

# THE LAKER

NORTH LAKE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION [www.northlaker.org](http://www.northlaker.org) JULY 2019

NLPA MISSION: *To protect the ecological, recreational and aesthetic well-being of North Lake.*

## NLPA ANNUAL MEETING

August 13, 2019, 7:00 pm  
Inverness Country Club  
13900 North Territorial  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

## BURT SHURLY CAMP PLANS

### SPECIAL SPEAKERS TO OUTLINE PLANS AT NLPA ANNUAL MEETING

#### AGENDA:

1. Review/Approve minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Old Business
  - a. Update on SAD
  - b. Status of Weed Control
  - c. Lily Pad Treatment
  - d. Water Quality Testing
4. New Business
  - a. Burt Shurly Camp Speaker
  - b. Other
5. Election of Officers
6. Adjourn

On Tuesday, August 13, Ken Myers, President of CRA located in Bloomfield Hills, MI, will address the members of the NLPA at our Annual Meeting. Mr. Myers is heading efforts to upgrade the camp. Also invited (but not yet confirmed) are Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent of Detroit Public Schools Community District and Alycia Meriweather, Deputy Superintendent of External Partnerships and Innovation. The camp is described by Dr. Vitti as "one of the district's gems" and exciting plans are being promoted to capitalize on the camp's capacity to educate the students and to offer a high end venue for business and organizations to host retreats and recreational functions.

The camp has been part of the North Lake community for many decades and its future will affect our future. Please come and share your concerns, support, questions and suggestions at this unique opportunity!

### \$10 NLPA DUES

*Please support your NLPA.* We have continuing expenses for many of our activities. Please make checks out to NLPA and send to Dick Frendt in the enclosed envelope. **Please include your email address if you did not receive the recent test email. We will keep your email confidential and only use it for important lake notices.**

### MUTE SWANS

The non-native Mute Swan reduction program initiated by the MI DNR in 2013 seems to have leveled off. The 2018 count by the DNR shows an increase from previous years. The DNR goal is to reach a population of less than 2,000 statewide by 2030 but 2018's count was just over 12,000. North Lake has not requested the reduction program to be implemented here.

About a dozen Trumpeter Swans were spotted on North Lake in the late fall by Sheryl Ulin and her family. Trumpeters are native to Michigan and the state

*(Con't pg 2, col. 1)*

### BURT SHURLY CAMP HISTORY AND FUTURE

The Burt Shurly Camp is named after a prominent and remarkable doctor who was also a Detroit Board of Education member and president. However, he never owned the land and didn't finance its purchase.

A Washtenaw County map published in 1874 by Everts and Stewart shows Parmenus Watts as owning what is now the camp property. A similar map published in 1915 by Geo. Ogle and Co. shows Richard Webb as owner of the camp property. Multiple visits by Dick and Mary Lou Frendt to the Washtenaw County Register of Deeds office in Ann Arbor and many hours of research revealed the following history of the camp property.

The earliest record of the camp property we found, was a sale of about 100 acres of land by William Watts to Parmenus Watts in 1863 for the sum of \$1500. On the 1874 map noted above, Parmenus Watts owned this and other land that now comprise all of the Camp. He lost the camp property in a Sheriff Sale to Richard Webb in 1888. Watts owed the Chelsea Savings Bank \$1,207.89 and the property was sold at auction, to Webb, for a sum of \$603 as the high bid.

Richard Webb died in 1897 and Probate Court records of his will show he left the camp property to eight heirs in a transaction recorded in the Register of Deeds Office in 1902. The heirs are listed as Janette Webb, Anna Stevenson, George M. Webb, Walter J Webb, Richard W. Webb, Margarette L. Hyde, Jane M. Glenn, Elizabeth A. Benton, Lucy A. Sweeney, and Janette G. Pratt. The first name listed in the heirs, Janette Webb, was Richard's second wife and he bequeathed her \$150 and "life estate" on the Webb farm, which gave her the right to live out the remainder of her life on

*(Con't. pg. 2, col. 2)*

hopes to see a rebound in their population as the more aggressive Mute Swans decline.

