



## Doing our Part.....

### Caring for your 'water-front-yard' - weeds, algae and breakwalls,

If you have any lawn area, I am sure you spend a good amount of time ensuring your lawn is appealing to you and your neighbors. Hopefully you also properly dispose of any yard waste through recycling, composting or mulching. We invite you to view your 'water-front-yard' in a similar manner. As we all know, weeds and algae are a naturally occurring presence in a healthy lake, but there are many ways to protect your 'water-front-yard' from the unsightly aspects of these and improve our lake quality while doing so. First, if you are not using weed mats; please consider doing so. Weed mats are by far the best way to minimize weed and algae growth in front of your house. If you have ever left a kids swimming pool or a piece of carpet on your grass before, you know how weed mats work....they literally deprive the plant of sunshine and smother it. Not only do weed mats suppress weeds, they deprive the filamentous algae of a place to collect. They also do a pretty good job of killing your zebra mussels. These mats are relatively inexpensive; a 10'x12' mat can be made for about \$75 and can be purchased in a completed version for around 2-3 times that at many of our hardware stores and marinas. It is good practice to turn over and move your mats every 3-4 weeks as it 'cleans the collected sediment' and significantly increases the coverage you get from one mat. If you are going to use mats, please remember to remove them in the winter and consider posting a "Weed Mats Installed" sign as a courtesy to our fishermen/women. These signs are available usually at Smith Hardware and through the CLA. If you continue to have weed and algae problems, check out the Skimmer / Basket combination we demonstrate at our CLA booth, which can also be purchased locally. It does a great job of removing the unsightly algae and keeps it from decomposing in the lake. **PLEASE DO NOT CUT WEEDS OR RETURN THEM FROM YOUR BEACH TO THE LAKE.** It is virtually impossible to capture all cut weeds, and any weeds left in the lake will either propagate more weeds, decompose and add nutrients to the water, or end up on somebody else's "lawn" (all undesirable or downright tacky). The proper way to dispose of weeds is the same way you treat your other lawn waste. Once dried (and CLA has distributed many sets of drying racks to interested parties around the lake to try) weeds have very little weight and can be composted, then taken to either the Conesus or Geneseo Recycling centers, or just left curbside for waste management. Finally, if you are considering repairing or replacing your breakwall; consider a rock wall construction vs concrete as the permeability of the rock minimizes wave chop and thus turbidity along the shoreline. They also contribute to a very attractive shoreline.