

# THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association July, 2000

## Annual Meeting:

The 2000 annual general meeting of the North Lake Protection Association will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Sat. July 22, 2000 at the clubhouse of the Inverness Golf Club on North Territorial Road.**

**Guest speaker Floyd Phillips** from **Michigan Lake & Stream** will be on hand to talk about lake management, weed control and general inland lake news. NLPA will have general information about North Lake. 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.

## NLPA mailing list:

If you have sold your home, or have a winter and summer address, please contact one of the NLPA officers so we have an accurate mailing list.

## New to the Lake?

Welcome to all the new lakers in the area. We hope we have reached all of you. If this news letter was addressed to your property's previous owner, please contact one of the NLPA officers so our mailing list can be updated.

## 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.

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, swimming and other recreational uses. Several other lake in our immediate area are also infested with milfoil, causing problems with recreational use.

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 the 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. Immediately after application, aquatic herbicides begin to disperse and soon reach non-detectable concentrations. American elodea is an example of many other native plants that are not killed by 2,4-D.

Complete decomposition of 2,4-D usually takes about 3 weeks in water and can be as short as 1 week. 2,4-D breaks down into naturally occurring compounds. 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. [ **Note: please clean weeds and debris off of 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. ]**

**Thanks To - Marty Ehman,** owner of North Lake Country Store and **Dave Steinbach** for 1999's July fire works!! We all look forward to this years fireworks.

## Milfoil Treatment:

Although weed control is not the only function of the North Lake Protection Association, it use 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: Eric Batsdorfer, Dan Kruse, Jerry Loukatka, Dave Pruess, and Kent Thiel.

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 35 acres
- 1998 treated 41 acres
- 1999 treated 49 acres

North Lake has experienced significant relief from Eurasian milfoil with the continued treatments. 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.**

We hope 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 and work to eradicate milfoil from our lake. 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: prior to the treatment you may see many milk jugs in the lake. We are trying to improve the marking of the milfoil for the applicator to treat proper areas. Please don't remove the milk jugs.**

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 keep a setback distance of 75' from ANY well, OR within 250' of wells less than 30' deep. If you well is less than 30' in depth, please contact Jerry Loukatka at 475-1094 or Dan Kruse at 475-7170 to add your name and property location to the list.**

**If someone finds a spot where milfoil treatment was missed, please contact Jerry Loukatka.**

## How Clean is North Lake?

The 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



# THE ALAKER

North Lake Protection Association July, 2000

Michigan (visibility more than 15 feet), and the shallow, algae filled lakes of southern states. It rates an A- 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 and 14 feet, with an average of 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. We will continue these readings and monitor if our water clarity improves with the installation of the sewer system.

## 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 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. *If there is anyone that knows of a location where compost material is accepted, please inform an NLPA representative, so we can share the information.*

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

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 (3 1/2").

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.

## Water Survey, 1997

Walter Fusilier of Water Quality Investigators in Dexter was contracted by NLPA to perform a water quality survey of North Lake in August 1996, 1997 and 1999. 1999 results are not completed at this time. You may have read articles in the Ann Arbor News about him and the work he performs. He took samples of lake sediment for analysis and analyzed the water for nutrient concentrations (phosphate, nitrate) and measured oxygen and temperatures. A written report is available.

NLPA members 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 sewer system on North Lake.

## 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 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 shorelines.
- 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. When reporting an unsafe driver, have a description of the driver, description of the boat and license number of the boat.

