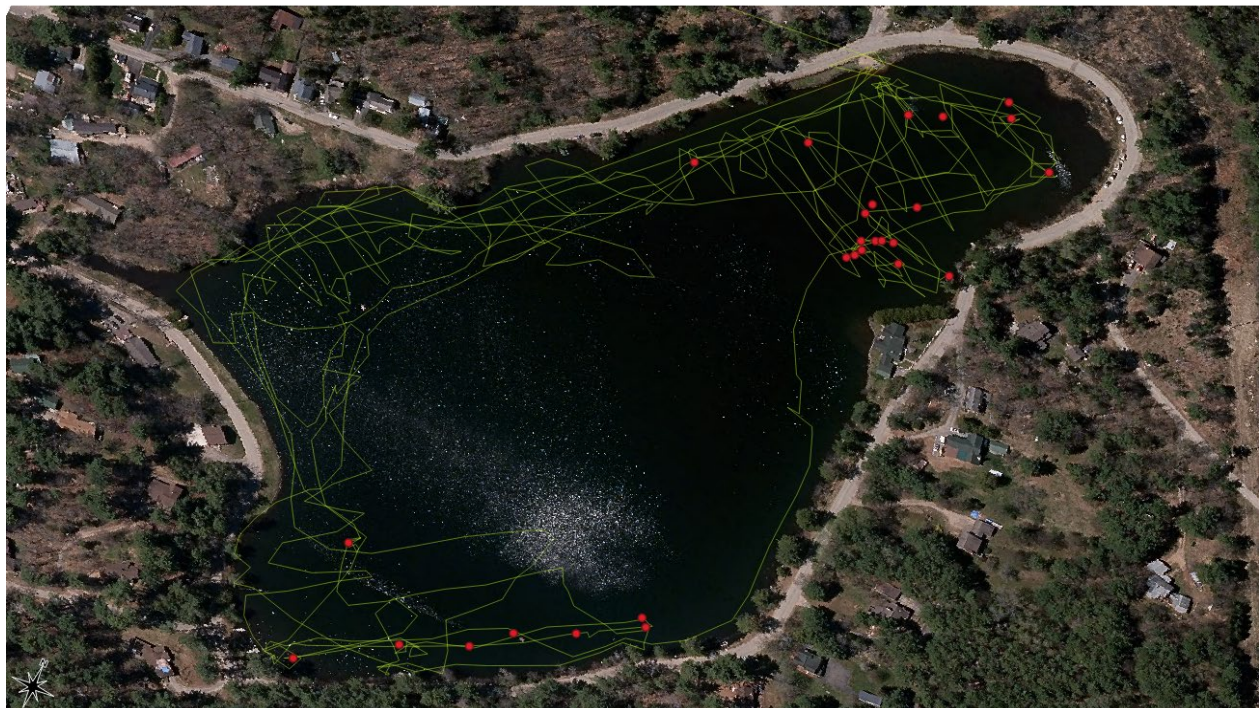
For the season we have completed 308 hours of the scheduled 300-320 hours for the year. In 2024, we have harvest 407 plants totaling approximately 19.8 pounds. In 2023 at total of 1,553 plants were removed weighing approximately 46.25 pounds for the year. The reduction of total yearly harvest amounts is a positive indication of the effectiveness of the management program.

Date	Hrs.	Plants removed
3-Jun	33	40
4-Jun	30	14
18-Jun	25.5	47
2-Jul	30	55
10-Jul	1	0
22-Jul	30	64
8-Aug	41	74
28/29 Aug	51.5	67
11-Sep	40	39
19-Sep	26	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>407</b>

