

Grass Update 10/11/22

The board has been working diligently toward the Grass situation in the lake.

The Aquatic Plant Management Plan, code name "Operation Carpe Diem Patientia" is moving forward with recommendations from Aquatic Solution's Mark McElroy. Mark was with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for 25 years and presently runs a company that manages over 350 private lakes and ponds. This is an ongoing management process that will require numerous data recovery expeditions and well as continued consultations with multiple biologists.

We consulted with 5 different biologist and three carp producers. I spoke personally with them.

They all had a few things in common.

1. You cannot remove the carp once they are put in.
2. It takes time for the carp to do their job. Sometimes two to three years, as they grow and consume up to three times their body weight a day. PATIENCE
3. Placing 1500 carp in the lake will remove ALL the vegetation of the lake. It's exactly what we did last time we had a grass problem.

It is akin to Nuking the lake. That's the magic number if you want a "bathtub" one told me. Two of them explained that they were told this a "Jet Ski" lake, used only for recreational boating. That is why the numbers were 7 fish per acre. But this is a multiple use lake with multiple user groups.

The grass acreage was initially estimated at around 200 acres, but updated number appears to be lower with subsequent sonar mapping.

The two Biologist that were featured on the emails and recommended 1300 to 1500 fish were of the understanding this was a recreational boating lake only. That's how they arrived at those numbers. I spoke with both of them and I asked McElroy to reach out to them. In discussion with them they said definitely that number was to wipe out all grass. They both agreed that the management is difficult, but start with a smaller number like McElroy recommended.

We will be placing another 425 sterile carp into the lake within the next week as per the guidance of Aquatic solutions with the blessings of the two biologists.

The management plan includes options to mechanically remove the grass as well as continued sonar mapping and consults with biologists to determine the status of the carp, the status of the grass, and the stocking of additional carp if warranted.

Remember this is an ongoing process that will be monitored closely.

I'd like to personally thank the Board for finding the money to fund the extra carp. Special thanks to Maria, our treasurer for this. Budgets are tight toward the end of the year. I don't know what we would do without her on the board.

And I'd especially like to thank Kirk for mapping out the grass and the depths of the lake. His engineering expertise is giving us an extra advantage in handling this grass invasion, without destroying the ecology of the lake.

Attached is the report from Aquatic Solutions and Mark McElroy

Blessings to all,

Dimy(The Lake Guy)