

THE LAKER

JUNE 30, 1996

Annual Meeting:

The 1996 annual general meeting of the North Lake Protection Association (NLPA) will be held at 7:00 pm on Wed. July 24 at the clubhouse of the Inverness Golf Club on North Territorial Road. The meeting is open to all North Lake residents and interested persons. Please be there to hear about North Lake news, to elect NLPA officers for 1996-97 and to voice your opinion about the business of NLPA! The mission of NLPA is to promote good water quality and equitable use of our lake for recreation, wildlife and beauty. A representative of the sewer board for the three-lake sewer project will be on hand to update us on progress (the plant is scheduled to begin working in late Fall of this year). Jerry Loukatka will update us on a recent fish survey of North Lake.

Selling Your Home?

If you have sold your home, please inform your NLPA area representative (see list on last page) of the name, address and phone number of the new buyers, so we can update our database.

New to the Lake?

Welcome to all the new lakers in the area, we hope that we have reached all of you! If this newsletter was addressed to your property's

previous owner, please call Anne Koch at (313) 475-1481 to update your information. Also, if you learn that your neighbor (new or old) did not receive a copy of the *The Laker*, please have them call Anne to get their name on the mailing list. A few extra copies also will be available at the general membership meeting on July 24.

What is Eurasian Milfoil, and Why is it a Problem?

Eurasian milfoil (see figure, below) is a plant that grows in fresh water up to about 12 feet deep. It is not native to Michigan, but gets brought in on boat trailers, propellers, etc. [Note: please clean weeds and debris off your trailer, propeller, etc. before launching your boat in North Lake after use somewhere else. This will reduce the chance of re-introducing milfoil, and also other pests such as zebra mussels.]

Once fragments take root, the plant reproduces abundantly. Milfoil can choke out other native plants and seriously interferes with normal lake ecology, and obstructs boating and other recreational uses. Several other lakes in Southeast Michigan are infested with milfoil, which has covered much of the useable acreage of those lakes.

Although none of us like to put chemicals into North Lake, it is the best alternative we have found to letting milfoil grow wild. We

would all prefer to avoid chemical treatments.

To combat milfoil, a selective herbicide (2,4-D) is applied locally to areas of the lake that are infested. The chemical pellets sink to the bottom and enter the system of milfoil plants, which then grow in an uncontrolled manner, causing them to die in a few days. This herbicide does not affect other plants much, and is relatively safe for people and fish.

However, chemical treatments are not a permanent cure, because fragments continue to be brought in from other lakes. Many lakes in our immediate area find it necessary to treat with 2,4-D on a yearly basis, recently including Cavanaugh Lake west of Chelsea.

1996 Milfoil Treatment

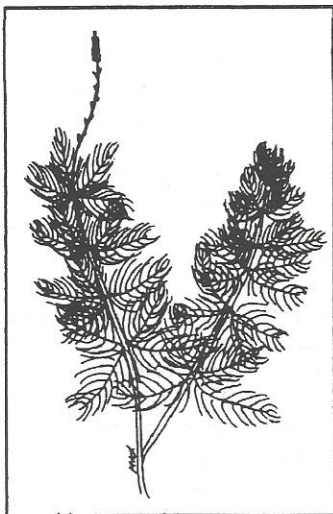
Although weed control is not the only function of the North Lake Protection Association, it uses the majority of our funds, and requires planning, mailing, compiling permissions, obtaining permits from the Department of Natural Resources, sign posting and follow-up.

Many thanks to our hard-working weed treatment committee: Ann Koch (chairman), Jerry Loukatka, Eric Batsdorfer, Dave Pruess and Kent Thiel. Here is a report from Ann:

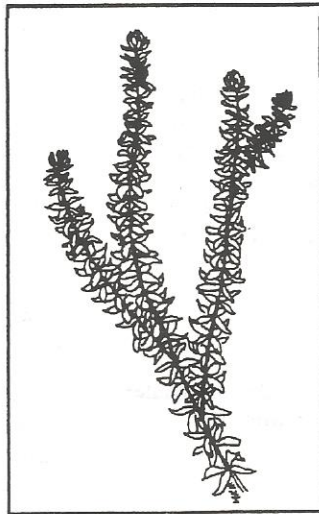
Here is a brief history of North Lake milfoil treatments (acres treated out of the 250 acres in North Lake are shown below):

