

THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association July, 2001

Annual Meeting will not be held for 2001.

NLPA has not had any significant issues at present. We hope to have lake study information for the 2002 annual meeting of the North Lake Protection Association. 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 2000's fire works!! We all look forward to this years fireworks.

JULY 2001 NORTH LAKE FIRE WORKS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 7th with rain date of July 8th.

Please make checks out to:

NLACSO (North Lake Area Community Service Organization).

Send checks to: Dave Steinbach
NLACSO 13851 Sauer Dr.
Gregory, Mi. 48137 or drop off at North Lake Country Store.

Update from Multi-Lake Sewer Authority

Phase Number 2 will soon begin. The following areas will be joining the multi-lake facility: Max Drive with 9REU, (which is at the north end of Half Moon lake), Patterson lake with 158 REU, Bruin lake with 73 REU, Joslin lake with 81 REU, Elsworth lake with 28 REU, Island lake with 45 REU and the village of Gregory with 180 REU. (REU is Residential Equivalent Unit) These

additions will bring our facility to approximately 66% of its capacity. Final engineering drawings are almost complete. Bids are going out soon.

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
- 2000 treated 52 acres
- 2001 treated 32 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.