(The following paragraph is taken from the **Great Lakes Reduction Initiative** website)

Mute swan management has expanded and diversified each year as private lakes and waterways have enrolled in the program. During the 2018 breeding season 93 nests containing 562 eggs were destroyed with subsequent reports of reduced populations and conflicts. More significantly, in 2017 WS removed 847 mute swans from 17 locations where trumpeter swans were also present. MDNR biologists report some sites previously dominated by mute swans are now occupied by trumpeter swans—a noteworthy success in the native swans’ recovery program.

### WHY SMALL PERCH?

The perch in North Lake never seem to get very big, relative to some other lakes. The Minnesota Conservation Magazine (Jan-Feb, 2019) states that in some lakes, male perch can reach sexual maturity at as small as three inches and females at four inches. No one knows why although there is speculation that lakes with lots of predator fish may cause the perch to reproduce earlier in life before they’re eaten!

Once perch reach sexual maturity they grow at a much slower rate, which results in some lakes having perch populations of the small variety. The Minnesota DNR has begun a study to determine the actual cause of the small size perch.

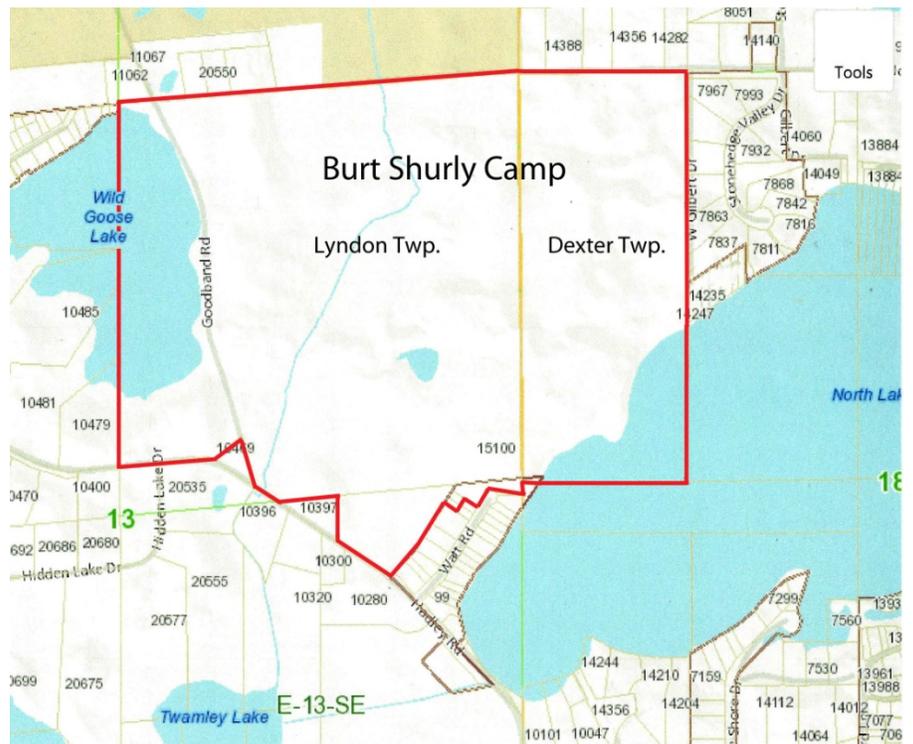


1940 Detroit TB Sanitarium North Lake Camp

### KEEP OFF THE CAMP EQUIPMENT

The beach and beach equipment at the camp is being used by some boaters. The camp managers request everyone to keep off and ask anyone you see using it to leave. Liability issues require this policy. Let’s be good neighbors!

the farm. One daughter, Anna Stevenson, was given \$100 cash, but no share in the property, and the remaining sons and daughters each received a one-eighth share in the property upon the death of the second wife. Richard also requested to be buried next to his first wife in the North Lake Church cemetery. A large tombstone marks his gravesite.



