

Lake Boon Associates, Inc.  
Weed Control Committee Report  
(c1963)

## THE PROBLEM:

We are sure the members of the Boards are in general familiar with the condition of excessive weed growth in the water of Lake Boon that has developed rapidly in the past two or three years. However, in order to make an orderly presentation of the problem we will assume that it has not previously come to your attention.

All fresh water lakes and ponds have a natural aquatic plant population which is desirable and necessary for a balanced combination of plants, insects and fish. Only when one of the forms of life in the water multiplies out of proportion does a serious situation appear. Certain water plants are native to each geographical area and usually maintain their natural balance.

In about 1959 a water plant normally found only in streams and ponds from Florida north to Virginia in some way was introduced into the waters of Lake Boon. The plant is called CABOMBA. It is a submerged plant of pleasing appearance often used in living room fish tanks. It was probably introduced into Lake Boon by someone's emptying into the Lake an unwanted aquarium. At about the same time it made its appearance in other bodies of water in Massachusetts and New York State.

Conditions for the development of this plant must be ideal in Lake Boon. In this short space of time it has spread nearly to the exclusion of all other forms of plant life and has become the menace that the water Hyacinth is in much of the South. The plant was first observed in the area south of Sudbury Rd. in Stow known as "The Stumps" and now has spread so practically the whole area of the Lake as far as the Narrows between the 1st and 2nd Basins is almost a solid mat of vegetation. It is now spreading into the 1st Basin having been observed near Hanson's Beach, along Pine Point Rd. and near the dam. It is the opinion of qualified Aquatic Biologists that this condition will spread and grow worse until the entire Lake area is unsuitable for normal use.

## THE DANGERS

The conditions that now exist in the Lake are dangerous in a number of different ways. Each of them involves the way and manner that the Lake is used by different groups.

1. The manner of use that first comes to mind is its use as a recreational spot for many people for boating, skiing, swimming, and fishing. Each of these presupposes a

body of water, clean, free of obstructions and appealing in appearance. It is apparent that if conditions continue as they are or grow worse as they will, that the hundreds of people who now use the Lake for these purposes will no longer do so.

2. An even more urgent danger is that to the life of some child or adult who purposely or accidentally is in the water, becomes entangled in the weeds and drowns, like the tragic incident in Albany that we all read of in the papers. It is true that each weed in itself is fragile, but we are sure you will agree that it would be easy for a child to panic on becoming enmeshed, throw up his hands and drown before help reaches him. None of us wants that on his conscience.
3. A very real reason for the existence of the Lake is a source of water storage. In the present state of water shortages this factor assumes new importance. The Lake has a given number of cubic feet of total capacity. For every cubic foot occupied by unwanted weeds there is space for one less cubic foot of water. Today there are thousands of cubic feet of weeds; tomorrow, if the present condition goes unchecked, there will be millions of cubic feet of weeds. Every day we lose a little more of our water storage capacity.
4. Another factor that is not so apparent is the economic one. There are about 500 families that live around the Lake in the summer months. If it is assumed that each of them spends \$50 a week for rent, food, clothes, gasoline for boats and cars, entertainment, ice cream, and all other usual family living expenses for the 10 weeks from July through Labor Day that is \$250,000 gross business that goes to the business concerns of Hudson, Stow, Maynard and Marlboro. Also all the carpenters, electricians, plumbers, utility and bottled gas companies that provide goods and services around the Lake share in this large volume of business. In addition there is all the money spent in the remaining 42 weeks of the year by the permanent residents of the area. It would not be hard to earmark half a million dollars a year that flow into local cash registers from Lake residents. If the Lake becomes a morass, unfit for usual lake purposes and unattractive in appearance how many of these people will move away? How many of these many dollars will move to other cash registers?
5. On the subject of money we are sure that as you all are

the executive officers of your towns that you know the amount of money paid into the two towns as taxes each year. Our Committee has analyzed the tax records and found that on a combined valuation of about \$341,540. Lake Boon property owners pay about \$33,400. a year in taxes. The municipal expense required to generate each of these tax dollars is much less than that for a tax dollar brought in from other 'up-town' parts of the towns that require more in the way of road maintenance, schools, water, sewer, etc. In other words these are tax dollars that the towns ought to protect. And they are dollars that may gradually leave, like the cash register dollars, if the Lake declines into an over-grown swamp area as it may. It is certain that many people who came here because of the attractive nature of the Lake would leave if it lost its attractiveness. As more and more Lake houses came on the market their values and selling prices would decline in conformity with the inexorable law of supply and demand. And as surely as values decline just as surely will assessments and tax dollars decline. An excellent case in point is the condemned Multer property on Hunter Ave. in Hudson. Those houses once brought in tax dollars; today they are condemned and ready for the wrecker's hammers. Other parts of the Lake could go the same way if action is not taken soon to correct conditions in the Lake waters.

#### THE REMEDY:

The fortunate side of the situation is that none of these unhappy events need to come about. The remedy for them is sure, safe and dependable. On August 29, 1963 a test of a selective weed-killing agent was made in the cove area adjacent to McNahan's Restaurant. That area was so heavily infested with CABOMBA that it was difficult to run a boat through it and would certainly have been most unpleasant if not dangerous to swim in. Fishing was impossible. In less than three weeks it was impossible to find even one CABOMBA plant. Our consultant biologist requested sample plants for testing. A member of our Committee went through the area with a rake on the bottom but not a plant could be found. The water was clear and pure and full of the ever-present bluegills. The test was 100% successful and clearly demonstrated that a solution to our problem is at hand. Your attention is directed to the photos at the end of this brochure that show "before and after" conditions at Lake Ponkapoag in the Blue Hills in Milton. The photos and the work on that lake were done by the biologist who undertook our test work.

