

GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION

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Re: DNR Management Proposal on Starry Stonewort

On behalf of the Geneva Lake Association, we provide the following comments on DNR's Water Quality Program/Document ID # WY 20-0018: Permitting Guidance Starry Stonewort.

For over 85 years, the GLA has served hundreds of area families by providing a public forum to identify and address issues of importance to property owners in the area. Our members consider Starry Stonewort a potentially significant concern at Geneva Lake, along with the management of invasive species in general. Moreover, the recent discovery of Starry Stonewort in Geneva Lake was a topic of keen local interest and discussion at the GLA's 2019 Annual Meeting.

In response to the DNR's draft guidance, GLA offers the following additional comments:

1. While GLA is not in a position to comment on the scientific pros/cons of specific Starry Stonewort remediation techniques, we applaud DNR for its interest in aggressively managing this issue in our area. We respect the need for caution given DNR's past experiences with remediation in other lakes, but urge the agency to act as quickly and decisively as possible where, as in Geneva Lake, the onset of Starry Stonewort appears to be at an early stage.
2. GLA supports DNR's goal to pursue collaborative research projects for Starry Stonewort management, and offers to assist DNR in doing so through GLA's public forum and education mission. We also understand DNR's resource constraints. GLA stands ready, under DNR direction, to help marshal resources in order to achieve as quick and successful an outcome as is possible for remediation and mitigation of Starry Stonewort in Geneva Lake;
3. GLA urges the DNR to aggressively promote and enforce proper boating practices to prevent further introduction of Starry Stonewort or any invasive species into Geneva Lake at the various boat launches; and
4. GLA would like to be informed of relevant updates and new developments related to Starry Stonewort that might be helpful in managing Geneva Lake concerns about this invasive species. Finally, GLA would be pleased to include DNR representatives as invited guest speakers at upcoming GLA events where Starry Stonewort is sure to be a topic of top line interest.

We thank DNR for considering these comments as your practices evolve for the remediation and mitigation of Starry Stonewort, and GLA looks forward to assisting DNR in efforts to inform and educate the Geneva Lake community about this important and time-sensitive issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Lillie
President

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