

THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association

June 2004

Annual Meeting

Monday, June 28, 2004

7:30 p.m.

Inverness Club House

The annual meeting of the North Lake Protection Association will be conducted on Monday June 28 @ 7:30 p.m. at the Inverness Golf Course Club House. This is a general meeting to discuss quality of the lake.

GUEST SPEAKER BURT SMITH from ENVIRO-SCIENCE will be at our June 28th annual meeting to talk about an alternative treatment of Eurasian Milfoil using a type of water beetle "weevils".

NLPA is very interested in this alternative approach to Milfoil control. NLPA has a contact from the Pleasant Lake Association which just last year (2003) introduced weevil water beetles into their lake.

The financial balance of NLPA is as follows:

12/31/01 \$9,170.63

12/31/02 \$16,231.63

6/25/03 \$15,881.50

5/25/04 \$26,893 (prior to payment of 2004 treatment)

The mission of NLPA is to promote good water quality and equitable use of our lake for recreation, wildlife and beauty.

Eurasian Milfoil

Eurasian Milfoil is a plant that grows in fresh water up to 12 feet deep. It is not native to Michigan,

but gets brought in from other bodies of water via 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 lakes 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 or else the milfoil will grow abundantly in our lake.

To combat milfoil, a selective herbicide (2,4-D) is applied locally to the areas of the lake that are infested. This is done during late spring, early summer. The chemical pellets sink to the bottom and enter the system of the milfoil plants, causing them to grow in an uncontrolled manner, which in turn causes the plant 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 a native plant that is not harmed 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 of Eurasian milfoil continue to be brought in from other lakes. It is necessary to treat with 2,4-D on a yearly basis.

*****Please clean weeds and debris off of your trailer, propeller, etc. before launching your boat in North Lake after use somewhere else. This reduces the chance of re-introducing milfoil and other pests such as zebra mussels.**

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 DNR, sign posting, and follow-up.

Since 1989, North Lake has been treated for milfoil. Here is a breakdown of the number of acres treated each year. (North Lake is 250 acres.)

- 1989 - 36 acres
- 1990 - 32 acres + harvesting
- 1991 - 28 acres
- 1992 - 0 acres
- 1993 - 47 acres
- 1994 - 45 acres
- 1995 - 38 acres
- 1996 - 25 acres
- 1997 - 35 acres
- 1998 - 41 acres
- 1999 - 49 acres
- 2000 - 52 acres
- 2001 - 32 acres
- 2002 - 35 acres
- 2003 - 37 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 does not increase 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.

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 feet from ANY well, or within 250 feet of wells less than 30 feet in depth. If your well is less than 30 feet in depth, please contact Paul Seelbach @ 475-8337 or Dan Kruse @ 475-7170 to add your name and property location to the list.**

If someone finds a spot where the milfoil treatment was missed, please contact Paul Seelbach @ 475-8337.

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 miles to directly

enter North Lake. This means YOUR YARD drains into the lake.

- **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. Neighborhood composting areas are a good project for individual landing associations to organize.
- **Don't fertilize your lawn.** Lawn fertilizer washes into the lake when it rains. Low phosphorous fertilizers are better than other types. Perforate your lawn to allow water to percolate more easily. Mow grass high - 3 1/2"

An option which has been made known to NLPA is **Clean Green**, an organic fertilizer. It is made from processed soybeans. As a result, it provides nitrogen to your lawn, garden or landscaping without adding harmful and dangerous levels of phosphorous which can leech into the lake. **Clean Green** has a nutrient analysis that includes 7% nitrogen, 0% phosphate, and 0% potash. It is manufactured for Practical Soy LLC P.O. Box 429 Manchester, MI 48158. For more information, contact Brian Gunderson @ 734-428-8757 Fax 734-428-8927 or e-mail practicalsoy@yahoo.com or check the website www.cleangreenfert.com

Clean Green is available at the following stores: Fraleighs Landscape Nursery, Dexter Mill, Hackney Ace Hardware, Chelsea Village Hardware, Farmers Supply-Chelsea, G. E. Wacker, Inc. Pinckney Hardware

If you know of any other organic fertilizers which are low in phosphorous that are on the market, please let your lake representative

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know and this information can be passed on to all of the homeowners on North Lake.

- **Keep organic material out of the lake.** Leaves, lawn clippings, animal droppings, etc. should be composted far away from the lake.
- **Keep shrubs, trees, and plants growing within a 15 foot belt along the lakeshore.** Plants form a barrier to runoff and use up excess nutrients much better than grass.
- **Conserve wetlands.** Swampy areas trap sediment and up nutrients. They are important to fish and wildlife.

NLPA Landing Representatives

East End - Anne Koch
 Eisenbeiser Drive - Kent Thiel
 Gilbert Drive - Jim Johnson
 Glen Oaks - Dan Kruse
 Hadley Road - Sheryl Ulin
 North Lake Farms - need a rep.
 Noah's Landing - need a rep.
 Parklawn - Eric Batsdorfer
 Sauer Drive - Bruce Gaffney
 Stonehedge Valley - Carol Heydlauff
 Watt Road - Paul Lammers
 Webb's Landing - Dave Pruess
 Secchi Disk readings done by Charlie Taylor

North Lake FIRE WORKS to be held JULY 3rd, 2004.

Contributions can be made to NLACSO (North Lake Area Community Service Org.)
 C/O Dave Steinbach 13851 Sauer Dr. Gregory Mi, 48137