

Cultus & Nicola Lakes Water Quality & Eurasian Watermilfoil Workshop

Date: February 15th, 2013

Time: 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM PST

Location A: University of the Fraser Valley, Chilliwack Campus – Aboriginal Center, Room A1457
(Bring a pillow or stadium seat)

Location B: (via video conference) Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Merritt Campus – Room 001

Background: Local stewardship groups, agencies and government have had invasive aquatics on the agenda for more than 5 years. Questions have come forward about science and best practises, hence this workshop. The agencies below consist of many networks that we hope to bring together regarding lakes and invasives.

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards

The Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards (CLASS), facilitated by the Fraser Basin Council, have organized Cultus Lake care initiatives since October 2007, consist of a network of 60 individuals, agencies, non-profit organizations, and four orders of government (first nations, regional, provincial, federal). Achievements include: Building the Lake Care Community to undertake the Oral History project to establish baselines, literature review, lake knowledge & awareness, public outreach, predator control, species-at-risk, and nutrient research that supports ongoing salmonid work while partners continue with predator control and invasive plants work.

Nicola Lake Working Group

The Nicola Lake Working Group (NLWG) is a newly formed group of people from the Nicola Lake area with a common interest in developing a plan for Nicola Lake. Funded by the Thompson Nicola Regional District and the City of Merritt, this group includes representation from four orders of government, property owners, recreationalists, and ranchers. These people have come together to make some educated decisions on how best to deal with the issues that members of the public raised on September 19th during an open house and public meeting. Facilitated by the Fraser Basin Council, the NLWG will develop a plan for Nicola Lake as well as make tangible changes on the ground during the planning process.

Fraser Basin Council

Vision - social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment

Established in 1997, the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable non-profit society that advances sustainability in the Fraser River Basin and across BC. FBC has a collaborative governance structure, led by 38 directors from the four orders of government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations) the private sector, and civil society. The Council impartially brings people together to find collaborative processes and solutions, with a focus on healthy water and watersheds, climate change and air quality, and community sustainability and resilience. The Council frequently serves as an impartial facilitator and a sustainability educator, and also assists with conflict and dispute resolution, applied research and analysis, program co-ordination and secretariat services.

Purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce or deepen the knowledge within the Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards and Nicola Lake Working Group around water quality and Eurasian watermilfoil. Water quality and Eurasian watermilfoil are issues in both Cultus and Nicola lakes and this workshop should help these groups to make informed management decisions based on available information, specific characteristics of each lake, and respective

management goals. In addition, we are pleased to be able to share this valuable workshop with land managers and others that are able to attend. Thank you to our visionaries and our funders that include the **Cultus Lake Park Board, Fraser Valley Regional District, Parks Enhancement Fund, Thompson Nicola Regional District, the Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council and the University of the Fraser Valley.**

Agenda

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Presentation	Location
8:30 AM	Registration			
9:00	Marion Robinson	Fraser Basin Council	Welcome	Fraser Valley
9:10	Eddie Gardner	Sto:lo Elder	Welcome Song	Fraser Valley
9:20	Dr. Dan Selbie	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Limnology & Salmonids	Fraser Valley
10:20	Coffee Break			
10:40	Dr. John Madsen	Mississippi State University	Eurasian Watermilfoil - Biology & Physiology	Fraser Valley
11:50	Lunch Break			
12:50	Danielle Toperczer	Invasive Species Council of BC	Provincial Initiatives	Merritt
1:20	Tom Woolf	Idaho State	Management	Idaho
2:20	Dave Caswell	Okanagan Basin Water Board	Management	Merritt
2:45	Coffee Break			
3:05	Dr. John Madsen	Mississippi State University	Management & Summary	Fraser Valley
3:45	Marion Robinson	Fraser Basin Council	Meeting Wrap Up & Next Steps	Fraser Valley
4:00	Workshop Closing			

About Eurasian Watermilfoil: Biology and Physiology

With Dr. John D. Madsen, Geosystems Research Institute, Mississippi State University

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a widespread nonnative plant invasive to lakes and rivers in North America. The biology and physiology of this plant has conferred some properties that have enabled it to spread and dominate in a wide variety of habitats in North America, including the ability to develop stem fragments and its canopy-forming growth form. Understanding these biological and physiological traits will improve the ability to search for this plant, and develop successful management strategies for long-term control. While specific control recommendations will not be made, some management strategies will be discussed in the context of how they do (or do not) exploit aspects of Eurasian watermilfoil life history, biology, and physiology.

Dr. John D. Madsen is an Associate Professor of Research and Extension in the Geosystems Research Institute and the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University. Dr. Madsen has been involved in research on the ecology and management of invasive aquatic plants around the country for over 25 years. Dr. Madsen has a

Bachelor of Science degree from Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, and Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is currently an Associate Editor for the journals *Invasive Plant Science and Management* and *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*; and on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology*. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the Aquatic Plant Management Society, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, the North American Invasive Species Network, and the Weed Science Society of America.