- 1989 treated 36 acres
- 1990 treated 32 acres (plus harvesting)
- 1991 treated 28 acres
- 1992 no treatment
- 1993 treated 47 acres
- 1994 treated 45 acres
- 1995 treated 38 acres
- 1996 treated 25 acres

North Lake has experienced significant relief from Eurasian milfoil so far this year. Because of the unusually cool spring, the weeds were slow to come up. We postponed treatment until the weeds were high enough to properly survey the lake for treatment. We finally did treat 25 acres on June 24, 1996. (15 acres were treated with 2,4-D and 10 acres with "Reward," a contact herbicide). The total cost of treatment was \$5,575.00. The acreage requiring treatment was significantly lower than in past years, and lower than we predicted for this year (39 acres) when we began planning late in 1995.



Eurasian Milfoil



American elodea

The plants at left are two of many kinds in North Lake. Eurasian milfoil (left panel) has feathery green leaflets that grow in clusters of four, radiating from a central stem. The stalks grow to ten feet or more.

American elodea is one example of many other native plants that are not killed by 2,4-D.

Hopefully, we are finished treating for the summer, but if there is some later growth, then a **second treatment** may be considered.

Because 2,4-D is a systemic herbicide, it takes time for milfoil to die, but if you see significant patches that remain by the general meeting, **please notify** one of the weed committee members, or your area rep. so we can consider that area for a second treatment.

Thanks to those who supported our efforts to treat the lake with their signatures and/or donations. A total of \$12,520.00 was received this year, \$1,070.00 for dues and \$11,450.00 for weed treatment.

We hope that the acreage requiring treatment continues to diminish in future years, however we must all continue our efforts to reduce the amounts of nutrients in the water (see below) and work to eradicate milfoil from our lake. it is most likely that we were just "lucky" this year, so we hope that we can count on your continued support next year. Only a low percentage of lakes experience a complete disappearance of milfoil. In others, it may appear to be gone for a few years and then return. In most cases, it is necessary to treat on a yearly basis to control the spread of this exotic plant.

Note: Many contributors questioned the increase in the dues amount and donations requested. At last year's general membership meeting it was favorably voted on to increase the dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00 to cover the increases in the cost of the mailings. The requested donation amounts for the weed control were increased to ensure adequate funds to treat the predicted 39 acres, at an increased cost per acre. Please be assured that NLPAs will collect only the amount we need to treat for milfoil in 1997!

Why Do Weeds Grow?

Aquatic plants are necessary for shelter, food and oxygen production for fish, frogs, and other wildlife that live here. Plants grow particularly in the shallow areas on the West side, East side (near the boat launch) and near lagoons.

Nutrients in lake water (phosphorus, nitrogen, and other trace elements) fertilize aquatic weeds and make them grow faster and greener.

As weeds die, they sink to the bottom and decay, leaving sediments to fertilize next year's growth. It takes many years for nutrients to leave North Lake after they enter because not much water flows out of the lake. Instead, most water leaves by evaporation or percolating into the ground, leaving nutrients behind.

The same nutrients also feed microscopic algae that give the water a cloudy, greenish tinge, and other algae that form a mat of green "hair" as in the lagoon on the South side this spring. Algae (but not weeds) in shallow areas can be controlled by applying copper

compounds that do not require a permit from the Dept. of Natural Resources.

How Clean is N. Lake?

North Lake is relatively clean, and great for water sports and fishing. Its water quality is about mid-way between the crystal-clear lakes of Canada and Northern Michigan (visibility more than 15 feet), and the shallow, algae-filled lakes of southern states. It rates an "A-minus" on Walter Fusilier's grading of Michigan lakes.

Water clarity in North Lake has been measured for several years. Since 1976, visibility of a target lowered by rope from a boat (a Secchi disk) was between 7 feet and 14 feet, with an average of about 10 feet.

These readings show that clarity of North Lake has been low at times, because of algae growth during periods of warm water and increased nutrients. However, overall water quality has not changed too much in the past 20 years. It is important to continue these readings, particularly with the sewer system being built this Fall.

