

OVERVIEW

Lake Ramsey is one of the most beautiful lakes in the south, if not the world. It is one of the only gated private lakes in the region with motor boats allowed. The artesian well that continuously flows water into the lake is unique. We do not have runoff from farms and industry, so we have somewhat control of what goes into our lake. Pesticides, weed killers, fertilizers and other lawn poisons, as well as 2-stroke outboard engines, are probably the biggest input of undesirable fluids into the lake on a continual basis.

The clarity of the lake this spring, in 2022, and the abundance of small fish was the nicest I've seen it since moving here in 2007. 2007 was right before the last Grass fiasco, and subsequent destruction of the lake ecosystem. I watched the lake turn from beautiful water, to full of grass, to muddy, with water clarity similar to chocolate milk on many days. That is why I got on the board. To make sure we don't repeat the same mistakes in the future.

For those who don't know me, my name is Dimetry Cossich, but my friends call me Dimy. I graduated from Tulane with a Psychology and Biology degree with minor focus on marine environments. I was a commercial fisherman for 14 years while I worked through school. I am a water person by nature and that's why I live on Lake Ramsey. We love living here. I was asked to get on the board by a concerned neighbor and friend, because he knew my love for the lake and how much my family ski and play on the lake. That was 7 years ago. Little did I know the attacks by ignorant strangers I would be subject to as an unpaid board member, only seeking to keep Lake Ramsey beautiful.

But Jack Dunn has been so kind as to field all unwarranted personal attacks, criticisms, and rude and mean comments. He said to send them to the following email: JackPunn@KissmyBass.com. Thanks Aquaman! You're such a help. If you have any legitimate concerns, please reach out to me and the other board members. Our contact info in on the web site.

GRASS IN THE PAST

The amount of grass in 2008 was approximately 75 surface acres (using a 2009 map). In December of 2008, 1500 sterile carp were released into the lake. Because the grass was not being removed quick enough, another 1800 were released in 2010.

With a total 3300 carp placed in the lake, all of the aquatic vegetation, SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE, was completely removed, leaving only a brown, mud colored lake heavily dominated by catfish and carp for a few years, until the carp started dying off and some catfish removed. Water quality was very poor during these years as well as most fishing. Except for catfish and carp! We were advised to remove the carp by the very people who recommended we put in such large numbers. To my recollection, the price for removal was over \$50,000. The cost for professional removal was prohibitive, but we did remove some catfish and attempted to remove as many carp as possible. In past discussions with the biologist, he stated to me that the recommendation to place that many was incorrect. We should have put in 350 to 400 carp, and waited 2 years for them to grow and eat.

CARP BIOLOGY

The carp that were stocked previously in Lake Ramsey, and in the future, are all certified sterile by the hatchery. Carp are very hardy fish and can grow up to 3-4 pounds a year. They can eat their weight in

grass per day. When they are young, some report that they can eat up to three times their body weight. The problem arises when you place too many fish for the amount of grass.

Just for example, say you place 1000 half pound sterile carp into a lake with lots of grass. In the beginning, they each eat about half pound of grass a day. But by year one, they grow to four pounds and eat 4 pounds a day. That's 4000 pounds of grass a day, in this example. By the third or fourth year, we have 10-to-12-pound fish eating over 10,000 pound of grass a day. Its ok to place an abundance of fish to remove the grass quicker, but you will need to remove them at a price or face the consequences.

GRASS TODAY

The grass was first noticed growing in the south lake in April /May of 2022. We were notified and inspected the areas. We then surveyed the entire lake for surface vegetation and subsurface vegetation. At that time, it appeared that we had approximately 4 to 6 acres, mostly in the South Lake. In late August, the growth was around 8 to 12 acres, still mostly around the South Lake.

BOARD ACTIONS

The board voted to acquire a permit for Sterile Grass Carp form La Dept of W&F and it was received on August 23, 2022. It is a one-year permit. Leaning upon the advice of multiple biologists with the La Dept of W&F, it was recommended to place 30 to 50 sterile carp in the lake as the weather cools down. With the limited surface coverage of the grass, we were cautioned not to place too many at one time. We could always put more later but it's nearly impossible to remove them. They also recommended mechanical removal of the grass as well. The carp were ordered and scheduled to be placed on September 20th. A resident offered to allow us to use her lot on the water in the South Lake to place the carp.

ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

Thanks to the ongoing research of residents, we are continuing to consult with professionals in the field. We reached out to the Lacombe field office last week as well as two companies that sell carp. The calculation by the companies that sell the carp have arrived at different stocking numbers than the biologist we have consulted. I have not spoken to any carp suppliers other than the one we are using, but have reached out last week for information. We are researching this in more depth to be certain we are taking the correct approach, and to avoid what happened last time we introduced carp into our lake.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

In addition to Carp stocking, there are other measures available to residents who are more affected by the grass than others. There is a product called Lake Mat that is like landscape fabric for the bottom of the lake. It is especially good for those areas that need jet ski access. Web site is: <https://www.lakemat.com>

Another item is called Weed Razor. It is a tool for cutting the grass at the bottom and retrieving it with a weed rake. We are discussing purchasing these tools for use by residents. If this is something that might interest you for weed control around your home, please let us know. Web site is: <https://weedrazers.com>

LANGINAPPE

For those who have commented that there is an ulterior motive here, somehow developing a Bass Trophy Lake, please rest assured. We don't have the money, the time or the initiative to achieve such a feat. And for the record, the person writing this is not a bass fisherman, but an active water sports enthusiast. I skied through the grass last time and towed dozens of jet skis back to dock. I don't want that to happen again! And I don't want to destroy the ecology of the lake by putting in a non-native species to decimate the ecosystem like we did 14 years ago. Some have stated we should put 1000 carp or more in the lake. What will happen to the lake in two years as they eat 10,000 pound of grass a day? It will become a muddy carp and catfish lake. We have to be prudent and use common sense in attacking this situation. Most Americans are used to a quick fix with things. There is no quick fix to this situation other than the Lake Matt and Weed Razor and mechanical removal. The carp take time.

The biologist told me that the grass will start slowing down its growth in fall and the carp will still eat. Both biologists recommended extreme caution in putting in too many. He said to reevaluate the lake next summer for growth, and if the grass has increased, to possibly stock the lake with additional carp.

I hope this clears up what the Board is doing with this ongoing situation.

Proverbs 11:14 "But in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Blessings to all,

Dimy
