
THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association

November 2006

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
12/31/05 \$9,523
9/14/06 \$4,411

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

What's happening at North Lake?

As you may know, we chemically treated the Eurasian Milfoil weed for the main portion of the lake during early June. The bayou at the West end was left untreated since that is where the weevils were planted. In addition to the weeds growing at the West end, there was an excessively large weed growth (after the treatment) in most parts of the lake unlike we have experienced in the past. This was in relatively deeper waters as well as in the shallow areas. From what we observed, this is not all Eurasian Milfoil but other weed species too. While we are not pleased with this new development, it could be attributed to the natural evolution of the lake. **We believe that professional weed management is necessary for recreational and fishing activities at North Lake to continue.**

At a recent NLPA Board meeting, Mary Ann Noah, Lyndon Township Supervisor and North Lake property owner, introduced the NLPA Board to Public Act 185 that, among other things, can help us facilitate better weed control for North Lake. This public act allows a tax-based assessment for a limited time (e.g. 5 years) for a specific project (in our case, weed control). This proposed lake management process is now being implemented by the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works (BPW) at Sugarloaf Lake, Whitmore Lake and has been investigated by residents of Joslin and Crooked lakes. The NLPA has communicated with Washtenaw County and also Dexter and Lyndon Townships in moving this project forward. We have determined that our mission should be specifically for weed treatment and the assessment should be for a five-year time frame. The Washtenaw County Board of Public Works which facilitates the entire process, requests that a professional lake management and water quality specialist develop a lake management/improvement plan, goals and objectives, assess existing conditions, develop short and long term

strategies, determine estimated costs involved (for a five year plan) and acquire the necessary MDEQ permits. Obviously, this is quite a change from our volunteer-based organization we have had to date where we had our traditional NLPA mailing asking for voluntary contributions to fund our efforts (approximately half of the lake front and deeded lake access owners contributed. The condition of our lake warrants professional management). After the total cost for a five-year period and the special assessment district has been formulated (i.e. number of lake front property owners as well as the deeded lake access property owners), the assessment per property owner will be determined. Two public hearings will be scheduled to allow residents to speak for or against the project to the Board of Public Works. This assessment will be integrated into your regular tax bill.

The Washtenaw Board of Public Works will administer the project, from acquiring the Board of Commissioner's resolution, to conducting the required public hearings, to carrying out the plan. There will be costs incurred by the County as they set up this special assessment district, contract with licensed applicators, and pay all bills associated with the treatment. Washtenaw County Public Works will forward fund the treatment process for 2007 but will be reimbursed by next year's North Lake assessment. The North Lake Protective Association board would still exist but would be an advisory and inspection organization during the existence of a special assessment district.

Enough said as to what we hope to do and accomplish. To avoid mis-information and confusion, the following section describes what is necessary to move this process forward.

1. The Townships will be approving Initiating Resolutions for assistance from the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works
2. The County Board of Commissioners will approve a resolution accepting the project and direct the BPW to proceed
3. The Lake Management five-year plan will be developed and a budget will be determined
4. The Special Assessment District will be determined and yearly assessments will be established.
5. You will be contacted via mail or in person to sign a Resident Survey indicating your acceptance of this project. We MUST have majority in favor to continue

6. BPW will hold the First public hearing to explain project
7. The Second BPW Public Hearing will be held to finalize the included properties for the special assessment district
8. After the special assessment roll is determined, bids will be received and approved by BPW.
9. The project commences.

The Washtenaw County Public Works will start the North Lake Weed Management program after the Board of Public Works votes in favor of proceeding with the project. The project, if approved can proceed in the spring of 2007. This special assessment will begin with the 2007 winter tax.

What will this do for you? By having this as a special assessment, all property owners in the district will be paying for the weed control effort. Those with lakefront property will pay more than those with deeded lake access. The exact amount of the yearly assessment will not be determined until the initial study is completed and the treatment plan is formulated. We will also have a professional manager working with us for the good of North Lake. This project and assessment will continue for 5 years and will then be re-evaluated by the NLPA board.

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

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- 2005 - 43 acres chemical at a cost of \$15,225 plus \$8,000 for the weevils.
- 2006 - 44 acres chemical at a cost of \$13,916 and \$12,800 for weevils.

