

FREE

# THE LAKER

FREE

NO. 12 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH LAKE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION JULY, 1988

## The Mystery of the Belly-Up Bluegill

Who done it? A few weeks ago the lake started to erupt with floating, lifeless fish-particularly bluegill. Everyone noticed it and it seems nearly everyone had an answer to the opening question. The rumors seemed to have three suspects - the DNR, a weed kill firm, and even lake homeowners.

Earlier this year the DNR had proposed doing a fish kill of small bluegill to promote growth of larger fish. Ken Dodge of the DNR met with the Association and outlined the plan. The North Lake Protection Association voted to support the DNR plan, but later survey work by the DNR changed their mind about the fish kill. It was cancelled.

Another suspect was Great Lakes Weed Control who did a controlled weed kill shortly after the dead fish first appeared. They had a permit and were hired by several property owners to chemically treat the weeds. Some people saw them pouring in the chemicals and thought it was the DNR. Some thought Great Lakes had overdosed - and some had "in-side tips" on a conspiracy.

Accusing lake homeowners of chemical overdosing and causing the problem is serious business. It's true that about that time many areas of the lake seemed to 'magically' have some of their weeds disappear. The 'magic' consisted of homeowners who were out raking and cutting the weeds. The DNR assures me that a homeowner overdose was not the problem. You would need a trunk full of chemicals to kill that many fish. Not only are the chemicals expensive, but some are just not available to the public. An accidental overdose of that magnitude is nearly impossible.

So, who done it? Calls to the DNR produced this response:

Fourteen lakes in the area had the same problem this spring. So, were chemicals overdosed in fourteen lakes? Not likely. The DNR says it was the product of a rapid increase in water temperature at a time the bluegill were spawning and already under stress.

Bluegill bump one another when spawning. They get bruised and normally heal, but the warm water slowed the healing on some bluegill. Fungus formed on the bruises and many bluegill couldn't survive. Others were in a weakened condition due to the spawning.

Last year the DNR told us that North Lake had an over abundance of bluegill. Naturally any phenomenon that would greatly affect bluegill would greatly affect North Lake.

The long stretch of hot days early in the year was the worst in nearly 100 years. It seems logical that the weather coupled with our large bluegill population caused the problem. Other fish also died. Those that were old or unhealthy also could not tolerate the severe water temperature change.

So, is this a DNR cover-up? Are they just pulling the scales over our eyes? Are the little bluegill a victim of a Bass-Tardy Act?

Not likely. The DNR doesn't need our permission to manage the fish population so why sneak around. They also are short of funds and it is expensive to do a fish kill in one lake, let alone fourteen lakes.

Perhaps we should just accept the fact that a hot dry spring that turns our lawns brown and greatly affects our elderly and ill population might also affect life in North Lake.

## ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY

JULY 13, 7:30 P.M.

INVERNESS  
COUNTRY CLUB

### FREE MEMBERSHIP STICKER!

(When you are a paid-up member - only \$7.00 per year)

So you noticed the change - seven bucks this year. But you will receive a nifty North Lake 88 sticker (shown below) to put on your boat to prove you're no deadbeat. But the best reason to pay your dues is to enable the Association to work for you.

We need a reserve fund to be able to take effective action when our lake is threatened by over-development of lake property - or to oppose government plans that would increase lake traffic - or to commission studies on lake quality problems and how to correct them. The lake association serves you in many ways. This issue of The Laker lists many of them.

Please pay your dues at the annual meeting or forward payment to Kelli Kadlec, treasurer, 6995 Westbourne, Chelsea, MI 48118.



# Boating Safety

The popularity of boating has increased tremendously in the past few years throughout Michigan and on our own North Lake. Michigan enacted legislation in 1974 that brings our state in conformity with the Federal Government and many other states. This article summarizes some of these laws.

**Registration:** All boats with motors, sailboats over twelve feet in length, or other unpowered boats over sixteen feet in length (except canoes) must be registered and the registration number displayed.

**Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs):** All motorboats and vessels, when in use, are required to have aboard one Coast Guard approved PFD for each person on board. PFDs are classified by "Type".

**Type I:** Designed to turn an unconscious person in the water to a vertical or slightly backward position and have more than 20 pounds of buoyancy.