How Can I Help?

You can prevent pollution in North Lake by following guidelines supplied by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (details are available by requesting the free DNR publication "Protecting Inland Lakes.")

1) The entire watershed of North Lake affects lake quality. After heavy rains, water runs off roads, ditches and yards more than 1/4 mile to directly enter North Lake. This means that YOUR YARD drains into the lake.

2) **Don't burn leaves or waste on the lake watershed.** If you must burn, remove ashes to a landfill. Ashes are very high in nutrients that cause plant growth.

3) **Don't fertilize your lawn.** Lawn fertilizer washes into the lake when it rains. Low phosphorus fertilizers are better than other types. Perforate your lawn to allow water to percolate more easily. Mow grass high (3 1/2").

4) Keep organic material out of the lake. Leaves, lawn clippings, animal droppings, etc. should be composted far away from the lake.

5) Keep shrubs, trees and plants growing within a 15' belt along the lake shore. Plants form a barrier to runoff and use up excess nutrients much better than grass.

6) Conserve wetlands. Swampy areas trap sediments and use up nutrients. They are important for fish and wildlife.

Survey Results:

We'd like to thank those of you who responded to the survey included in our Winter mailing, especially those who wrote extra comments. Here are the results:

49% fully completed the survey.
40% partially completed the survey.

74% were lakefront property owners
25% were shared lake access property owners

90% support the concept of the NLPAs. (5% no, 5% left blank)

90% wish to remain on the mailing list (5% no, 5% left blank).

89% agree that milfoil is a problem that needs to be controlled (5% no, 6% left blank)

85% agree with the responsible use of chemicals (8% no, 7% left blank)

49% would support other methods of controlling milfoil (11% no, 40% left blank or wrote "not sure;" of comments, 4% stated "No Harvesting", 3% said "only responsible harvesting").

This question received the most varied reaction. Apparently, most of us are interested in alternatives to chemical treatment, IF it is cost-effective and has no side effects. NLPAs will continue to review alternative treatment methods, and we encourage all of you to do your part to reduce the amount of excess nutrients entering the lake (see "Why Do Weeds Grow," above).

31% made extra comments concerning many topics; here are a few of them:

We do not receive funding from the DNR (or any other state or federal agency) for our weed control efforts. There are no State funds budgeted for any rooted weed control program in Michigan. Agencies also do not stock our lake with fish (other than hybrid sunfish, which were recently stocked into the lake by DNR). Money for stocking other fish would have to come from homeowners.

Many lakers are frustrated that not all lake users contribute to weed control. The only way to ensure that everyone pays equally is by setting up a lake board and having it levy assessments on our taxes. A "lake board" usually consists of one member from the township board, one lake representative and one person from the DNR. Many lakers are against the idea of a lake board because it "gives up" control over most lake area decisions. If you feel strongly in favor/against creating a lake board, please show up at the meeting and have your opinion heard.

Many lakers expressed concern that they do not have anywhere to dispose of their leaves/branches, lake weeds, and other compostable material. If you must burn, please do so responsibly, as far away from the water's edge as possible, and then remove the ashes (put them in your trash). If there is anyone that knows of a location where compostable material is accepted, please inform an NLPAs representative, so we can share the information. (Burning areas or composting

areas would be a good project for individual landing associations to organize).

Although several individuals expressed concern over lack of weed treatment to their frontage, please understand that we have only treated Eurasian milfoil, and not any other aquatic vegetation, native or exotic. Our treatment areas are also limited by "isolation distances" from drinking water wells around the lake. **Note: We must now keep a minimum distance of 100' from any drinking well, regardless of its depth. If your well is located within 30' of the lake, please contact Anne Koch at (313) 475-1481 to add your name and property location to the list.**

Overall, we were very happy with the response to the survey. It gave individuals a chance to inform us of their opinions on treatment of the lake. Many thanks to those that responded!

Water Survey, 1996

Walter Fusilier of Water Quality Investigators, in Dexter has been contracted by NLPAs to perform a water quality survey of North Lake in August, 1966. He will take samples of lake sediment for analysis and will analyze the water for nutrient concentrations (phosphate, nitrate) and will measure oxygen and temperatures at different depths.

