

## Neshkoro Millpond gets a face lift

The Friends of the White River saw their 2013 weed harvest get off to a good start on Wednesday, June 26.

The harvester and operators were on lease from The White River Flowage Lake Management District. The harvester, by the end of work on June 27, harvested an estimated 50,000 pounds of aquatic vegetation currently choking out the waterway.

The Friends Association has another weed harvest planned for Aug. 7 and 8. The August weed cutting may be the last for the millpond. The harvester currently in use has been sold and will no longer be available. The Friends membership voted to not purchase the harvester. There is no other harvester available at this time.

A very positive impact on the millpond can be seen from the Highway 73 bridge. The channels cut are extremely obvious and show what a clean body of water can look like. A healthy millpond remains the focus of most Friends members. If the millpond is not maintained, impacts on other parts of the White River will be noticed in years to come.

“There is a lot of sediment

build up and very shallow areas. Especially just off the boat landing. Anywhere you see weeds at the top of the water signals shallow areas,” said Mike Geier of The White River Flowage Management District.

Deb Teske, president of the Friends of the White River Association, added, “There has been concern over fish being taken out by the harvester. If you look in the weeds there are no fish.”

“The weed cutter does not go that far down to hurt the fish,” Geier added.

The weed cutting program deliberately leaves some areas of vegetation alone to prevent any disturbance to fish habitat. The cutting program is not the cure all for the problems; it remains a temporary cosmetic fix. Dredging and drawdowns off the waterway are the most widely accepted method to kill the invasive weed problem that exists.

The Friends Association, through donations from throughout the community and fundraisers, has paid for the program. The members of the Friends Association would like to express their gratitude to those that have helped make this happen.