It appears from the documents we have been able to examine, that the camp property was likely used by William Webb’s second wife Jeanette until her death and that the heirs then leased the property for several years to the Detroit Tuberculosis Sanitarium (DTS) as evidenced below.

A Detroit Free Press article dated July 3, 1931, reported the new camp opened with the first 50 boys having arrived the previous Monday for a one month stay and then 50 girls would stay a month. It also stated that the total cost of operating the camp was paid from Christmas Seal (tuberculosis related) funds including *the cost of leasing the farm house for two years*.

Tuberculosis was a devastating disease in the early 20th century. On Feb. 10, 2015, PBS aired a program titled “*The Forgotten Plague*” that stated: “By the twentieth century, TB had killed one in seven of all the people who ever lived.” For many years the disease was commonly called “consumption”, perhaps explaining the lack of awareness about TB. Fresh air was considered to be very helpful in recovery and camps were established across the country. Dr. Burt Shurly, a prominent Detroit physician, championed efforts to construct TB facilities and camps. In 1943, streptomycin was discovered and, combined with other drugs, treatment was very effective. Fresh air camps began to close.

In 1935 the property was sold for a sum of one dollar to the DTS. Each of the original heirs, or their subsequent heirs, signed off on this transaction including Louis Stevenson. Louis was the son of Anna Stevenson, the daughter given \$100 but no share in the property.

Anna Stevenson had a another son, William Elder Stevenson, and in 1936 a Probate Court in Jackson, MI, directed his widow and executrix, Alma Stevenson, to sell William Elder Stevenson estate’s interest in the camp property to The Detroit Tuberculosis Sanitarium. She did so for the sum of



New Camp Entrance



Rope Course at Camp



Climbing Wall



Zip Lines

\$800. It seems likely that William Elder Stevenson believed his mother should have shared in the property inheritance and something in his will caused legal action resulting in the \$800 sale by his widow to the Detroit Tuberculosis Sanitarium. The Jackson County Court records section was unable to find the Stevenson estate documents

A Free Press article dated May 23, 1935, outlined improvements planned for the camp, and the Chelsea Standard June 10, 1937 edition, announced the completion of the new facilities including two new cabins, a large dining room and kitchen with modern equipment, a cottage for the camp director, and new sewer and water systems; all at a cost of about \$40,000. It was reported that in 1936 kids gained an average of four pounds during their one month stay. The camp was used by kids from 10 to 14 years of age who had a childhood form (mild) of tuberculosis.

The Chelsea Standard reported many other uses of the camp over the years including church groups, women's clubs, and in September 1938, the Wayne State University football team came for 2-3 weeks of training. The Chelsea Rod and Gun Club used the camp often over the years until at least 1958. The Chelsea Standard reported in 1951 that among many other fine features, the North Lake camp had a modern kitchen with an electric dishwasher.

The Detroit Board of Education gained title to the camp on July 11, 1966, from the Detroit and Wayne County Tuberculosis Foundation. The foundation had obtained the camp from its predecessor, the Detroit Tuberculosis Sanitarium, on November 21, 1955. Each of these transactions was simply a transfer of ownership for the nominal price of one dollar. At some point prior to the Detroit Board of Education's purchase, the camp was being used by Detroit underprivileged kids rather than TB patients as evidenced by this excerpt from a Detroit Free Press article on July 1, 1954, "More than 200 *underprivileged* children left Wednesday for a month's vacation at Single Bar Christmas Seal Camp at the Detroit Tuberculosis Sanitarium at North Lake near Chelsea." (Italics added)

Over the years there has been a legend that the camp property was given to the DPS with a condition that it must be used for camp purposes only, but none of the sale agreements included any restrictions of use on the property, nor have the development rights been secured.

In 2016, The Detroit Public School System (DPS) was awarded \$617 million by the State of Michigan which saved the district from bankruptcy. There was concern at that time that the DPS assets (including the Burt Shurly Camp) may be sold. The state funding appeared to end the bankruptcy concern.

