

Center Pond Weed Project, Becket, MA

The Center Pond Weed Project is in full swing even as the weather starts to cool off. The divers and surface skimmers are hard at work to reduce the amount of invasive weeds in the beautiful lake in Berkshire County.



Mercedes Gallagher and the cold water diver, Jo Smith (who with her husband Jerry are the proprietors of Action Sports and Travel in Pittsfield) make their way into the water on a beautiful October day.



The gear is readied. A small underwater propeller helps Jo get around to hunt for the weeds.



Once in the water, the dive location is marked and the weeds are sought out.



In most areas Mercedes has already marked the weed locations with floating jugs. But to make sure she didn't miss any, she inspects the waters with a battiscope and Jo searches through her snorkel before diving down.



Mercedes shows us a small fragment of milfoil that floated to the top as Joe pulls the weeds below. Support staff in the canoe and a kayak remain close to the dive area to scoop up the fragments with their nets so that they do not root elsewhere in the lake.



Once a net is full of weeds, Jo brings it to the top and gives it to Mercedes.



Mercedes drains the water from the net and tosses the weeds in the canoe. Mercedes has been taking the weeds home to use as compost in her yard.