



Lake Lawrence *newsletter*

January 2010

Summers of Success: 2008-2009

In 2007, the Lake Management District (LMD) Advisory Committee, in cooperation with state and county agencies, gained authorization for the selective application of fluridone (Sonar) to our lake to control submerged nuisance weeds. This treatment prescription, along with harvesting and other lake stewardship efforts, comprises Lawrence Lake's Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP), providing a comprehensive balance between the needs of wildlife and humans.

In 2008, an initial treatment of Sonar was applied to approximately 45 acres of the littoral area of the lake (see diagram below). This was considered a trial year. As such, the treatment was applied in conjunction with more familiar mechanical harvesting techniques. The results of this initial Sonar treatment were very positive. Accordingly, the LMD Advisory Committee elected to continue with Sonar applications in the spring of 2009, while postponing the decision whether to use mechanical harvesting until mid-summer.

The 2008 Sonar treatment was so effective, that in 2009 we treated only 27 littoral acres with Sonar, and no harvesting was deemed necessary. Because of these cost savings, we have the funds to treat additional permitted acres in 2010. The decision to treat will be made in February and March, so that the herbicide can be applied at its most effective time, very early in the growing season.

Sonar has the added benefit of controlling Eurasian watermilfoil that might be introduced to the lake. Eurasian watermilfoil is an aggressive, noxious weed that has plagued many of our sister lakes recently and is easily transferred from lake-to-lake by boats and trailers.

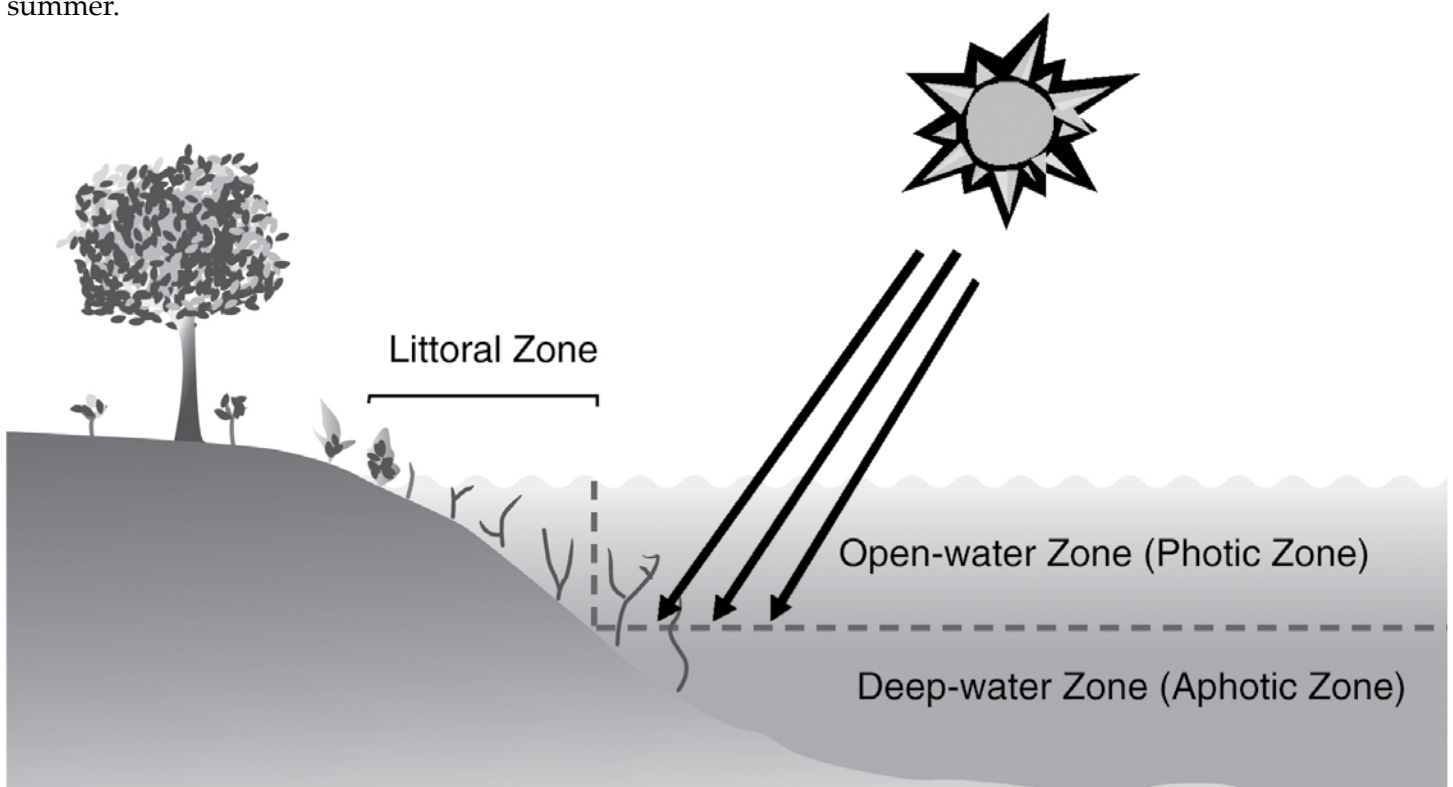
Because harvesting can be used anywhere on the lake, and herbicides are restricted to predetermined areas, harvesting will continue to be part of the LMD's management strategy should nuisance aquatic vegetation become a problem outside of our permit areas.

