

EWM INVASION – YEAR 2  
By John Ney, Chairman of Milfoil Committee

As reported in the Fall newsletter, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered in Gilmore Lake last August. Events moved quickly after the discovery. The WDNR gave us an Early Detection, Rapid Response grant (\$20,000 over three years, matched by \$8,600 in cash and volunteer effort). We used some of that money to map the extent of EWM and then had it treated with the herbicide 2,4D in September. Matt Berg of Endangered Resource Services mapped the boundaries of the pioneer stand of EWM off the south shore (marked by buoys). Matt also did a whole-lake survey for additional EWM, finding none. Dale Dressel of Northern Aquatic Services then treated the ~ 2 acre stand. Total cost of these services was \$3,600.

Once established, it is almost impossible to completely eradicate EWM. However, the extent and impact of EWM can be controlled through a diligent program of survey, identification, and treatment. For 2010, Matt Berg will dive the pioneer site in May to determine if more treatment is warranted: hand pulling by trained divers or herbicide. Matt will also conduct a meandering survey in shallow areas to scout for other EWM, and teach our monitors this survey technique.

To be eligible for future DNR grants to control EWM, Gilmore Lake must have an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP). This requires, among other things, a point-intercept sampling of the entire lake (~500 sites). At each, specimens of vegetation are removed, preserved, and cataloged to provide a thorough description of our aquatic plants (more than 50 species!) and their distribution, Matt will do this in August, when weed growth is fully developed. Total cost of our 2010 contract with Endangered Resource Services is \$3,750. If chemical treatment is necessary, the total costs could easily double.

We were also successful in receiving a second DNR grant for education and boat inspection for 2010 (\$3,900 matched by \$2,140 in cash and labor). The Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat inspection will continue as it has since 2007. Although we now have a stand of EWM, boat and trailer inspection can thwart further spread, particularly near the landing and culvert. Inspection of boats and trailers leaving the lake will also help prevent the spread of EWM to other waters. In this spirit, the Nancy Lake Association continues to conduct boat inspections despite having EWM for many years. So expect to see Jim Hoyt again at the landing, and check out the eye-catching new signage by Burt King.

We are in a war with EWM with no end in site. The documented impacts of EWM are many, from impairment of fishing, boating, and swimming to reduction in property values of as much as 10%. The good news is that we got an early start to control the invasion. But long-term success will depend on the sustained contributions – in money and/or effort – of all of us.