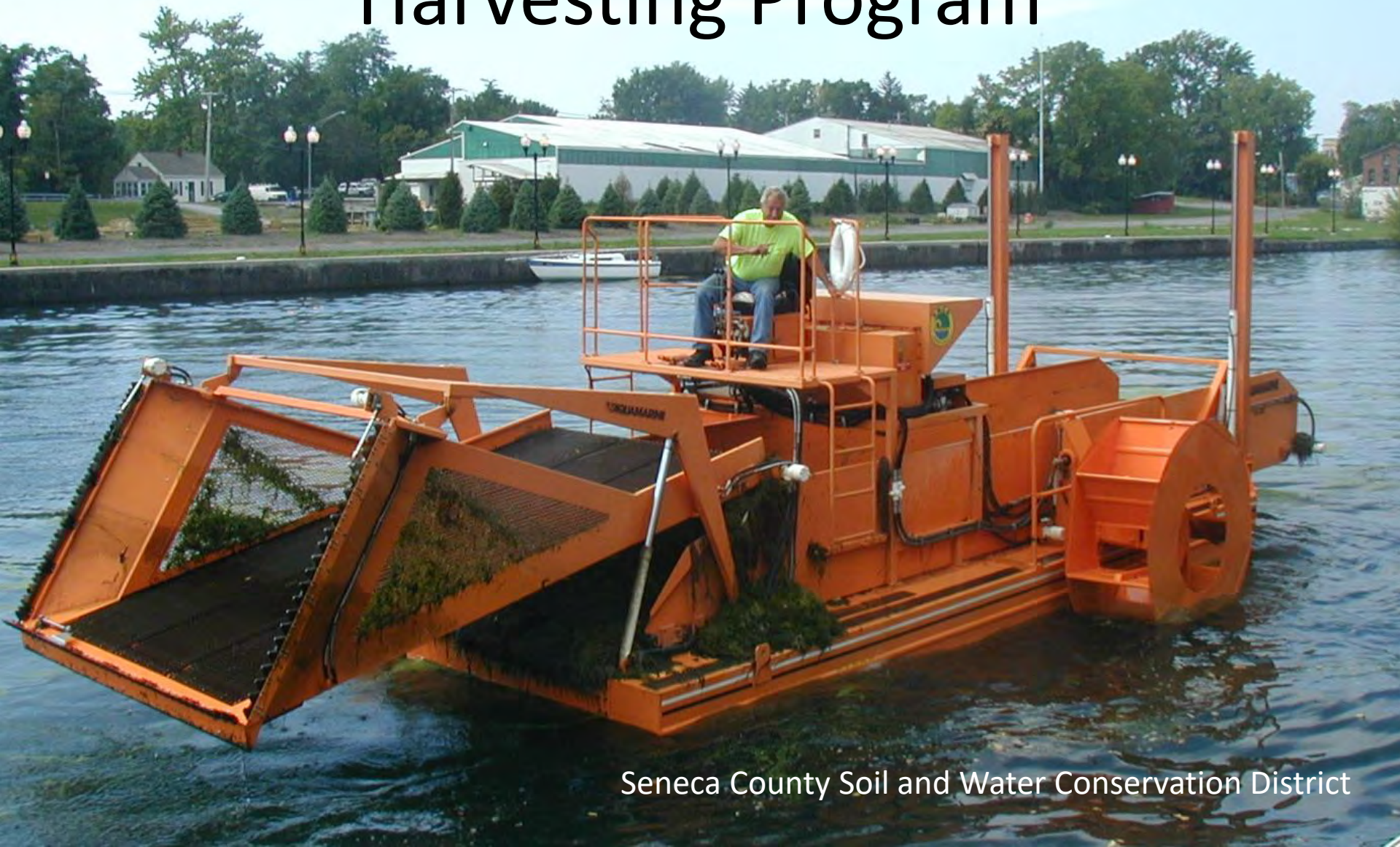


Seneca County Aquatic Weed Harvesting Program



Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District

HISTORY

Seneca Lake pollution battle continues; reports are encouraging



- Aquatic Plant problems at the North end of Cayuga Lake have been documented back to the early 20th century.
- The Seneca County SWCD organized a chemical control program in the mid 1970's
- In the early 1980's NYS funding was obtained for aquatic plant control. This program became known as the Aquatic Vegetative Control Program (AVC) The AVC program evolved into FLOWPA in 1994
- The Seneca County SWCD purchased 2 United Marine International (UMI) aquatic plant harvesters, 2 shore conveyors and 2 dump trucks in 1986-87 using both AVC and county funding.
- In 2007 Seneca County purchased a new Aquamarine H9-800 aquatic plant harvester.
- In 2010 Seneca County sold the 2 old UMI harvesters.
- In 2012 Seneca County purchased a new 7 foot cut harvester using county funds