You may have seen an article in the Ann Arbor News two months ago about Dr. Fusilier and his work to measure water quality in many lakes throughout Michigan. He also gave a very nice talk about water quality in North Lake at our 1995 annual meeting.

NLPAs members will monitor water clarity weekly during the summer months to compare with past measurements and provide a baseline to compare future readings. It is particularly important for us to do this for the next few years to determine the effect on water quality of the new sewer system on North Lake.

Thanks to Don Warren!

Don tends the gate at the public landing, locking it at night every night and unlocking it every morning (365 days a year). NLPAs expresses its sincere thanks to Don, and pays him a token fee of \$200 per year. Thanks, Don!

Boating Safety Rules

Now that summer is in full swing and the lake is crowded with boats (especially on weekends), it might be useful to review boating "rules of the road." Please cut this column out and post it where your family members can read it too:

- **The following rules apply to jet-skis and also to other power boats:**
- Always travel around the lake in a counter-clockwise direction.
- When "on plane" you must stay 100 feet away from other boats, swimmers, piers, rafts and the shoreline.
- Sailboats, rowboats, windsurfers and other non-powered craft always have the right-of-way over powered craft.
- Pass oncoming craft on the right. Slower boats go in the same direction as you should be passed on the left (both these rules are the same as driving a car).
- Avoid driving in circles repeatedly.
- Children less than 12 years old may not operate a power craft alone.
- Children 12 to 15 years old must carry a certificate with them showing that they have passed a water safety course to drive alone.
- **Unsafe drivers should be reported to the Washtenaw County Sheriff, who may issue a citation if necessary.**

- **Here are a few additional "common sense" rules:**
- Allow extra space around swimmers; there may be others that you don't see.
- Avoid crossing the center of the lake at high speed when traffic is heavy.
- Use special care when towing a skier or inflatable: **stop** if necessary to avoid other boats or obstructions. Don't make sudden turns if other boats are nearby. Avoid the center of the lake, especially if swimmers are present.
- Remember that the wake from your boat affects others. Don't drive so that your wake swamps yards or smaller craft.
- The noise from your motor may annoy others, especially if operated in one area for a long time; please be considerate.

- **These rules apply only to jet-skis:**
- The operator must wear the machine's safety lanyard.
- All passengers must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.
- No jumping wakes: operators must not be behind any boat within 150 feet.
- Jet-skis may only be operated between sunrise and sunset.

Thanks to all of the following 1996 Eurasian Milfoil Weed Control Fund Contributors:

Wayne & Pat Abbott
Paul & Evelyn Adams
John & Marie Allen
Jerald & Virginia Bachman
Glenn Bailey
Eric & Cindy Batzdorfer
Janet & William Baylis
Carol & Kevin Bingel
William & Ann Birkle
Annette & Dennis Blanz
Vivian A. Boersma
Jerry Boquette
Rosaleen T. Borton
James & Dorothy Boughton
Tony & Shirley Bowen
Sherrie & Tobin Boyd
Barbara & Lloyd Bridges
Randy Brier
Ilo F. Byrd
George & Susan Carter
Paul & Carolyn Chambon
Kathy & Rick Clement
Alan & Lillian Conklin
John & Marilyn Cook
Robert Dalian
Ralph & Marian Darby
Rose Mary DeGrow
Dan Del Vecchio, & others
Dennis Doan
Michelle & Matt Doan*
Clem Eberle
Martin Ehman
Martin Ehman
Margaret D Emswiler
Ward Ernst
Doug & Joanne Fasing
Virginia & John Fisher
Robert & Christine Frayer
Richard & Mary Lou Frendt

Bruce & Rebecca Gaffney
Ralph & Betty Geistler
Robert & Margie German
Janet & Charles Gleason
Sam & Mary Hagopian
Stanley & Connie Hall
Peggy & Walter Hamilton
Wayne Havens
Cheryl & Douglas Houk
George Heydlauff
Loretta G. Hofmann
John Holland
Frederick & Jeanne Hollis
Ken & Jana Howard
Raymond & Mickey Howe**
Philip & Dorothy Hume
Janice Inwood
Gary & Sherrie Jergens
James & Elizabeth Johnson
Patricia & Thomas Kessler
Gordon & Patricia Knight
David & Janet Knisely
Steve & Anne Koch
John & Barbara Kolessar
Henry Kronner
Dan & Johanna Kruse
Robert & Ann Kuczkowski
Paul & Barbara Lammers
Linda & David Logan
Gerald Loukotka
Rose & Charles Manitz
Henry & Delores Marks
Clifford & Sylvia Martin
George & Olga McCormick
Dennis McDonald
Cynthia & John Mitchell
John & Gloria Mitchell
John & Shirley Nagelhout
Maryann & Duane Noah

