

# THE LAKER

North Lake Protection Association

June 2008

## NLPA Annual Meeting for 2008 is at Inverness Country Club on July 21, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

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
5/5/08	\$4,491.28

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

### North Lake information:

Special Note: During the last week of May 2008, the DNR conducted a fish bedding survey. Results of this survey will be available later this year.

### Status of the North Lake Special Assessment District for Weed Control – 2008 Laker Publication

As most people involved with North Lake know, the Special Assessment District (SAD) was created and passed by petition last fall for the express purpose of treating the invasive weeds in North Lake. This SAD is established for 5 years and will be paid for from property tax assessments starting with the December 2009 property tax billing. The program is being run under the direction of Jeff Krcmarik from Washtenaw County. The communication conduit to Washtenaw County will be the

NLPA board members headed by Dan Kruse and the current landing representatives.

On June 4, Dr. Doug Pullman of Aquest corp., Jeff Krcmarik, and Dave Pruess of NLPA made a visual inspection of the lake with the following observations: Eurasian Water Milfoil seems to be particularly dense and forming some "reef-like" areas bordering the deepwater areas. We also believe that the plant has evolved to a hybrid that may not be as receptive to the 2,4-D treatment. Broad Leaf Pondweed was found throughout the lake and appears that it could grow to nuisance levels. This is the larger leafed weed typically found among the milfoil and reaches for the surface. Starry Stonewort will become more dominant during 2008 especially close to shore on the North side of the lake. The plant will out compete most plants outside of Broad Leaf Pondweed. Starry Stonewort is a spindly looking plant that seems to grow into a deep intertwined mass that may reach the surface. It will push out milfoil with its bulk and mass. With two more invasive species growing in the lake, a differing approach may be needed.

June 9, Steve Hanson from Professional Lake Management and his crew treated approximately 50 acres of 2,4-D (Navigate) for milfoil and about 16 acres of a contact herbicide (Reward) for the close in areas. This was done according to the DEQ approved treatment plan. During this process, we found some more areas of milfoil that was NOT in the approved treatment zone. Toward the middle of the lake from the Island toward Springer's point and

along the shore of Lake Shore drive. The canals by Lake Shore Drive and by the boat launch were not treated as the approved chemicals would have little effect in the noted areas with their mucky bottoms.

The applicator and the County are working with the DEQ to expand the treatment areas and allow for specific chemicals for the canals (granular Renovate) and a copper sulfate derivative for the starry stonewort areas. An official inspection by Pullman and the NLPA is expected the week of June 23 to find out just how effective the 2,4-D treatment was for the milfoil problem. Our original permit allows further weed treatments after June 30 and July 28 per and the notification posted at the lake. We will be inspecting the lake prior to the additional treatments to identify problem areas and additional areas to treat. This will be communicated to the applicator, Dr. Pullman and the County via GPS coordinates. While we all want a usable lake, we have to work within the Michigan DEQ guidelines and permitting process. The good news is that we have about twice the funding as compared to 2007 and we have professional guidance in dealing with the invasive weeds. Jeff Krcmarik also wants to let our residents know of the eWashtenaw green website and the Clancy's boat tour that can be found on <http://ewashtenaw.org/green-media>. Based on conversations of June 19, it is expected to have the second weed treatment during the second week of July after the additional permit extensions are obtained.

**Useful WEB sites:**

[www.boat-ed.com](http://www.boat-ed.com)

Use this site for boater safety on-line certificate and access to The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities.

Safe boating on any inland lake is important. Many North Lake residents have observed unsafe practices.

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

Useful information from the Department of Natural Resources.

**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.

**In 2005 and 2006 the NLPA introduced weevils into three sites of the lake. Implemented by EnviroScience, weevils are a type of non-chemical treatment of Eurasian Milfoil. The site surveys conducted in September 2006 by EnviroScience did not show evidence of Milfoil reduction. Copies of the 2006 report from EnviroScience will be available at the annual meeting on July 21, 2008**

**Milfoil Treatment - History**

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.
- 2006 - 44 acres chemical at cost of \$13,916 and \$12,800 for weevils.
- 2007 - 54 acres chemical at cost of \$19,821
- 2008 - 50+ acres for initial June application.

**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,

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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.

- **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 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  
Gilbert Drive - Jim Johnson &  
Doug Oberholtzer

Glen Oaks - Dan Kruse (President)

Hadley Road - Sheryl Ulin,  
(Secretary & Treasurer)

North Lake Farms – Rod Payne

Noah's Landing – need a rep.

Parklawn - Eric Batsdorfer

Sauer Drive – Sheridan Springer  
(special support) and Bruce  
Gaffney

Stonehedge Valley - Carol  
Heydlauff

Watt Road - Paul Lammers, Scott  
Gerweck

Webb's Landing - Dave Pruess and  
Dave Gravelyn

Secchi Disk readings done by  
Charlie Taylor.