

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association Commits \$30,000 to Fight Aquatic Invasive Weeds

The Sauk River Chain of Lakes (SRCL) Association Board of Directors recently approved \$30,000 over a five year period to fight the aquatic invasive plant "curly-leaf pondweed". The monies have been committed to a pilot program endorsed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Excerpt from the Minnesota DNR website: "Curly-leaf pondweed is not native to Minnesota and can be a detriment to our lakes. In spring, curly-leaf pondweed can form dense mats that may interfere with boating and other recreation on lakes. Curly-leaf also can cause ecological problems because it can displace native aquatic plants. In midsummer, curly-leaf plants usually die back, which results in rafts of dying plants piling up on shorelines, and often is followed by an increase in phosphorus, a nutrient, and undesirable algal blooms. Past experience in Minnesota and elsewhere has shown that eradication or elimination of curly-leaf pondweed from lakes is not a realistic goal. Nevertheless, problems caused by curly-leaf can be managed using available methods of control."

About the SRCL Curly-leaf Pondweed Pilot Program:

Curly-leaf Pondweed is no stranger to the many residents of the Sauk River Chain of Lakes. In fact, over the past 10 years, it has drastically increased in several of our lakes. In response to the problems that Curly-leaf has caused, the SRCL Board has approved \$30,000 over five years to

fight its spread. The program includes creating three to four 3-year pilot projects in which contact herbicides will be used to manage the spread of curly-leaf pondweed at specific locations on the chain of lakes. The funding to cover the cost will be divided equally with 1/3 from the SRCL, 1/3 from DNR grants and 1/3 from the property owners in the treated areas. The chemical treatment of aquatic, invasive weeds does require permits from the MN DNR and approval from any and all property owners affected.

Anyone interested in becoming part of this pilot program or if you have any questions, please contact Pete Peterson (Aquatic Vegetation Committee) at 507-382-3424 or John Rocky (President, SRCL) at 320-493-7992.

Sauk River Chain of Lakes, Inc.

Sauk River Chain of Lakes, Inc. is a non-profit, membership lake association comprised of lake property owners on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes in Stearns County, Minnesota. The Sauk River Chain of Lakes was formed in 1982 for the purpose of improving the water quality of the lakes. The organization is funded by yearly membership dues and is supported by many water quality organizations in the state of Minnesota.

Contact:
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