### NLPA received the following from "Michigan Lake & Stream Assoc." Michigan Personal Watercraft Law -- April 1, 1999.

- A person must be 14 years of age to operate a personal watercraft (PWC), except a 12 or 13 year old may operate a PWC if she or he obtained a certificate prior to January 1, 1999.
- A person shall not operate a PWC on the waters of this state unless each person on board or being towed by PWC who is less than 12 years of age is wearing a type I or type II personal flotation device..."
- A person 12 years of age or older riding on or being towed behind the PWC must be wearing a type I, type II, or type III personal flotation device..."
- A child less than 7 years of age shall not ride or be towed by a PWC unless accompanied by his or her parent or guardian or a designee of the parent or guardian.
- A person shall not operate a PWC on the waters of this state during the period that begins 1 hour before sunset and ends at 8:00 a.m.
- A person operating a PWC on the waters of this state shall not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel, other than a PWC, unless the person is operating the PWC at slow-no wake speed.
- A person operating a PWC on any of the Great Lakes shall maintain a distance of 200 feet from shore except when traveling at a slow-no wake speed.
- A person operating a PWC in excess of 55 miles per hour, or at lesser speeds adopted by a unit of local government, is guilty of reckless operation.
- A person who operates a PWC or is being towed by a PWC on a water sled, kite, surfboard, parachute, tube, water ski, or similar equipment on the waters of this state shall maintain a distance of not less than 100 feet



# THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association July, 2000

from a dock, raft, or bouyed or occupied bathing or swimming area, a person in the water or on the water on a personal flotation device, or a vessel moored, anchored, drifting or sitting dead in the water. End of quoted 1999 law.

## Here are a few additional "common sense" rules for boating safety:

- Allow extra space around swimmers; there may be others under water you don't see
- Don't drive your boat between rafts and the shoreline because of swimmers
- Avoid crossing the center of the lake at high speed when traffic is heavy
- Use special care when towing a skier or an 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 the wake from your boat affects others. Don't drive so 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 of others

## Purple Loosestrife

Purple loosestrife is a very hardy perennial which can rapidly degrade wetlands, diminishing their value for wildlife habitat. Wetlands are the most biologically diverse, productive component of our ecosystem. Hundreds of species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish and amphibians rely on healthy wetland habitat for their survival.

However, when purple loosestrife gets a foothold, the habitat where fish and wildlife feed, seek shelter, reproduce and rear young, quickly becomes choked under a sea of purple flowers.

Controlling the spread of purple loosestrife is crucial to protecting vital fish, wildlife and native plant habitat. Purple loosestrife can easily spread if improper control methods are used. The following simple guidelines will ensure that our efforts to control the spread of purple loosestrife is effective.

**Digging and Hand Pulling** purple loosestrife by is easiest when plants are

young (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants have larger roots that can be eased out with a garden fork. Remove as much of the root system as possible, because broken roots may sprout new plants.

**Cutting** Removing flowering spikes will prevent this year's seeds from producing more plants in future years - remembering each mature plant can produce over 2 million seeds per year. Also, remove last year's dry seed heads, as they may still contain seeds. Finally, cut the stems at the ground to inhibit growth.

The best time to control purple loosestrife is in late June, July and early August, when it is in flower, plants are easily recognized, and before it goes to seed. Once flower petals start to drop from the bottom of the spike, the plant begins to produce seed. Control activities can continue during this time, but require greater care so seeds are not shaken from the plant. At sites where plants have gone to seed, remove all of the flowering spikes first by bending them over a plastic bag and cutting them off into the bag. Further cutting of stems or pulling can now take place without fear of spreading the tiny seeds.

Proper disposal of plant material is important. Put all plant pieces in plastic bags (they will rot quickly in the bags) and take the bags to a sanitary landfill site.

**Composting is not advised**, as purple loosestrife seeds may not be destroyed and the thick, woody stem and roots take a long time to decompose.

## Status of Public Launch:

In 1998 the DEQ rebuilt the North Lake public launch and did not replace the gate and concern was raised at the 1999 NLPA annual meeting. On August 9, 1999 the NLPA wrote to Dexter Township Supervisor Robert Tetens asking for help in replacing the gate and approval to operate as in the past. Dexter township contacted the DNR's Mr. George Rob (Lansing) after initial request to local DNR was denied. Dexter Township was not satisfied with the response from DNR Lansing office and sent a letter in November 1999 to State Representative John p. Hanson. NLPA has not received word from Dexter Township as to any update, although the NLPA thanks the effort from Dexter Township.

