

THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association JUNE, 1998

Annual Meeting:

The 1998 annual general meeting of the North Lake Protection Association (NLPA) will be held at 7:00 pm on Tue. June 16, 1998 at the clubhouse of the Inverness Golf Club on North Territorial Road. NLPA survey results have provided us valued feedback which led us to schedule the 1998 annual meeting before the summer rush. All North Lake residents and interested persons are invited. Please be there to hear about North Lake news 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. Copies of the 1997 lake quality survey will be available.

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 Annett

Blanzly at (734) 475-8831 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 Annett to get their name on the mailing list. A few extra copies will also be available at the general membership meeting on June 16th.

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.

1997 Milfoil Treatment

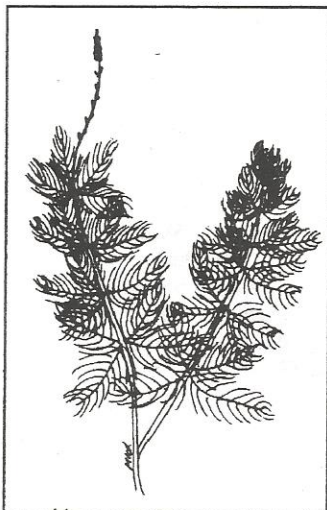
Although weed control is not the only function of the North Lake Protection Association, it uses the majority of our funds, and requires planning, mailing, compiling permissions, obtaining permits from the Department of Natural Resources, sign posting and follow-up.

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

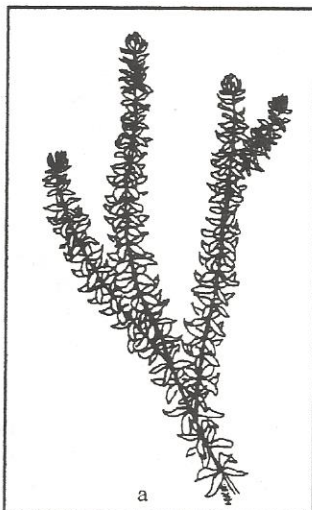
Here is a brief history of North Lake milfoil treatments (acres treated out of the 250 acres in North Lake are shown below):

- 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
- 1997 treated 10 acres

North Lake has experienced significant relief from Eurasian milfoil with the continued treatments. NLPA is hoping the effects of the mild winter will not start the milfoil off to a fast start. The total cost of 1997 treatment was \$6,150.00. The acreage requiring treatment has steadily decreased, but we are hesitant to skip a year based on past experience in 1992.



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, one treatment will be sufficient in 1998, 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. A second mailing will be sent out if further treatments are needed. **Thanks to those who supported our efforts to treat the lake with their signatures and/or donations.** A total of \$8,880.00 was received in 1997 (includes dues & weed control funds).

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" last year, we hope that we can count on your continued support. Only a small 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: NLPA is doing its best to collect what we need for weed control. The requested donation amounts for the weed control were increased in 1996/97 to ensure adequate funds to treat the predicted acreage, the 1998 donation amount has been lowered even though there is an increased cost per acre.

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 last 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. However, care must be used with copper sulfate, because it can collect over a number of years in bottom sediments.

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 that was installed last Spring.

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.") 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.

1) **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.

2) **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 (3½").

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

4) 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.

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

Annual Meeting Time Survey Results:

Preference for annual meeting are as follows: (50 responses)
10 for winter
17 for spring
19 for summer
4 for autumn

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/or 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 NLPA 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 setback distance of 75' from ANY well, OR within 250' of wells less than 30' deep. If your well less than 30' in depth, please contact Anne Koch at (734) 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 was contracted by NLPA to perform a water quality survey of North Lake in August, 1996 and again in 1997. He took samples of lake sediment for analysis and analyzed the water for nutrient concentrations (phosphate, nitrate) and measured oxygen and temperatures.

You may have seen an article in the Ann Arbor News a year 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 and 1997 annual meetings.

NLPA members will collect water clarity data 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 every night and unlocking it every morning (365 days a year). NLPA expresses its sincere thanks to Don, and pays him a token fee of \$200 per year. Thanks, Don!

Thanks to Martin Ehman!

We'd like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" once more to Martin Ehman of North Lake Country Store and Dave Stienbach for helping us celebrate last Fourth of July with a great display of fireworks right here at North Lake. It was even greater than the year before and we are looking forward to next summer's show. Most people around the lake would like to see this become an annual event. Anyone wishing to donate to the 1998 display may do so at the North Lake Store.

Attention North Lake Fisherman!

from Jerry Loukotka

How many of you caught some huge bluegills last summer or fall? Are you sure they were bluegills? They may have been red ears. The DNR blessed our lake with a planting of red ears in 1992. These red ears are almost identical to our bluegills except for slightly larger scales and a red dot instead of the typical bluegill markings. I personally caught many in 1996-1997, so they are reproducing. They may reach 11 or 12 inches and can weigh up to a pound or more. Ken Dodge of the fisheries division told me they are a species of their own, not a hybrid. If you catch one of these over 12 inches, please contact me so I can let Ken Dodge know how they are doing. Thank you, Jerry Loukotka, 475-1094.

Boating Safety Rules

Now that spring is in full swing, the lake will be crowded with boats soon (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 going the same direction as you should be passed on the left (both of 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 for boating safety:

- 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 follow behind any boat within 150 feet.
- Jet-skis may only be operated between sunrise and sunset.

NLPA is in need of a representative from Watt Rd., please contact any one of the representatives if you're interested.

WATER USE RESTRICTIONS for 2,4-D
No swimming or bathing for 1 day. No household uses, irrigation, animal watering or similar uses for an indefinite period.

Please watch the shoreline for the yellow and/or pink signs which will indicate the day of treatment.

North Lake Prot. Assoc. Representative **Address** *Nov 11th* **Phone #**

Officers:

President:	Dan Kruse	7053 Lake Shore Dr.	475-7170
Sec'y/Treas.	Sheryl Ulin	10101 Hadley Dr.	475-5849
Weed Controll	Ann Koch	13382 North Lake Rd.	475-1481

Neighborhood Representatives:

East End	Ann Koch	13382 North Lake Rd.	475-1481
Eisenbeiser	Kent Thiel	14320 Eisenbeiser Dr.	475-8854
Gilbert Dr.	Liz & Jim Johnson	14211 Gilbert Dr.	475-7598
Glenn Oaks	Dan Kruse	7053 Lake Shore Dr.	475-7170
	Charlie Taylor	7560 Lake Shore Dr.	475-2172
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
	John Mitchell, II	6544 Lombardy	475-7057
Sauer Dr.	Bruce Gaffney	13835 Sauer Dr.	475-9802
	AA address:	2541 Devonshire	677-4396
Stonehedge	Annett Blanz	7889 Stonehedge Valley	475-8831
Watt Rd.	<i>Paul Lammers</i>	[NO REPRESENTATIVE]	475-0227
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
Charlie Taylor	7560 Lake Shore Dr.	475-2172