**Type II:** Same as Type I but with 15.5 pounds of buoyancy.

**Type III:** Designed for conscious person and has 15.5 pounds of buoyancy. Often used for water skiing.

**Type IV:** A device to be thrown to a person in the water and not worn. Buoyancy of at least 16.5 pounds.

On boats less than 16 feet in length, and on all canoes or kayaks, one PFD of any type per person is required. All recreational boats 16 feet or over in length must have one Type I, II or III PFD for each person, and in addition one Type IV throwable PFD. All PFDs must carry the Coast Guard number, be in good serviceable condition, shall be ready at hand and not encased in plastic bags or other containers.

**Fire Extinguishers:** Fire extinguishers are required on the following boats:

- All motorboats not of open construction which will permit entrapment of explosive gases or vapors.

- All motorboats that have closed compartments where portable fuel tanks may be stored.

- Boats with double-bottomed areas not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with floatation materials.

- Boats with closed living space.

- Boats with stowage compartments in which flammable material may be stored.

- Boats with built-in fuel tanks.

All fire extinguishers must be Coast Guard approved.

Motorboats less than 26 feet in length must have one B-I Type (unless there is a built in fire extinguisher system). Motorboats 26 feet but less than 40 feet in length must have two B-I Type or one B-II Type.

**Whistle or Horn:** Vessels which are 16 feet or over but less than 26 feet must have a whistle or horn that can be heard one-half mile. Vessels over 26 feet in length must have a whistle or horn that can be heard one mile plus a fog bell that produces a full rounded tone.

**Lights:** When operating vessels between sunset and sunrise the following requirements apply:

- Non-powered vessels shall be equipped with a lantern showing a white light.

- Motorboats less than 26 feet in length shall be equipped with one white light aft higher than the bowlight showing all around and visible two miles, and a combination 20 point bowlight forward, showing green to starboard and red to port, visible one mile.

- Motorboats over 26 feet in length shall also have an added white light forward showing 20 points and visible for 2 miles.

**Mufflers:** All motorboats must have a muffler, underwater exhaust or other noise reduction device. Noise level cannot exceed 86 decibels at 50 feet from the motor.

**Operator of Motorboats:** Must be 16 years old or older, or must be 12 to 15 years old accompanied by someone who is 16 years old or older.

**Speed Limits:** 55 MPH on all inland lakes. Also, it is unlawful to exceed no-wake speed within 100 feet of a shoreline where the water is less than 3 feet deep (all of North Lake).

**Right-Of-Way:** Sailboats and rowboats almost always have the right-of-way. Other common situations are as follows:

**Overtaking and Passing:** Normally pass on the port side of the other vessel. The vessel being passed has the Right-Of-Way. (Same as passing in a car on a two lane highway).

**Approaching Head On:** Each vessel must keep to starboard. (Same as driving on the right side of a two lane highway).

**Approaching at Right Angles:** Vessels approaching your starboard have the right-of-way unless they are to your stern and are overtaking you.

**Water Skiing:** There must be an observer in the motorboat in addition to the operator when pulling a person on water skis, watersled, aquaplane or other similar contrivance.

**Wake:** The owner of any vessel shall be personally responsible for any damage to life or property resulting from a wake or swell created by negligent operation.

The above rules are only excerpts from "A Guide To Safe Boating In Michigan" - available from the DNR Law Enforcement Division. The following courses are available:

- Safety and Seamanship - Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Basic Piloting - Power Squadron

- Basic Outboard Boating - American Red Cross

- Basic Sailing - American Red Cross

# NLPA In Action

## THINGS THE NORTH LAKE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION HAS DONE FOR YOU

Sent various letters to the DNR regarding construction and fill being done on the lake apparently without permits.

2) Sent a letter to the township expressing concern about possible flooding and runoff water from the new subdivision being constructed.

3) Met with the County Drain Commissioner and the Township Supervisor to discuss retention ponds for the new subdivision.

4) Discussed a proposed water ski course on North Lake with the DNR and opposed it. The local DNR is recommending the request be denied.

5) Attempting to organize a permanent lake development task force. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

6) Studying the possibility of a lake study in order to develop long range goals to protect the lake and its watershed.