## Officers

Dan Kruse President  
7053 Lake shore Dr. 475-7170

Sheryl Ulin Sec'y/Treas  
10101 Hadley Rd. 475-5849

## Neighborhood representatives:

**East End** Anne Koch  
13382 North Lake Rd. 475-1481

**Eisenbeiser Dr.** Kent Thiel  
14320 Eisenbeiser Dr. 475-8854

**Gilbert Dr.** Liz & Jim Johnson  
14211 Gilbert Dr. 475-7598

**Glen Oaks** Dan Kruse

**Hadley Rd.** Sheryl Ulin

**North Lake Farms** - need representative

**Noah's Landing** Gerry Loukatka  
7612 Noah's Landing 475-1094

**Parklawn** Eric Batsdorfer  
13817 Bramble Brea 475-8025

**Sauer Dr.** Bruce Gaffney  
13835 Sauer Dr. 475-9802  
AA address 2541 Devonshire  
677-4396

**Stonehedge Valley** Need a Landing representative

**Watt Rd.** Need a landing representative

**Webb's Landing** Dave Pruess  
7369 Webb's Landing 475-8146  
1340 St. James Pl. 475-9502

Secchi Disk readings done by  
Charlie Taylor  
7560 Lakeshore Dr. 475-2172

**Please contact Dan Kruse if you are interested in representing Watt Rd, Stonehedge Vally, or North Lake Farms.**



**1999 Annual General Meeting: North Lake Protection Association  
July 27, 1999, Inverness Country Clubhouse, North Territorial Rd.**

Meeting commenced by Dan Kruse. Seventeen people attended the meeting.

1. 1998 meeting minutes were not brought to this meeting
2. 1999 Treasurer's report (as of 7/27/99)

Collections (total, dues and weed control)	\$12,545.00
Payments (total)	\$14,897.66
Dues	\$70.00
Postage	\$181.80
Supplies	\$50.88
Weed Treatment	\$14,595.00
Balance (7/27/99)	\$4181.64
3. Boat Launch
  - DEQ revised launch and did not put the gate back up.
  - NLPA will write a letter to the Dexter Township Supervisor, Bob Tetens, to request that the gate be put back up. Bob Tetens has said that he would with the DEQ on this issue.
  - The letter should identify the vandalism that has occurred.
  - Specifically, a fishing boat with a 50 h.p. engine was stolen.
  - Dan Kruse will write the letter to the Dexter Township Supervisor, Bob Tetens.
4. Boating Safety
  - Emphasize this in the Laker with examples (i.e. children in front of the rail of pontoons while the boat is moving is not permitted).
  - Outline the procedure for reporting violations (including phone numbers) in next Laker.
  - Have area representatives talk to people in their neighborhood regarding boating safety.
  - Joe Westleski is a County Commissioner and has been very responsive to marine complaints.
  - Invite Dexter Township Supervisor to next annual meeting.
5. Geese
  - Need petitions signed by 60% of lake front owners and township approval to have the geese rounded up and transported off the lake.
  - Someone locally traps the geese.
  - DEQ transports the geese.
  - The geese must be trapped while they are molting so they can't fly.
  - A petition could be included in next year's call for weed control funds and dues.
6. Purple loosestrife
  - Beetles will be available 3/1/00.
  - The beetles multiply rapidly and kill purple loosestrife.
  - Round-up will kill purple loosestrife.
  - Aqua-safe "round-up" is available, but it is expensive.
7. Sewer Board
  - Attendees had questions regarding the monthly assessments.
  - No members of the sewer board attended the meeting.
  - The sewer was designed for 1800 hook-ups, but only 600 are currently in the district.
  - Many other areas want to join the district.
  - The district needs to be financially viable before other areas will enter the district.
8. ML&SA
  - They have a server for a web site and will provide assistance in setting up a North Lake web page.
  - Our web page could include the Laker, address updates, e-mail, etc.
  - Is someone interested in setting up a web page for us?
9. Fireworks
  - Presented by North Lake Community Service Organization which is approximately 2 years old.
  - This organization received approximately \$6000 in donations.
  - They spent approximately \$5000 on fireworks and approximately \$1000 on the permit and for insurance.
  - Tom Rob provided the music.
10. NLPA Meeting Announcement
  - Put up posters in North Lake Country Store, Inverness Tavern and Inverness Country Club/Golf Course.
  - Advertise annual meeting in the Chelsea Standard.
11. Lake Survey
  - Schedule Wallace Fusilier for a 1999 lake survey.
  - Sheryl Ulin to contact W. Fusilier.