

THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association

August 2005

Annual Meeting

Monday, Sept. 26, 2005

7:00 p.m. at the

Inverness Club House

The annual meeting of the North Lake Protection Association will be conducted on Monday, Sept 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Inverness Golf Course Club House. This is a general meeting to discuss the quality of the lake.

The financial balance of NLPA is as follows:

12/31/01	\$9,170.63
12/31/02	\$16,231.63
12/31/03	\$16,231.63
12/31/04	\$18,054.95
8/22/05	\$10,434.27

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.

To date, the NLPA has used Aquatic Services to combat milfoil

using a selective herbicide (2,4-D) that is applied locally to the areas of the lake that are infested. This is done during late spring or early summer.

This year the NLPA has introduced two small test sites of weevils, a NON-chemical treatment of Eurasian Milfoil that is implemented by EnviroScience.

Test sites are: 1) about 100 feet south of Camp Burt Shurly's beach area about 150 feet from the shore. 2) about 100 feet directly out from the culvert that runs under Hadley Rd. These sites were marked with a special buoy. The buoy that marked the site by the camp beach is dislodged.

Bugs vs. Chemicals

Members of the lake board recently met with Bert Smith from EnviroScience to discuss the option of using weevils instead of chemicals to control Eurasian Milfoil. Mr. Smith indicated that herbicides offered good control of the milfoil in the short-term, but if the lake association was looking for an effective, environmentally safe approach to controlling milfoil, weevils were the answer. "Once a healthy population of weevils is started, it will provide long-term control, reducing the need to use chemical treatments year after year." The weevils are native to North America and specifically target Eurasian Milfoil, which gives the native vegetation a chance to become reestablished. This leads to a more diverse plant community and a healthier lake.

Pros & Cons

All good things come with a little patience. It generally takes the weevils 2-4 years to become fully

established and to gain the upper hand on the milfoil. According to Mr. Smith, the lake associations that were dedicated to the program and showed a little patience in the first couple of years are now enjoying the benefits of the weevils. To date, EnviroScience has stocked weevils in over 65 lakes across 12 states. Most of their clients have been in Michigan, including our neighbors, Pleasant Lake. The cost of using weevils is about the same as chemicals. The difference is, that once a healthy population of weevils is started, that is it. It would no longer be necessary to treat the milfoil! In the meantime, we will need to continue to use the 2-4D in areas so the Eurasian Milfoil does not overtake more areas of the lake before the weevils become established. This means we need to get an increased percentage of homeowners to donate money to the NLPA. If you have never donated before, or you haven't donated in recent years, please consider contributing financially to NLPA. The more money we have, the more weevils we can stock in a shorter time frame thus helping to eliminate the use of chemicals to our lake.

Do They Bite?

No, the weevils don't bite. They are about the size of the tip of a pencil and are completely harmless to anything but milfoil. According to Mr. Smith, property owners will have a real hard time finding them unless they know specifically what to look for. The weevils are self-regulating. As the milfoil decreases, so will the population of the weevils.

PLEASANT LAKE

ASSOCIATION contracted EnviroScience to treat the Eurasian milfoil exclusively with weevils. Pleasant lake is south east of Chelsea, about 200 acres in size and had not used any form of milfoil treatment until 2003 when the weevils were introduced.

Representatives from NLPA were invited to Pleasant Lake in August for a first hand look at the progress of their weevil program. Pleasant Lake took an aggressive approach and raised more than \$45,000 (one time taxation) to introduce approximately 30,000 weevils into the lake. Pleasant Lake had approximately 40 acres of Eurasian Milfoil at the time of treatment with the weevils. NLPA representatives were taken directly to the sites where the weevils were introduced. What used to be several acres that were not passable by boat are now clear of milfoil. Pleasant Lake still has many acres of Milfoil, but the areas that weevils had destroyed did not come back in the spring.

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 DEQ, sign posting, and follow-up.

Since 1989, North Lake has been treated for milfoil. Below 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
- 2004 - 37 acres
- 2005 - 43 acres 2,4-D at a cost of \$15,225 plus \$8,000 for the weevils.

Thanks to those who supported our efforts to treat the lake with their signatures and/or donations.

The NLPA hopes you support the effort to move away from 2,4-D. The donations we ask for will not be increased as we move toward the EnviroScience weevil process. We hope a higher percentage of lake users will donate. The NLPA does expect that we must raise about \$20,000/year for the next 4 years, then the donation can be greatly reduced once the weevils are well established.

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.* The 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 at 475-8337 or Dan Kruse at 475-7170 to add your name and property location to the list.**

How Can I Help?

You can prevent pollution in North Lake by following guidelines supplied by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (details are available by requesting the free DEQ publication "Protecting Inland

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Lakes"). The entire watershed affects lake quality. After heavy rains, water runs off roads, ditches, and yards directly to 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

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phosphorous that are on the market, please let your lake representative 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 increase nutrients. They are important to fish and wildlife.

Camp Burt Shurly

This past July the staff of the camp held an open house at the campgrounds. Fifty to sixty residents of North Lake and the surrounding area attended this very informative afternoon. Most of us only see their beach front. Beyond the beach are 200 acres of a well-kept, clean, campground with well-maintained cabins, classroom buildings, showers & bathrooms, a dining hall, and a lodge.

As many of you are aware, the camp operates for 8 weeks during the summer. What you may not know is that it is home to 75-100 seven - twelve year olds from the Detroit Public School system each week.

These are students who are eligible for Title I funds and are academically performing below expected grade levels in reading and mathematics. Each of the campers may only come for one week during the summer. Some of the counselors and counselors-in-

training participated in the camp when they were students.

While the campers are at North Lake, they participate in swimming, boating, archery, ropes courses, outdoor games, reading, natural science, mathematics, and arts and crafts. Students are asked to keep a journal of their week at camp. Emphasis of the camp is placed on socialization, character-building, and individual creativity while providing exploratory activities in the outdoor world. Teachers and staff from the Detroit Public Schools serve as counselors and teachers and it was apparent to all of us who were at the camp, they love the children and what they are providing for them.

Because all of the campers who attend Camp Burt Shurly receive Title I funding, many of them do not always have the necessary items they need for a week away from home. Camp Burt Shurly is happy to accept donations. They are always in need of toiletries, children's clothing, and swimwear. but will accept any gift you have to offer. If you would like to donate items or money to the camp, you may bring it directly to the camp while they are in session or you can call the Office of Physical Education and Safety @ 313-873-7735 when camp is not in session. All gifts are 100 % tax-deductible.

If the camp has another open house in the future, please strongly consider attending. The staff is friendly, out-going, and enjoy the opportunity to get to meet us, their neighbors.

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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