

EWM Q & A Series Conclusions

What Have We Learned?

-EWM has been in Bay Lake for 18 years. It's an aggressive, invasive species that won't be eradicated, but can be controlled.

-EWM is easily confused with Northern Milfoil, but EWM:

- is already growing when the ice comes off,*
- forms denser mats,*
- and, if left untreated, expands dramatically.*

-A proactive treatment strategy is more effective than mechanical harvesting.

-Whole lake or even whole bay treatment would be exceptionally expensive and there is no evidence that it would be more successful. Additionally, it isn't currently allowed.

-We use granular 2,4-D, but we continue to explore alternative chemicals with effectiveness, cost and the ability to get DNR authorization as criteria.

-Residents can clear up to 2,500 square feet without having to get a permit.

-We identify and track infestation sites, prioritize treatment areas, employ a targeted and rotating treatment strategy and apply only the amount of chemical that is needed to keep EWM in check.

OK, I understand, but I'm still frustrated. Have we lost the battle?

NO!

Here is what "lost" would look like:





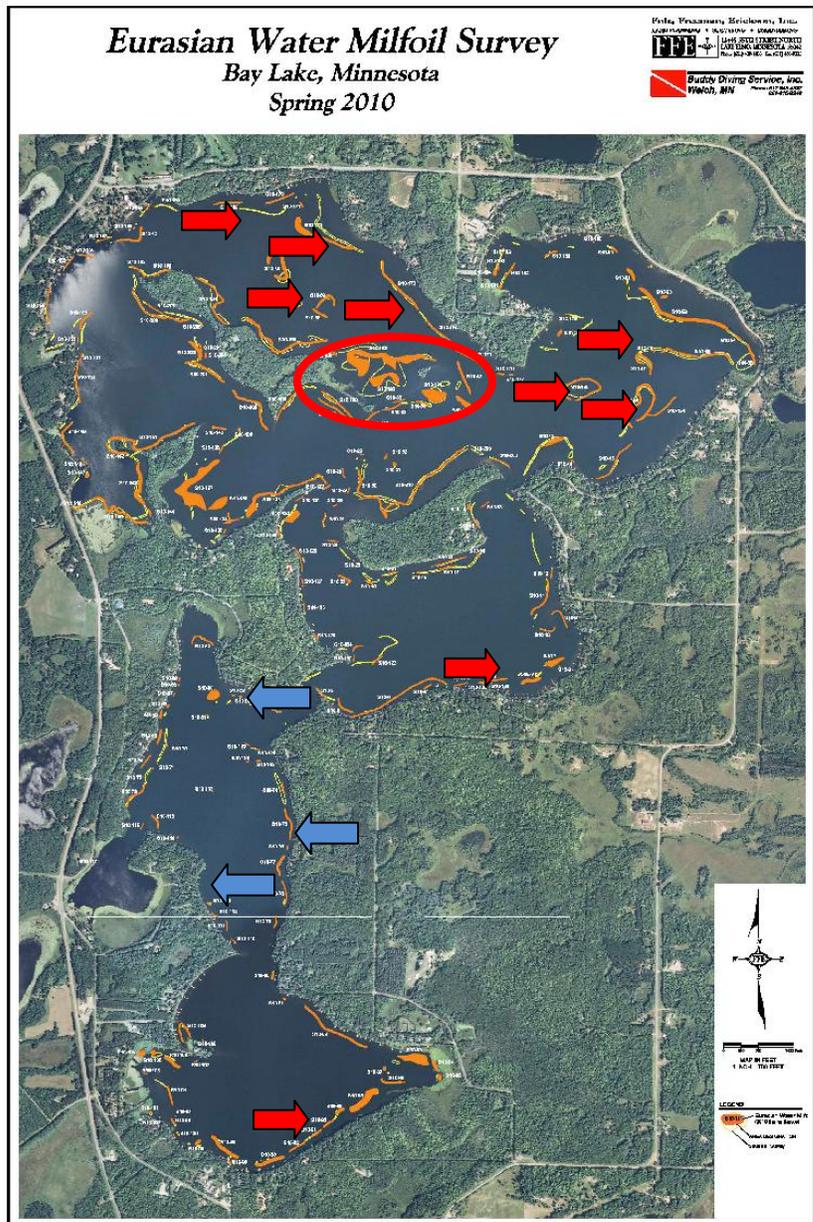
The area in the red circle has gotten less treatment. Note how it has expanded.



The red arrows point to some of the areas where infestation would expand dramatically if left untreated.



The blue arrows point to a few of the areas where limited, periodic treatments are necessary to avoid much larger infestations and treatments in future years.



18 years of experience clearly shows that:

- our vulnerability is huge, particularly in the two northern bays where the "sunken islands" (and relatively shallow shorelines) provide perfect growing areas right in high traffic areas, but

-containment is possible (yes, there's EWM under the water in this picture).



So, how can we lose?

- 1. Get complacent or take our eye off the ball. Our strategy must be consistent. Don't back off when cool summers or high water let us forget we have EWM.*
- 2. Get discouraged. Don't let bad summers make us think that we've lost.*
- 3. Forget that without treatment, individual EWM plants get bigger year after year and infestation areas expand.*
- 3. Let David Devins retire!*
- 4. Fail to donate enough to the Environmental Fund.*

Yes, we've got some of this



.....but with support and focus we can continue to avoid this!

Questions Or Comments For BLIA?

Send them to ericksonpaulsue@aol.com.