

# Six Mile Lake Association

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- Established in 1988
- Non-profit organization, funded entirely by its members
- Dedicated to protect the quality of our lake and watershed
- Membership is open to anyone who feels strongly about the stewardship of the lake
- 260 property owners, 298 parcels
- 110 property owners members of association; \$25 annual dues

## Six Mile Lake Association - Ongoing Projects

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- Support pristine waterway of the St. Clair/Six Mile Lake nature area
- Encourage greenbelts on lake frontage and improve water quality
- Provide information and education on wildlife, wetland protection, water safety and responsible boating practices
- Present water resource concerns to local officials and other agencies and organizations
- Work with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to monitor water quality

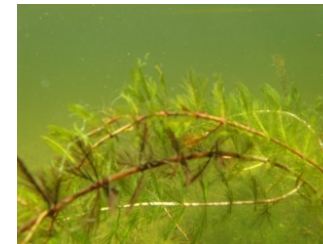
# Six Mile Lake Association - Our problem

- In 2008 invasive Eurasian Milfoil was discovered in Six Mile Lake
- Extremely aggressive weed has taken over entire areas of the lake
- Consequences
  - Grows at an exponential rate
  - Very likely will spread to entire chain of lakes
  - Reduces in-lake biodiversity, slowing water circulation, reducing dissolved oxygen and increasing bacteria
  - Disrupts boating, water sports, fishing and swimming



# What is Eurasian Milfoil (EWM)

- Non-native aquatic plant
  - Native to Europe and Asia
  - Documented in 1940 in the US
  - Has spread to more than 40 states
- Growth
  - Long spaghetti-like stems which branch multiple times near the surface forming a dense mass.
  - Extremely fast at up to 1" a day.
  - Longer growth season than native plants
  - Very durable and tough to kill
- Other Michigan lakes affected include Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, Torch Lake, Lake Charlevoix, Lake Cadillac, Carp Lake, Silver Lake and many others



Eurasian water-milfoil  
*Myriophyllum spicatum*  
(Non-native)

Leaves in whorls of 3-5  
and may be widely  
spaced along the stem



Note: More than 12  
pairs of leaflets

Northern water-milfoil  
*Myriophyllum sibiricum*  
(Native)



Note: Usually  
12 or fewer  
pairs of leaflets



# Options for Controlling Eurasian Milfoil

- Mechanical (Harvester, Barriers)
- Chemical
- Biological
- Combination of above



## Six Mile Lake Association - Efforts to date

- Biological course, seeding the lake with weevils
- EnviroScience is supplier of weevils
- Weevils multiply and spread
- Repeated plantings are required
- Results are not immediate and will take years to see improvement
- Next planting in June 2012
- Survey yearly to determine impact of EWM and weevils



# Six Mile Lake Association – EWM Treatment Plantings and Cost

Year	Weevils Planted	Costs
2009	6,000	\$4,665
2010	12,000	\$8,265
2011	16,000	\$12,450
2012	30,000	\$17,500
2013 & Beyond	TBD	Cannot sustain same funding methods



## Funding methods to-date for treatment of EWM

- Membership dues
- Donations
- Fund raisers
- Grants

# Six Mile Lake Association - Ongoing Funding Plan

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- Raised funds to address 2012 but not beyond
- Who should contribute to controlling EWM?
  - Lake property owners
  - Lake users
    - Boaters
    - Fisherman
    - Recreational use
    - Hunters
    - Outdoor enthusiast
- Funding options from the county or township
- Special assessment district for invasive species
- Other ideas?
- Timeline – Must have funds available in December 2012 for 2013 plan



# Six Mile Lake Association - Current Strategy

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- Develop multi-year plan for controlling and funding control of EWM and other invasive species
- Educate Townships and Counties on EWM problem on Six Mile lake and long-term impact
- Request guidance and assistance from Townships and Counties
  - Strategy
  - Communication
  - Funding options – special assessment administration
  - Additional contacts to develop and fund
- Strong endorsement by Townships and Counties we can take to other municipalities and agencies
- Contacts:
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  - <http://www.sixmilelakeassociation.org/>