

In retrospect I don't know what I expected from using triclopyr in the Lake Luzerne. In prior years I have seen small areas cleared by hand-picking or by matting. I was encouraged on the one hand – progress had been made, and discouraged on the other – the job was never-ending and way too big for the tools at hand.

Earlier this week, 3 weeks after the application, I snorkeled the *untreated* side of the sequestering curtain, through waving fields of milfoil, bright green stems and leaves, pretty little red tips almost to the surface. Not a hell-of-a-lot of bass weed – some P. Crispus. Same-old, same-old.

Then I flopped over the curtain, and snorkeled through the south cove. The south cove is free of growing milfoil, totally free. I've never seen that part of the lake with large areas of clear water. I've never seen the many beds of bass weed without milfoil intermingled. I've never seen all kinds of natives that, even while they must have been there before, are now bright green among the rapidly decaying milfoil stems. We could have done the same thing with 1200 benthic mats, although we would have killed everything underneath them.

I really had no idea what “milfoil control” might achieve. Seeing is believing.

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