## Schroon Lake Invasive Species Reconnaissance 2020 Nicholas Rowell & Robert Bombard



The 2020 Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) survey of Schroon Lake is a continuation of our six year partnership with the Schroon Lake Association and East Shore Schroon Lake Association. The EWM survey parameters included us snorkeling and scuba diving approximately 10ft apart throughout the littoral zone of the chosen sites. The survey consisted of snorkeling the shallow areas of plant growth to scuba diving to the deepest point of plant growth. Throughout each site surveyed, the EWM plant locations were mapped using a Garmin GPS. After each survey day, a report and map of GPS EWM locations were sent to the SLA, ESSLA and Invasive Solutions Dive Co., LLC. The sites surveyed were chosen through a combination of the SLA & ESSLA Board Members, the lake bottom mapping project, areas with extensive littoral zones, high nutrient areas at tributary outlets and a focus on sites not yet surveyed. The following is a compilation of our daily reports, GPS EWM location maps and site descriptions.

## August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> EWM Report

**Brill Island-** The two shallow areas between the island and shore have been harvested very well. No EWM was observed.

**West of Brill-** This historical site is an odd location. Only 15-20 EWM plants were observed during the survey at the mapped GPS point.

Edge Water- This area has lush native plants. No EWM was observed.

**Skylark**- At this location, 10 very widely scattered single stem EWM plants were observed. The observed plants were small and spread out over a large area.

**Landings North**- 50-100 single stem EWM plants were observed during the survey at the mapped GPS point heading northwest towards shore. This area also has very lush native plant growth.

WOL Dock to Rogers Brook- No EWM plants were observed among the diverse native plants.

**East of Clark Island-** This area has a large littoral zone that spans the entire channel between the island and shore. No EWM plants were observed during the survey of the east shore.





## September 12<sup>th</sup> EWM Report

The survey locations this week were selected from the updated contour and plant density maps from the SLA. We had a very informative meeting reviewing the maps with Neil and Roger.

**Southwest of Clark Island-** This is a unique location in the lake that needs a full survey. Due to surveying multiple locations, we did not have enough time to survey this entire area. During our initial survey, this location had diverse plant growth in 10-14ft of water far from shore. No EWM was observed during the survey. See the map below.

**Near Sucker Brook Outlet-** This location was approximately 600-700 yards from the outlet of Sucker Brook and showed up on the contour map as 9ft in depth. The site ended up being a cluster of large boulders showing the accuracy of the new contour maps. No EWM was observed.

**Devils Rock-** This is a priority site for continuous survey due to its location in the middle of the lake, lush and diverse plant growth, heavy boat traffic, and popular fishing location. No EWM was observed.

**Northwest Bay near the Schroon River Outlet-** We chose this location based on the plant density maps to be able to estimate how dense the plants are in comparison to the mapping percentages. On the plant density maps, this location showed sparse growth to moderately dense which seemed to be accurate during the survey. This will allow us to interpret the maps more accurately. No EWM was observed.



During this year's survey season we concentrated on areas within the lake that have previously been harvested, reported by the scout program and sites discovered with the bottom lake mapping project. Our survey consisted of 3 days in the water, and work on the bottom lake mapping project totaling 20 hours and eleven surveyed sites.

For 2021, we would recommend continuing to survey the newly discovered areas located with the bottom lake mapping project. There is a lot of updated data on the contour and plant density maps produced this year.

We would like to thank the SLA & ESSLA for an outstanding multi-year partnership.