FUNDING

- Harvesting Operations are funded by FLOWPA (Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance)
- Equipment purchases funded by FLOWPA and Seneca County



Harvesters

- The Seneca County SWCD owns 2 Aquatic Plant Harvesters
- One 2007 Aquamarine model# H9-800
9 ft. cut, 800 cu. ft. storage capacity
- One 2012 Aquamarine model #H7-320 7 ft. cut
320 cu. ft. storage capacity



Legend

Historical Harvesting Locations



- Potential Harvesting Acreages:

- Northern Seneca Lake: 340.2
- Waterloo Water Treatment plant: 7.0
- Sampson State Park: 24.0
- Lodi Point State Park: 485.7
- Waterloo Canal: 129.2
- Seneca Falls Canal: 31.9
- Northern Cayuga Lake: 986.2
- Dean's Cove Boat Launch: 12.2

Disposal Methods



- Weeds are transferred from the Harvester to a shore conveyor that unloads onto a dump truck.
- Weeds are transported to different farms where they are mixed with manure, composted and eventually applied to the land.

Season

- Typical Harvesting Season: Mid July - Labor Day
- In the late 1980's to early 1990's the Harvesting Season was: late June - November 1st
- The demise of Eurasian Water Milfoil in 1991-92 greatly reduced the need for aquatic plant harvesting in most areas.
- Eurasian Water Milfoil is making a slow return.



Typical Harvested Weeds:

- Eel Grass



- Milfoil



- Curly Leaf Pond Weed
& various other
native species



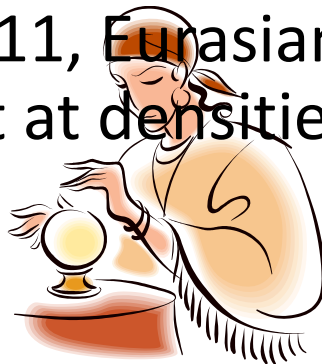
Challenges and Frustrations

- Lake Property owners expectations
 - Mechanical Harvesting will not leave the lake like your neighbors swimming pool.
 - Hearsay and rumors
 - *We don't respond to people waving 20 dollar bills from the end of their docks.*
 - *We are not responsible for floating plant material 2 lakes over.*
 - *We do not dump harvested weeds back into the lake.*
- Access- Many areas simply do not offer access because of both natural and man made obstacles. It is not practical to transport harvested vegetation more than 1 mile on the harvester.



Concerns about the future

- Water Chestnut?
 - Hydrilla?????
- These invasive species have yet to be identified in the areas that we harvest. But for how long?
- Ironically, mechanical harvesting may not be viable in the early stages of an infestation. *We don't want to play the role of Johnny Appleseed with these invasives.*
- It's Baaack. As of 2011, Eurasian Watermilfoil is slowly returning though not at densities seen in early years.



Cayuga Lake Weeds 1988





HARVESTING



WATER CHESTNUT





A photograph showing a road bank stabilization project. The foreground and middle ground are covered in a dense layer of grey, angular stones or gravel, sloping down from left to right. To the left of the stone bank, there is a dense line of green evergreen trees. To the right of the stone bank, there is a grassy area and a paved road. In the background, there are more trees and a clear sky. The text "Road Bank Stabilization Projects" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Road Bank Stabilization Projects



HYDRO-SEEDING



Town of Ovid Road Bank Stabilization Project





Fuel Containment Storage



A photograph of a herd of black and white dairy cows grazing in a lush green field. The cows are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others in the background. The sky is bright blue with large, fluffy white clouds. The text "AG BMP PROJECTS" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, bold, black font.

AG BMP PROJECTS

Erwindale Farm completed an Access Control System. The animals in the pasture had unlimited access to 1300 feet of Silver Creek. High tensile fence was installed to eliminate animal access to the creek, and a cattle slat crossing was installed as a stabilized crossing.