Formed a weed control committee that is beginning to monitor weed control in the lake and is gathering information regarding various types of weed control.

8) Several Board Members will be attending Lake Management seminars.

9) Promoting safe boating practices on the lake.

9) Monitoring parking problems along North Lake Road.

10) Opening and closing the gate at the East end of the lake each day. This helps protect your property from vandalism and theft.

11) Researched the laws and regulations that are highlighted in this issue.

12) Discussed and worked with the local DNR regarding a problem with large amounts of water being removed from the lake. The problem was solved amicably without incident.

13) Canvassed records at the County Register of Deeds office to produce a list of lake property owners.

14) Was instrumental in getting the key-hole ordinance passed.

## Permit Required!

Doing work along the shore? You probably need a permit from the DNR. Here are a few examples of projects that require a permit:

- If you change the shoreline in any way.

- If you fill any part of the lake or bottomland (land below the ordinary highwater mark of the lake).

- Seawalls, bulkheads, breakwaters.

- Any structure built in the water that is permanent.

- Piles or pile clusters.

- Fill to improve swimming areas.

Two things you can do without a permit:

- Reasonable sanding of beaches to the water's edge.

- Install seasonal docks provided it does not unreasonably interfere with use of the water by others.

If you don't get a permit you may have civil actions brought against you to remove the violation and pay a fine of up to \$10,000 per day for each day of violation! When in doubt check with the DNR.

## Weed Control

Weed control is a controversial issue on most lakes. Chemicals or harvesting? Are chemicals safe? Which is most effective? North Lake is fortunate to have a knowledgeable couple who co-chair our weed control committee. They can help with your questions.

If you use chemicals you must have a permit from the DNR, you must notify adjacent property owners and you must post notices of the treatment.

Some residents don't want chemicals ever used in an area that will affect their property. If you are a paid up member of the association you can register your opposition to chemical use near your property. The weed control committee will send a map each year to the proper person at the DNR showing the areas that oppose treatment. The DNR may still issue chemical treatment permits for lake residents, but they may give additional thought before issuing them in areas that show opposition.

The weed control committee receives copies of all chemical weed treatment permits that are issued.

If you have any questions regarding weed control, please call Jerry or Ginny Bachman at 475-1817.

## NORTH LAKE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Position	Member	Landing	Phone
President	Mary Lou Frenndt	Stonehedge	475-3480
Sec/Treas	Kelli Kadlec	Park Lawn	475-7256
Vice/Pres	Dan Kruse	Glen Oaks	475-7170
Director	Dave Classon	N. Lake Farms	475-1255
Director	Ted Lane	W. Gilbert Dr	475-7931
Director	Jerry Loukotka	Noah's Landing	475-1094
Director	Dave Pruess	Webb Shore	475-8146
Director	Don Warren	East End	475-1772
Director	Ralph Rumsey	Sauer Dr	475-3260
Director	George Carter	Gilbert Dr	475-1570
Director	Vacant	Watt Drive	
Weed Control	Ginny and Jerry Bachman		475-1817
Lake Development Task Force	Sheridan Springer		475-8794

# Blight Problem ?

## BLIGHT ORDINANCE CAN PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Dexter Township has an anti-blight ordinance that protects homeowners from neighborhood blights. Some provisions of the ordinance:

- Prohibits open storage of an unlicensed automobile or a licensed auto that is inoperative for any reason for thirty days.

- Prohibits open storage of building materials unless a valid building permit is issued.

- Prohibits storage of any appliances, machinery or parts.

- Prohibits structures which are no longer habitable nor useful for other purpose for which they may have been intended.

Violation is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail.

### HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Blight Ordinance	Glenn Stidham	426-2716
Parking Violations	Sheriff	971-3911
Boating Violations	Sheriff Marine Division	971-7551 971-3911
DNR Permits	DNR Office	517-784-3188
Conservation Officers	DNR Office Craig Wales Ron Utt	517-784-3188 475-9671 475-9183
Sewage Problems	Cty. Health Dept.	994-2492
Weed Control Representatives	Ginny & Jerry Bachman	475-1817
Association President	Mary Lou Frendt	475-3480