### Operations - September 2024

#### Diver tracking. Red dots indicate locations of plants removed

moody pond coverage & plant locations Sept 11, 2024



Plant location and driver tracking for September 11, 2024



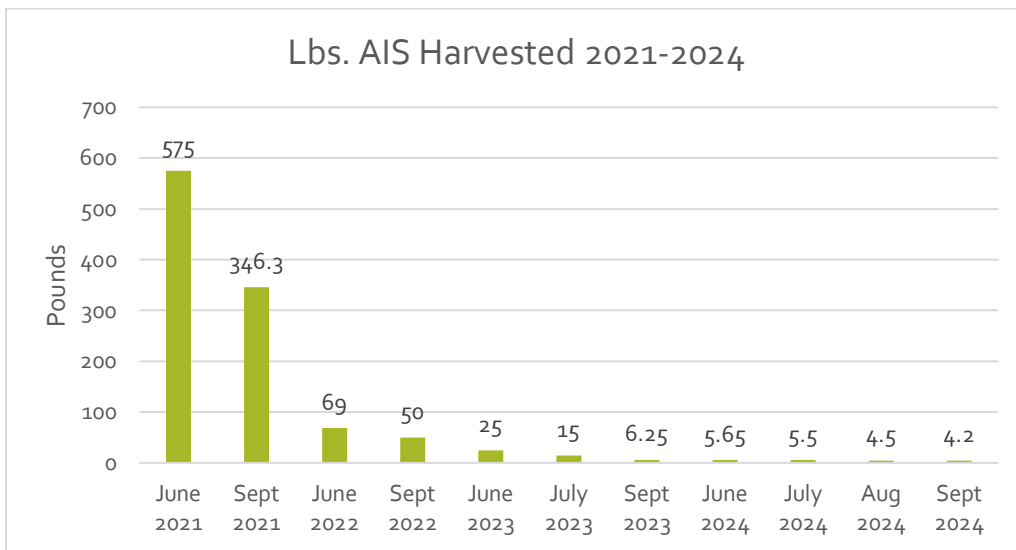
moody pond coverage & plant locations Sept 19, 2024



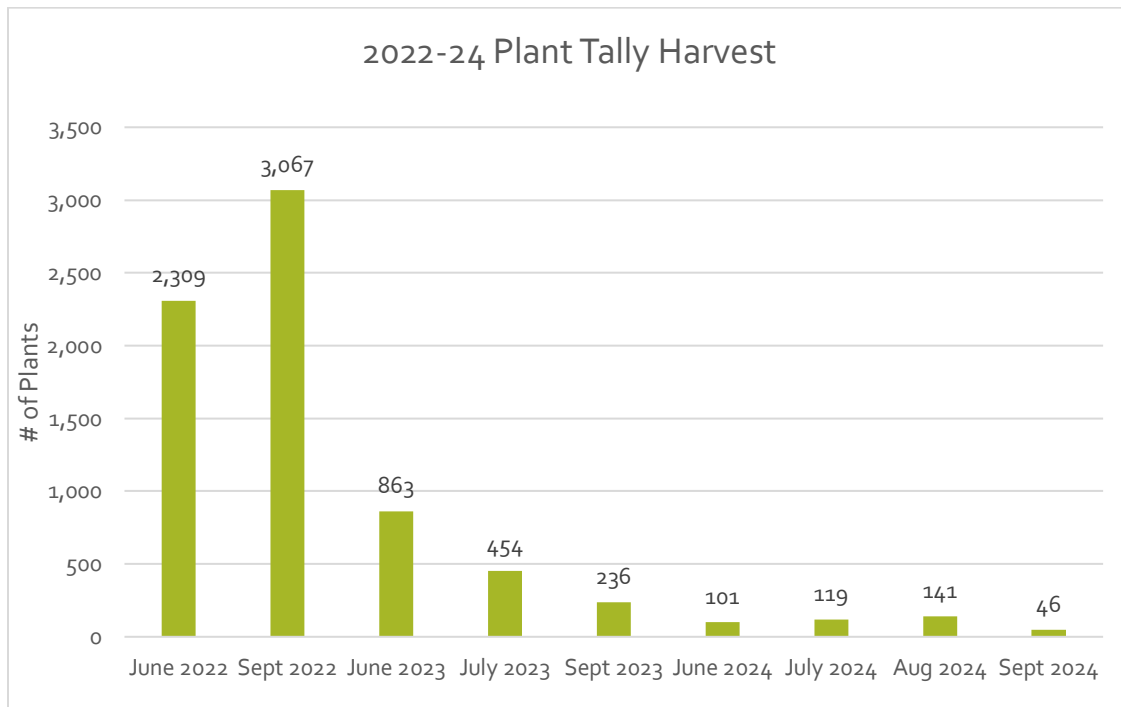
*Plant location and driver tracking for September 19, 2024*

**AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2024**

There has been a continuous reduction in the number of plants and poundage removed from previous harvesting operations. Attributing to the reduction in weight is that the majority of plants found are smaller in size and volume. This, and the reduction of the number of plants retrieved are both strong indicators of successful management accomplishments.



With low accumulating densities of AIS, our divers are not only weighing daily harvest totals but also count the number of plants harvested. This plant count began when USF- AID divers took over harvesting management on the pond in 2022. This method has been used on Upper Saranac Lake since 2015 and is a more accurate way of quantifying and assessing the efficacy overtime of our management techniques.



### **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**



*September 11, 2024*



*September 19, 2024*



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