THE CONTRACTOR:

The studies that have been made of the problem in the Lake have been done at the request and at the expense of The Lake Boon Associates. Although other companies have been consulted and done some work the major results have been achieved by Marine Biologist Consultant Jason Cortell of Brookline, Mass. and The Allied Biological Control Corporation of Brighton, Mass., working under his direction. Mr. Cortell is a recognized expert in his field, this having been determined by investigation of his reputation and work. He is often consulted on problems of this sort by the Dept. of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Mass. and numerous towns and cities in Massachusetts and other states.

Detailed analytical studies of the problem have been made by Mr. Cortell since 1959, the most recent having been done on July 15 and August 22, 1963 prior to the test work done around Monahan's.

Mr. Cortell and Allied Biological have successfully undertaken work for similar problem areas in the following locations that are reasonably available for checking:

Town of Harvard	Bare Hill Pond
Town of Hopedale	Hopedale Pond
Town of Brookline	Lee St. Reservoir
City of Newton	Crystal Lake
Town of Lynnfield	Pillings Pond
Town of Wakefield	Lake Quonapowett
Town of Hopkinton	North Pond
Town of Ipswich	Dow's Reservoir
Town of Belmont	Little Spy Pond
City of Waltham	Hardy's Pond

Bare Hill Pond in Harvard had a problem almost exactly similar to ours. It too was overgrown with CABOMBA almost beyond use and even worse than Lake Boon. Today it is almost completely free of objectionable vegetation and with the yearly Survey and Maintenance being done will remain so.

In the summer of 1961 another contractor treated the

waters of Lake Boon. It was entirely without effect. Fortunately the money paid was refunded so it is available for use again.

**THE PROGRAM:**

The program of water treatment which Mr. Cortell and Allied Biological propose be undertaken to free the Lake of unwanted weeds is as follows:

1964 - Initial surveys and chemical treatment of entire 175 acres of water surface - April, May and June.

Secondary treatments - July, Aug. and Sept.

1965 - Secondary treatments in selected areas during entire season.

1966 - Spot treatments in selected areas during entire season.

1967 - and succeeding years. Yearly survey and spot treatment as necessary.

**THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL:**

Prior to any work being undertaken, notification will be sent to:

President, Lake Boon Associates, Inc.

Chairmen, Boards of Selectmen, Town of Hudson and Stow, Mass.

Chiefs of Police, Town of Stow and Hudson.

Agents, Boards of Health, Stow and Hudson.

Director, Division of Sanitary Engineering, Dept. of Public Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**THE WORK:**

The entire work will be done in a diligent and workmanlike manner, using those procedures which are best adapted to the type of work involved.

Allied Biological will take all necessary precautions to protect the property of the abutters of Lake Boon from injury or unnecessary interference and will be responsible for all damage that may, in any way, be done to their property by any of its employees or by any other person or persons, instrument or device, directly or indirectly employed by it; and it will replace or repair any such damaged property to the satisfaction of Chairman, Weed Control Committee.

**THE INSURANCE:**

Allied Biological will, before commencing work, file with the Chairman, three copies of a properly endorsed insurance certificate showing adequate and proper coverage by Workman's Compensation Insurance, issued by a company authorized to write this type of insurance in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and such insurance will continue



in full force and effect during the term of the agreement.

Allied Biological will, before commencing the work, file with the Chairman, three copies of a properly endorsed insurance certificate providing such coverage for insurance purposes as the Chairman shall require, it being understood and agreed upon that the actual premium cost of extraordinary coverage in excess of \$300,000 as required by the Chairman shall be added to the payments.

THE COST:

Allied Biological and Jason Cortell will contract to do the work at the following payments:

1964 - \$9800 Payment to be according to the following schedule:  
\$5000 upon signing contract  
\$1200 June 1 \$1200. July 1  
\$1200 August 1 \$1200. September 1  
1965 - \$5000 (estimated)  
1966 - \$3000 (estimated)  
1967 - \$1500 (estimated)

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COST:

The Lake Boon Associates, Inc., a voluntary association of people living around Lake Boon in Stow and Hudson, are fully aware of the importance to its members of the work that must be undertaken to preserve and improve the waters of the Lake. Because of this awareness the Associates have, in the past, and will continue in the future, to do all in its power to accomplish this end. It is, however, an organization of only 248 members and it is clearly beyond its capability alone to initiate and maintain the entire cost of an operation of this magnitude however important it may be.

Therefore, the Associates request that, in view of the important considerations to the Towns of Stow and Hudson reviewed above, the costs of this work be borne equally by the Town of Hudson and Stow and the Lake Boon Associates, Inc. according to the following schedule:

	Hudson	Stow	Associates	Total
1964	\$3300.	\$3300.	\$3200.	\$9800.
1965	\$1700.	\$1700.	\$1600.	\$5000.
1966	\$1000.	\$1000.	\$1000.	\$3000.
1967	\$ 500.	\$ 500.	\$ 500.	\$1500.

We believe this request is fair and reasonable and in the best interest of all parties concerned. We respectfully request that you give it your approval.

We thank you for giving us this opportunity to bring to your attention this matter which is of so much importance to so many citizens of our two towns.

Respectfully submitted,

The Lake Boon Associates, Inc.  
WEED CONTROL COMMITTEE

Leo P. Friedman  
Arthur Gray  
Phillip C. Hawkes