

# 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:*





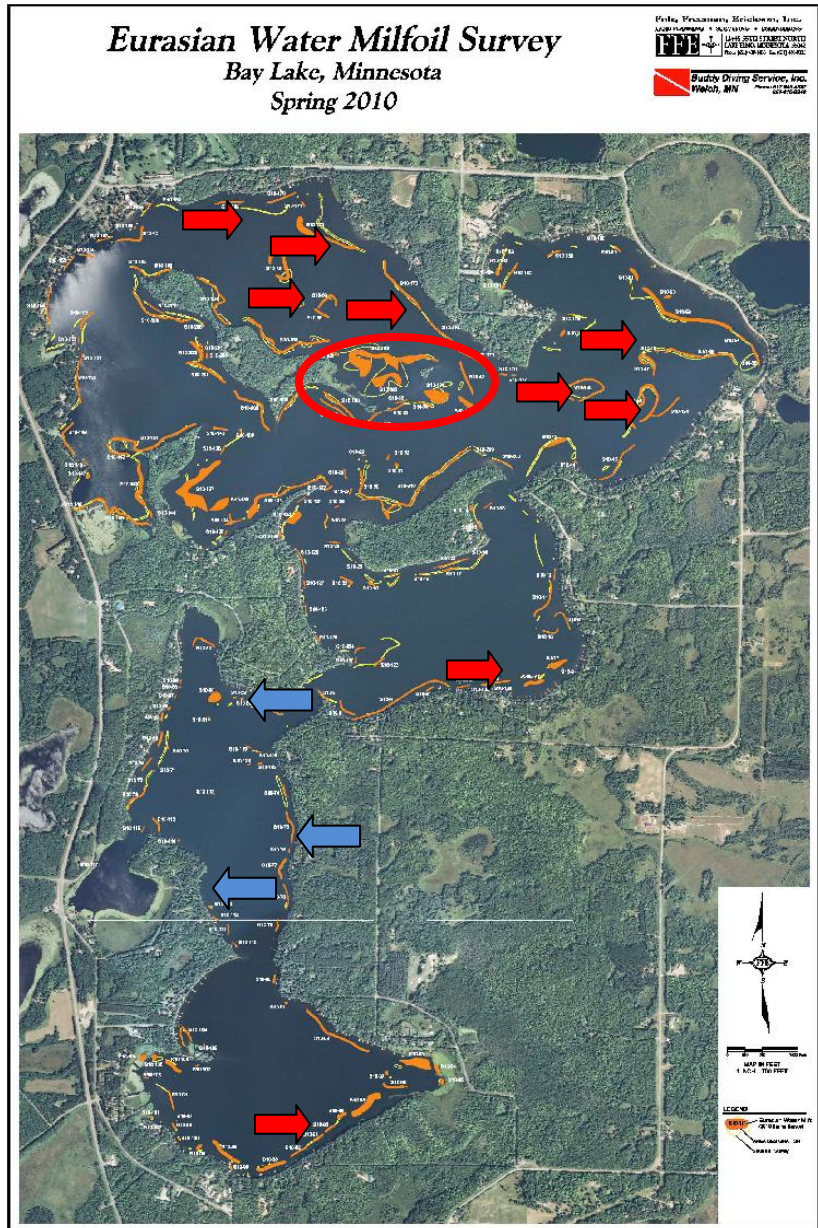
*The area in the red circle has gotten less treatment. Note how it has expanded.*



*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](mailto:ericksonpaulsue@aol.com).*