Noxious aquatic plants, such as fragrant waterlily or Eurasian milfoil can still be treated outside the permitted aquatic nuisance areas.

Fragrant waterlilies once covered over 80 acres of the lake's 330 acres. After decades of effort, including mechanical harvesting, dredging, then application of glyphosate (Rodeo), it has been reduced to a very small presence on the lake. We estimate fewer than 100 plants remain in shallow water along a half-mile section of the southeastern corner of the lake, and south of the Lake Lawrence Community Club.

The LMD will continue to monitor and map the fragrant waterlily in 2010, allowing us to respond quickly to any increase in density. Spot treatments with the herbicide Rodeo will be made to keep it at these low numbers. Our native yellow waterlily, spatterdock, is growing back in the areas once dominated by the noxious waterlily; still other native species are beginning to appear again too.

-- continued next page --



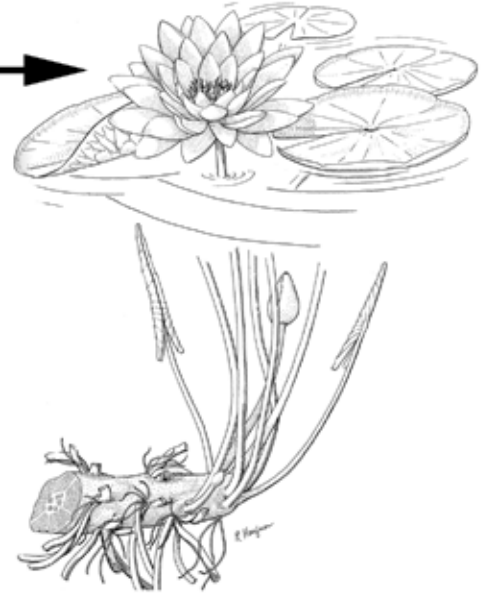
Summers of Success ... continued

In summary, we have experienced the following benefits from this effort:

- ◆ A net increase in the effective area of weed control each year.
- ◆ No harmful effect on wildlife or water quality from the use of Sonar.
- ◆ Permanent protection of certain areas of the lake to preserve the natural environment.

This multiyear coordination effort between the constituents of the LMD and government agencies is truly a success story. We have developed a cost-effective strategy for managing the lake, with minimum disruption to the lake's ecology. Your LMD looks forward to sustaining the lake's balance and beneficial uses in the coming years.

Nymphaea odorata, also called "fragrant" or "white" waterlily, is an invasive plant that features large, many-petaled fragrant blossoms. *Nymphaea* leaves are flat and round with a notch, and they almost always float.



Nuphar lutea, also called "spatterdock," is a native waterlily. When mature, spatterdock has large elephant-ear-shaped leaves and yellow flowers. Spatterdock leaves grow up to 12 inches across and 18 inches long. They are considered "emergent" plants because the leaves and blossoms usually stick up out of the water.

Lake Lawrence newsletter

Thurston County
Resource Stewardship Department
929 Lakeridge Drive S.W.
Olympia, Washington 98502
(360) 754-4681 (TDD line: 754-2933)

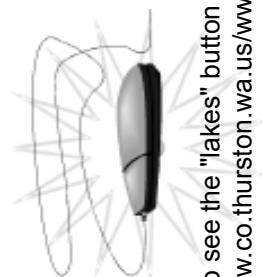
2010
WINTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Summers of Success: 2008-2009

Important Notice

Thurston County's Water Resources Program is now under the Department of Resource Stewardship. Our phone number is 754-4681.



Also see the "lakes" button on www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwwm

Lake Lawrence Newsletter is published by the Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department to provide information to members of the Lake Lawrence Management District.