

Hello Friends of West Pond,

What a winter and early spring we have had! I don't know about everyone else, but I'm ready for some time at the pond.

As I'm putting this note together our favorite pond is still coated in ice and (new) snow, but it won't be there for long. As soon as the snow and mud are gone it'll be time to start up our Curly Leaf fight for the 2011 / 2012 growth cycle.

Thanks to all the volunteers of 2009 / 2010 for a great job!

Last fall we added 100 feet of floating suction hose to the DASH boat and what a difference it made for everyone involved. It's much lighter for topside handling and doesn't stir up the bottom like the sinking hose was doing.

The hose doesn't stay high and dry while in use, but is sub-surface. If you come out to the DASH while it's being operated, make contact with the person onboard before coming within 100 feet so as not to hit the hose. The DASH operator can signal you a safe approach area.

Another addition to the fight is a tri-pod with a winch to move the mooring blocks required to hold the operation boats on site in the wind. (It works awesome!) Saves a lot on some of our older backs!

I'm afraid last year wasn't as productive as I would have hoped. I had a herniated disc in my neck that had me in a lot of pain for the whole year and I wasn't able to work as hard as I would have liked. I'm thrilled to say it was finally operated on in December and is now 99.9% better! I'm ready to kick some serious weed butt this year!

We will be starting again depending on when the ice goes out, the mud dries up, and I can get all the equipment ready. As in past years that will most likely be towards the beginning of May. An exact schedule will be forthcoming as that time gets closer. I'm hoping to be up and running by the 9<sup>th</sup> of May at the latest in order to harvest as much weed as possible before the turions develop.

This is just a preliminary note so anyone interested in helping will be able to do some planning, too. If you have a time frame in May that you would be available feel free to let me know. Otherwise just keep it in mind and Joe will let everyone know when we've started.

The boat can be operated with one person topside and one diver. However, two people topside makes it a much safer operation in case of any emergency. We will work with what we have, when we have it, but two volunteers would be preferred. Days we have two divers, one volunteer is all that would be required as the second diver works the boat while the other is below. These will be longer days as the divers switch positions with a shore break between each dive. It will also be possible for a volunteer to work the morning and another the late morning / afternoon.

This is just a note to let everyone know we're getting geared up for another fight and more information will be available soon.

See you at the pond,

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