

Canada Goose Management Follow-up Plans for Lake Nagawicka

By Gayle Gaborsky, Lake Welfare Committee Member

The previous article gave some brief history and facts about the Canadian Goose, in addition to background information regarding the management of the Canada Goose population, or should I say, overpopulation in our area. We asked for citizen input and many emails were received, all but one or two were positive for the goose control plan.

After several conversations with Mike Jones of the USDA, we are ready to move forward with the process for the management of the Canada Geese on Lake Nagawicka. Mr. Jones is a Wildlife Biologist for the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services out of Waupun, WI. Mike gave an extensive presentation at the last Lake Welfare meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. In a follow up letter from Mike Jones, dated November 17, 2010, he states that he and his supervisor are in agreement regarding our goose situation. Here is an excerpt of that letter:

“We are both in agreement that having an aggressive egg oiling program is a critical component in managing your goose damage issues. Egg oiling limits the growth and number of birds in your population, sometimes results in the adult birds leaving the lake after nest failure, and can be a very cost effective goose management tool. Population management via egg oiling is a natural and expected progression from habitat management, fencing, and harassment. There are lakes near you that manage their goose damage issues with only these methods.

For goose roundup and removal to be considered in 2011, an intensive and dedicated egg oiling program will need to be implemented on Lake Nagawicka. Geese prefer to nest on islands therefore it will be critical to secure permission to access all privately owned islands where geese may nest to have an effective egg oiling program. Geese will usually nest near the water so having permission to access any private lands around the lake where nests may be located is important. The DNR will only allow egg oiling to occur on privately owned property and can not be conducted on floating vegetation, on top of muskrats houses, on state owned lands, or other properties not under private ownership.”

Our plan is to hire the USDA to conduct the egg oiling which will take place on or about April 15, 2011. Geese usually start nesting late March to early April, so this would be the first oiling. Mike explained that the oiling should be a coordinated project on the entire lake to be effective and for any roundup to be considered. The roundup would be sometime in early June to late July, depending on the recommendation and permission from the USDA. At this point, we are prepared to have Mike Jones apply for the egg oiling permit as soon as it is available, and also the permits for the roundup, should we be allowed to have the USDA perform that process also.

As stated in the first article, the USDA needs permission to access your property if you are interested in the Goose Management Plan, which will include the egg oiling and the roundup process. Mike stated at the presentation, that a USDA employee will announce and introduce themselves to the home owner on the morning of the process. The form below must be filled out and sent back to the City of Delafield prior to February 28, 2011, in order for your property to be included in the Goose Management Plan.

CUT AND MAIL THE FORM BELOW

Goose Egg Oiling and Roundup Consent Form - 2011

This Opt-In consent gives the USDA permission to access my property and includes BOTH the egg oiling and roundup process.

Name (PRINT) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Signature (mandatory) _____

Please return this form as soon as possible, no later than February 28, 2011.

Send to:

City of Delafield
ATTN: Goose Opt-In Consent Form
500 Genesee Street
Delafield, WI. 53018