Thanks to those who supported our efforts to treat the lake with their signatures and/or donations. See attached contribution 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 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. **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. and 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 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 feet belt along the lakeshore.** Plants form a barrier to runoff and use up excess nutrients much better than grass.

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- **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 approximately ninety children from seven to twelve years of age, from the Detroit Public School system each week.

These are students who are eligible for Title 1 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 1 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 going. The staff is friendly, out-going, and enjoy the opportunity to get to meet us, their neighbors.

NLPA Landing Representatives

East End – Steve & Anne Koch
Eisenbeiser Drive - Kent Thiel

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Gilbert Drive - Jim Johnson & Doug Oberholtzer
Glen Oaks - Dan Kruse (President)
Hadley Road - Sheryl Ulin, (Secretary & Treasurer)
North Lake Farms - need a rep.
Noah's Landing – need a rep.
Parklawn - Eric Batsdorfer
Sauer Drive - Bruce Gaffney, Sheridan Springer
Stonehedge Valley - Carol Heydlauff
Watt Road - Paul Lammers, Scott Gerweck
Webb's Landing - Dave Pruess, Dave Gravelyn
Secchi Disk readings done by Charlie Taylor

Recent contributors to North Lake weed control.

The NLPA thanks all of you for your continuous support.

2005		
Allen	Holmes	Rock
Bachman	Holowicki	Rodak
Bingel	Houk	Roskowski
Birkle	Howard	Rumsey
Booth	Huffman	Ryan
Boughton	Hume	Sakuda
Bowen	Ideson	Sanborn
Boyd	Inwood	Schachinger
R. Bradburn	Johnson	Schaeffer
R. Brier	Kaiser	Schlusser
Brooks	Kempf	Seelbach
Brownlee	Kessler	R. Smith
Chambon	Knight	W. Smith
Chiodo	Knisely	Solis
Colbry	Koch	Soule
Cramer	Koppert	Spaulding
Damm	Kruse	Springer
Dettling	Kuczkowski	Steeb
D. Doan	Lammers	Steinbach
M. Doan	T. Lane	Sujuk
Dorsey	J. Lane	Sundling
Dreher	Logan	Tanner
Dusenbury	Loukotka	Theisen
Ehman	Manitz	Thiel
Fahlgren	McCormick	Jan Thomas
Fecker	McInnis	J. Thomas
Feiten	Mida	Townsend
Ferguson	J. Mitchell	Vanover
Fisher	Morgan	Vivian
Font	Noah	Vogel
Fraye	Oberholtzer	Wawrzaszak
Frendt	O'Conner	White
Frisinger	Percha	Whitesall
Gaffney	Porath	Wickman
Geistler	Preville	Wild
German	Pruess	Wineland
Gerweck	Raab	Wiseley
Gordenier	W. Robertson	York
Hayes	S. Robertson	Ziel
M. Heydlauff		
G. Heydlauff		
Holland		
Hollis		

2006		
Allen	Holmes	Rock
Bachman	Holowicki	Rodak
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Booth	Huffman	Ryan
Boughton	Hume	Sakuda
Bowen	Ideson	Sanborn
R. Bradburn	Johnson	Schachinger
R. Brier	Kempf	Schlusser
Brooks	Kessler	Seelbach
Brownlee	Klinge	Sell
Chambon	Knight	M. Smith
Chiodo	Knisely	W. Smith
Colbry	Koch	Solis
Damm	Koppert	Soule
Dettling	Kruse	Sovia
D. Doan	Kuczkowski	Spaulding
M. Doan	Lammers	Springer
Dorsey	J. Lane	Steeb
Dreher	Logan	Steinbach
Dusenbury	Manitz	Tanner
Ehman	Marks	Taylor
Fahlgren	McCormick	Theisen
Fecker	Mida	Thiel
Feiten	Miller	Jan Thomas
Ferguson	J. Mitchell	J. Thomas
Fisher	J. Mitchell Jr.	Townsend
Founier	Morgan	Vanover
Fraye	Oberholtzer	Villa
Frendt	O'Conner	Vivian
Gaffney	Otto	Vogel
Geistler	Pignanelli	Wawrzaszak
German	Porath	Whitesall
Gerweck	Preville	Wild
Gordenier	Pruess	York
Guberinich	Raab	Ziel
Haggalund	W. Robertson	
Hayes	S. Robertson	
G. Heydlauff		
Holland		
Hollis		