

Under Massachusetts Department of Protection *Wetlands Protection Permit 200-0166*; concurrence of the Leverett Conservation Commission (LCC); and a *License to Apply Chemicals for Control of Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation* from the Bureau of Resource Protection, the Friends of Leverett Pond (FLP) through its state-licensed applicator Solitude, Inc. of Southbridge, MA, will conduct an herbicide application in Leverett Pond on May 16, 2017. The application area will cover approximately 8 acres of the 102-acre pond, including shoreline areas, waterfronts and the town right-of-way. Brightly colored cautionary signs will be posted on access roadways and driveways to the Pond, waterfronts and the town Right-of-Way on Depot Road. Swimming and boating should be avoided for 24 hours. This application will differ slightly from last year's application. FLP is targeting the invasive mono-culturistic species Eurasian and Variable Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* and *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). Both plants create hazards for wildlife, for fishing and swimming, reduce water quality, and out-compete Native plants. In past applications, both plants were targeted in a single application in June. FLP's consultant Solitude, Inc. has recommended one application in early to mid-May to better target curly-leaf pondweed before it propagates in late May. In a separate application in June, milfoil will be targeted once its foliage is near maximum and growth tips are evident. This approach will not increase the amount of herbicide used, and promises to provide better control of these two invasive plants for a longer period. The FLP will notify the LCC of the date of the second application in June, once that date is known.