

Announcement from Friends of Leverett Pond (FLP): On Thursday, June 27, 2019, an aquatic herbicide application along selected near-shore areas and the town right-of-way will control invasive water milfoil in Leverett Pond. A total area of 8 acres out of approximately 100 acres will be treated. Funded by the FLP, the treatment is conducted under permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP 200-0166), reviewed by the Leverett Conservation Commission, and licensed by the DEP Bureau of Resource Protection. The application will be conducted by SOLitude Lake Management, Inc. (formerly Aquatic Control Technology) of Southbridge, MA, a state-licensed applicator. Forty bright orange signs will be posted well in advance at the right-of-way, lawns, roads and other conspicuous places notifying the public to avoid pond use for swimming, fishing, boating and pet use for a period of about 24 hours. Details will be provided on the signs. So, please avoid using the Pond for water borne (swimming, fishing) activities on Thursday and Friday (June 27-28). There is no formal restriction for small pets, but Solitude and FLP recommend avoidance the day of application, so 24 hours. Livestock should not use the Pond until June 29. GARDENERS: you may wish to cover up any important flowers or edible plants that are in the immediate vicinity of the water. While the herbicide will be applied by hoses beneath the boat, sometimes the aircraft propeller can produce a fine spray. We have not had a problem with this in the past, but it is best to be cautious. In mid-July (tentatively July 20), the treatment will be followed by mechanical root removal using a hydro-rake. These activities are consistent with an ongoing environmental management plan, and FLP's Integrated Pest Management Program for the pond. Anyone with questions may contact Mitchell Mulholland (413-548-9161) or by E-Mail: mulhollandmt35cm@gmail.com.