The George Family Farm completed a heavy use pad for the calf hutches. Originally, runoff from the hutch area was not controlled and drained to the farm access road where it mixed with roof runoff. The farmstead is only 2000 feet from Cayuga Lake. The hutch area were moved to an improved site and vegetated treatment area was installed downslope to treat runoff.



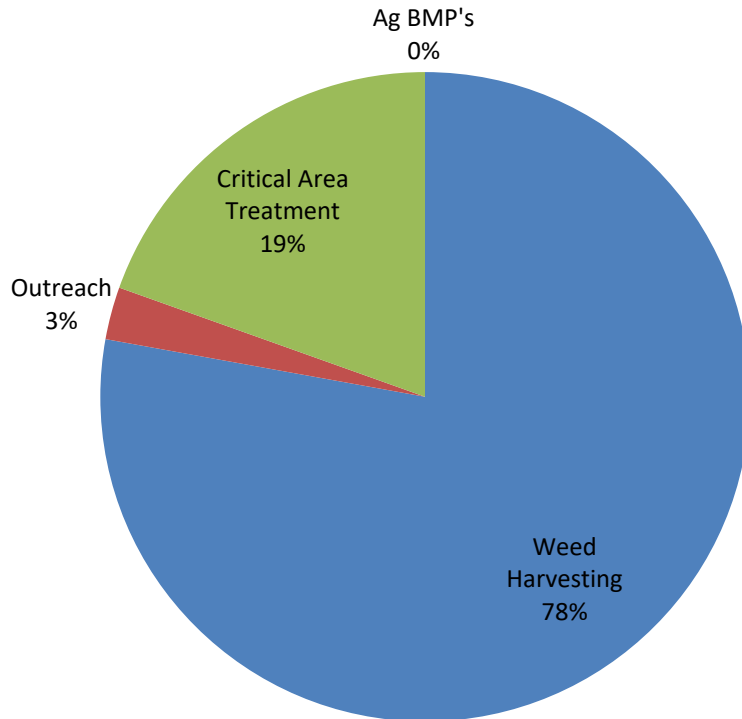
Persoon Dairy completed an access control system. Originally, animals had unlimited access to the headwaters of an unnamed tributary of Cayuga Lake. High tensile fence was installed to eliminate animal access to the stream and an animal laneway was installed from the barn to the pasture.



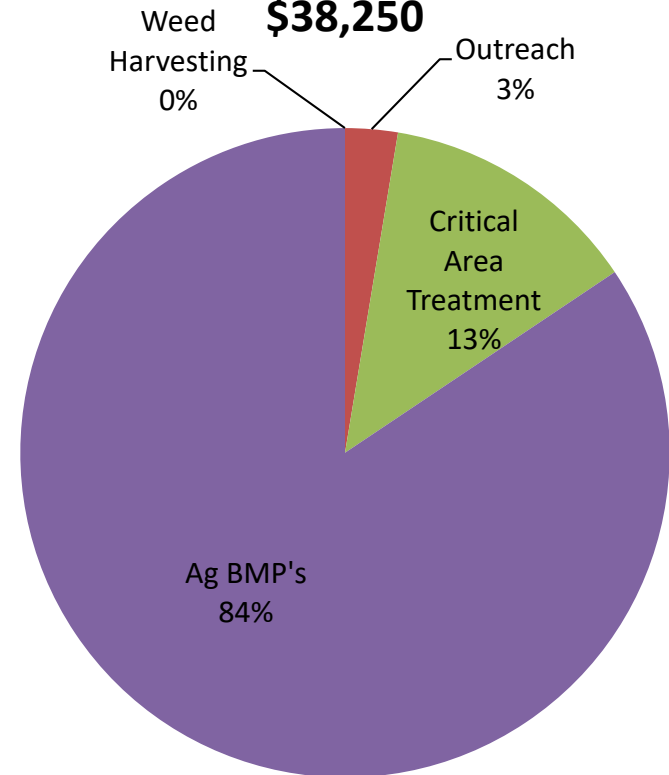
FLLOWPA FUNDING

Seneca County SWCD

2010-11
\$38,250



2011-12
\$38,250



FLLOWPA FUNDING

Seneca County SWCD