North Lake Farms Beach Assoc.
Norman & Erma O'Conner
Marilyn & Dave Otto
Steve Percha
Warren & Pauline Porath
David & Barbara Pruess
Richard Raab
Arnold M. Rademacher
Jan & Robin Raymond
Jeanene Riemenschneider
Greg & Jean Ringe
Billy & Maryanna Robertson
Gary Rodak
Thomas & Marcia Rose
Alex & Shirley Roskowski
Ralph & Jo Rumsey
Steven Schlosser & Marilyn
Guenther
Richard & Ruth Sell
Anna Shirilla
Hadley & Maureen Smith
Janette & Rex Smith
Kathleen & William Smith
Sheridan & Sallie Springer
Eugene & Bernice Steeb
David & Shannon Steinbach
Robert Stevenson
Charles & Jill Taylor
Kent & Katrina Thiel
John & Delphine Thomas
Janet & Thomas Thomas
David & Mary Jane Tiedgen
Sheryl Ulin & Lynn Schachinger
Byron & Corinne Vivian
Patricia & Jeffrey Vogel
Don Warren
Roland & Jane Wild
Harvey & Susan Ziel

*Special thanks for your contributions above the requested amount.

We recognize and thank North Lake Country Store (the Ehmans) for making a Special contribution.

We thank these additional individuals for responding to our survey and/or supporting the NLPA:

Brent & Jan Bills
Don Brooks
Jill & Mike Brown
Donna & Ron Buckenberger
Craig & Bernadette Coltre
Tom & Edie Dehn
Donald Dettling

Elizabeth & Mathew
Dettmer-Radtke
Don & Anita Ferguson
Ronald N. Ferry
Robert Gilbert
Viola & Gerald Hack
Delores & Norman Houk

Kay & Robert Kadlec
Ted & Elaine Lane
Warren McCormick
W. C. Rickenbacker
Murray & Gertrude Smith
Rolland Spaulding
Allan & Amelia Townsend

North Lake Prot. Assoc. Representative	Address	Phone #
----------------------------------------	---------	---------

Officers:

Co-presidents:	Charlie Taylor	7560 Lake Shore Dr.	475-2172
	Bruce Gaffney	13835 Sauer Dr.	475-9802
	AA address:	2541 Devonshire	677-4396
Sec'y/Treas.	Sheryl Ulin	10101 Hadley Dr.	475-5849

Neighborhood Representatives:

East End	Ann Koch	13382 North Lake Rd.	475-1481
Eisenbeiser	Kent Thiel	14320 Eisenbeiser Dr.	475-8854
Gilbert Dr.	George Carter	14049 Gilbert Dr.	475-1570
	Jim Johnson	14211 Gilbert Dr.	475-7598
Glenn Oaks	Dan Kruse	7053 Lake Shore Dr.	475-7170
North Lake Farms	Jim Paul	14188 Riker Rd.	475-0425
Noah's Landing	Gerry Loukatka	7612 Noah's Landing	475-1094
Parklawn	Eric Batsdorfer	13817 Bramble Brae	475-8025
	Billy Robertson	13756 Rustic Dr.	475-7175

Sauer Dr.	Bruce Gaffney	13835 Sauer Dr.	475-9802
Stonehedge	Steve Schlosser	7906 Stonehedge Valley	475-7292
Watt Rd.		[NO REPRESENTATIVE]	
Webb's Landing	Dave Pruess	7369 Webb's Landing	475-8146
		1340 St. James Pl.	475-9502

Past officers:	Chuck Gleason	7299 Lake Shore Dr.	475-8937
	Jenny Bachman	7816 Stonehedge Valley	475-1817