

June 1, 2024

Little Punderson Lake Update:

### **LAKE:**

I would like to take a minute and let everyone know the status of the lake. With the early spring warm weather that we had, it created an immediate challenge to control the curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). The curly pondweed has been a challenge to control and eliminate over the last few years. This plant is considered invasive, and it originates from Eurasia.

Early March it was detected that the curly leaf had already started its germination and growth process, even while the water temperature was still under 50 degrees.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> lake colorant (Air Max Dye) was added to help slow the growth process, the lake was watched closely to monitor the result over the next three weeks, this resulted in having little effect on slowing the growth. During this three-week period, it also became apparent the Filamentous Algae was making a move in shallow areas around the lake.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> the first treatment to control the algae was added. The product is called Earth Tec, it's an Algaecide/Bactericide, this product replaces chemicals like copper sulfate, Cutrine and white cap, it's safer and more exco-friendly. Another reason we decided to go with this product is because the formula is created to suspend it in the water table and not settle in the bottom muck, which in turn will always be there to attack the algae as it tries to grow. This was one of the reasons why we kept the lake levels low, we didn't want to have this product spill over the overflow pipe and lose our product. I will be happy to share more details for those interested.

When April 15<sup>th</sup> rolled around, the curly pondweed had taken hold of our lake as we all saw. We created a plan of attack to focus on eliminating this weed, we knew we couldn't make it happen overnight as that would stress out the lake and possibly create a fish kill. Our goal with the lake is to find and keep a happy balance of vegetation and fish as they go hand and hand.

Since April 15<sup>th</sup>, we have used an underwater mower to cut the weeds, make access paths throughout the lake and rake the surface weeds. We have also been applying an organic dication, this product is considered a contact herbicide. The product is applied by hand

sprayer, and it begins eliminating the pond weeds by dehydration. The results have been very successful to date. The first area that was treated was the North Shoreline. Today it's nearly weed free and clean. The East and West shorelines have now been treated and the results should be satisfying in the next two weeks. Unfortunately, it's a slow process that we choose to take for a couple of reasons, first cost of product is less than half of faster acting products, second, we can control the dose or the ppm (Parts Per. Million), this helps keep the water safer for life and use. Just to clarify, most areas being treated are along the shoreline and not the whole body of water, it's very specific to areas of growth.

Over the next couple weeks, the pond weed will be eliminated to the point it's not making the lake unusable, and from there it will become a spot check and treat minimal situation for the rest of the season.

I hope this provides all the Current Members clarity and a solid confirmation that the Lake is in good hands, and we expect to have a beautiful lake this year and years to come.

One last note, water samples were taken two weeks ago to measure the ammonia, phosphates, PH, nitrates, dissolved oxygen, hardness, alkalinity and salinity, the results will help us determine the correct treatment plan going forward to maintain a healthy lake. Once those results are received back from the lab, we will post them up at the community board at the small beach. We will also be grabbing a couple samples to send to our local lab to test for E. coli to assure all is safe for human activities.

For any questions feel free to reach out at [Trustees@LittlePundersonLake.com](mailto:Trustees@LittlePundersonLake.com)

Thank you,

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