

## Monster of Stockbridge Bowl

(Continued from page 15)

became a prime catalyst in the decision to undertake the extensive Bowl project in 1965.

A special act of the State Legislature provided the necessary funds to begin work on reclaiming the rest of the 375-acre body of water.

In June 1965, ten tons of the granular Aqua-Kleen (20% 2,4-D) were applied to Lake Mahkeenac at a rate of 100 pounds per acre, utilizing a newly developed Aeri-Blower. Three days were used for the entire operation, and in the relatively short time of only four weeks the lake was clear again for the first time in perhaps 20 years.

Together with Boschetti, a complete post-treatment biological survey was conducted early in September, 1965. Our survey showed that 95 percent of the watermilfoil growth in the Bowl had been killed, and the few remaining patches of weeds showed signs of disintegration.

Needless to say, the results were extremely encouraging. They proved that our method and type of program could be carried out without endangering the public or wildlife.



Allied Biological Control Corporation determined that its aircat airboat method of spraying liquid herbicide, as is being done above, would not be practical because of the lake's depth . . .

### Community Awakens

"For Sale" signs have disappeared from around the lake and renewed vacation home building is taking place. But work on the Bowl is far from completed. The aquatic weed problem has not been eliminated,

but it is now under control.

Under a state supported program, surveys and spot-treatments are being carried out annually. New species, such as pondweed (*Potamogeton*), are being attacked as soon as they appear.

### LETTER TO THE PUBLISHER

## Air Pollution Negligible From Burning Wood

I'm writing with reference to the April article regarding the burning of wood, brush and leaves, by William H. Bartles of Hyde Park, N.Y.

He is not alone on this subject. We of the Fairmount Park Commission of the City of Philadelphia are confronted with the same problem. I have been under the same impression that the burning of these materials is of little, if any, contamination of the air.

Certainly a chipper is not the answer, since this equipment is designed for grinding up brush or wood and the chips used as a mulch.

In my opinion, an analysis of the actual, if any, smoke from the burning of these materials should be made to determine the chemical content, whether poisonous or non-poisonous.

We run into the problem of tree diseases, such as Cankerstain of Plane and Dutch Elm Disease.

The recommendations are that the trees be disposed of by burning.

I would like to quote from the book, "Trees," by Andreas Feininger, published in 1968:

"Wood certainly does not look as though it is made of water and air — it is neither liquid nor gaseous but heavy, substantial stuff. Nevertheless, that these are the components of wood can be proved easily by burning wood in a fireplace.

"At the end of several days of burning and the consumption of perhaps a 100 pounds of wood, all that is left is a few handfuls of fluffy, almost weightless ashes — the mineral components of the tree. The 'substantial stuff' has burned.

"Since well-seasoned logs are relatively dry, already having lost most of their water content through evaporation, what is left — the dry wood — must have come from the air.

"It is indeed carbon, which the tree has taken from the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide and used to build its tissues. During the burning process this carbon combines once more with oxygen to form carbon dioxide and escapes into the air as a gas, returning to the great reservoir from which it came."

Air pollution certainly is a serious problem and should be dealt with by the proper authorities. I believe the burning of the aforementioned materials is of very little consequence, but disposal by other methods is certainly a very large problem.

I would like to congratulate you on your magazine and I look forward to every issue. I do hope that more people will show an interest in the burning of wood, and so forth, and a solution will be reached. — **BRUCE M. HUNTER**, Park Arborist, City of Philadelphia, Pa.