

## Yokum Pond

Yokum Pond is a 109 acre Great Pond with an undeveloped public access. Purr McEwen directs the project for the Yokum Pond Association (YPA). Contact: [purr@chuckandpurr.com](mailto:purr@chuckandpurr.com)

*Eurasian WaterMilfoil:* A floating fragment was first sighted there in 2003 and two dense patches were discovered in the spring of 2004. The YPA hired ACT to do a survey of the lake, which found one additional area with milfoil. This was a 'pioneer' infestation and the YPA decided on hand-pulling and benthic barriers. The YPA received a permit (RDA) from the Becket Conservation Commission and hired Center Pond's experienced scuba divers. They hand-pulled and then installed benthic barriers on the two dense patch areas in 2004, and continued hand-pulling other areas. For the first year the Yokum Pond project included volunteer skimmers, but stopped, as the divers were spending most of their time swimming and looking for milfoil. The benthic barriers had been maintained on a yearly basis, but for the last three years have been left in place.

*Results:* The survey reports, performed in initial years by the divers, showed small amounts of scattered milfoil throughout the lake. For the last three years one diver has been hired to come once a week throughout the season. The lake was divided into quadrants and the number of plants found in each area was recorded. In 2008 and 2009 approximately 215 plants were found per year. In 2010 just under 190 plants were found during the year.

*Annual Budget:* Approximately \$2500 the last three years.

## Greenwater Pond

Greenwater Pond is an 88 acre Great Pond with an undeveloped public access. Dave MacWilliams directs the project for the Greenwater Pond Association (GPA). Contact Dave at (cell): (413) 364-9366.

*Eurasian WaterMilfoil:* Milfoil had been seen in the lake for some years and had been spreading and had formed dense beds in some areas. Dave is a certified scuba diver and in 2006 went to observe at Center Pond as a skimmer, then trained there as a scuba diver and in foot-pulling. Dave then trained other members of his lake community in these hand-pulling methods. In August of 2006 the GPA received a permit (RDA) from the Becket Conservation Commission to hand-pull the milfoil, purple loosestrife and phragmites. They have foot-pulling parties in the summer with an average of 8 volunteers who remove milfoil from the shallower water (up to about 5 feet). Their volunteer scuba divers hand-pull the milfoil in deeper water. Volunteer skimmers participate in all these events, which gives the older and younger members an opportunity to assist in the project. They are in their second year of drawing down the lake to control the milfoil in the shallow, pooled areas near the inlet and outlet.

*Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites:* Had spread into much of the lakeshore areas.

They have removed all flowering purple loosestrife by hand-pulling without using shovels. They originally cut off the seed tassels of the phragmites so they didn't spread further. They are doing initial cuts of the phragmites using a weed wacker with brush hog attachment, and are often able to hand-pull the regrowth. They have reduced the phragmites by at least 75%.

*Annual Budget:* The GPA is an all-volunteer project involving their entire lakeshore community. With the exception of the initial purchase of diver bags and skimmer nets, the annual budget is 0.