In a Crain's Detroit Business article, "New crisis looms for Detroit schools" dated July 1, 2018, it reported that school building maintenance was in an extreme situation. The article reported that during the years leading up to the bailout, limited maintenance was done, and little is still being done.

One of the conditions of the state bailout was that no new debt be taken on, so no bonds can be sold for major school maintenance projects. A recent study found over \$400 million in school building improvements is needed.

If the camp property was ever sold and developed as residential property, current zoning would make it very limited in scope. Since Dexter Township zoning for the camp area is *Recreation-Conservation*, lakefront parcels must be a minimum of 330 feet wide, and the largest number of lakefront lots would be four, since the camp lake frontage is something less than 1500 feet. The rest of the property could be subdivided without lake access, but lots are required to be a minimum of five acres each. About three quarters of the camp is in Lyndon Township which has the camp area zoned as *Wilderness and Recreation*. Permitted uses are (A) public and private forest preserves, (B) public or private conservation areas or game refuges, (C) public parks and playground areas, and (D) single family dwellings with

## Michigan Boater Education Requirements:

### Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally **only if they:**
  - Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat **and...**
  - Are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

**Those born on or after July 1, 1996,** may operate a boat legally only if they have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat. Those born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat without restrictions.

### Special requirements for Jet Skis:

All operators **born on or before December 31, 1978,** may operate a PWC (jet-ski) legally without any restrictions. All operators born in 1979 or later must have a boating safety certificate. Anyone **under the age of 14 years** may not legally operate a PWC.

**Go to our website [northlaker.org](http://northlaker.org) and click on the Boating Safety page to find a link to get licensed.**

## CULVERT WEIR REPAIRED

The county repaired and installed deep anchors on the weir last fall. The weir had floated up from its original position slowing the lake drainage. Dan Kruse coordinated this effort. Funding was from the Special Assessment District.

## TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL

Washtenaw County accepts toxic household wastes including flammable, poisonous & corrosive materials at 705 N. Zeeb Rd. The service is free. Call the info line 734-222-3950 or see [www.washtenaw.org/hometoxics](http://www.washtenaw.org/hometoxics) for a list of items accepted and hours of operation.

minimum lot size of 80 acres and a minimum lot width of 1320 ft. The maximum number of parcels in the combined townships would be about 10 lots. Of more concern, perhaps, would be turning it into a state or local park with public access issues.

In 2014, the Detroit Public School System's Emergency Manager, Jack Martin, asked the firm of Consulting Resource Associates (CRA) to evaluate the camp's operation and facilities. Problems were identified and a short term plan to operate the camp was successfully implemented.

In 2015, the DPS hired the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries to operate the camp under a five-year contract. This was part of the recommendation of CRA. In 2017, Dr. Nikolai Vitti was hired as Superintendent of the Detroit School System. He has an impressive record of success at other districts, and has led substantial improvements in his first two years in Detroit, which has 51,000 students. Dr Vitti asked Ken Myers, President of CRA, to head a fund raising effort of \$4.5 million for improvements to the Burt Shurly Camp. Dr. Vitti considers the camp to be a gem that should be maximized. His goal is to have the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum to include time at the camp for every child. This is in addition to the summer camp operation. Many of these students have never been out of their neighborhood and the learning and experience of camp can be a major light in their lives. One administrator told Ken Myers that many of these kids have never seen the night stars. That's an incredible thought.

In February of this year, we met with Ken Myers and an associate at CRA, Mark Schrupp, who is a former Executive Director of the facilities of the Detroit Public School System. They outlined the vision they have for the camp. It is impressive and it is imminent. It also requires private support to raise the \$4.5 million needed. You can help at any level. Ken will be at our annual meeting to present the vision and answer questions.

Last year they received a donation to make some immediate improvements. The beach shower room was renovated, and a climbing wall, two zip lines and two rope courses were installed. One of the two pontoon boats was sold and several canoes purchased with this money. The kids now canoe on Wild Goose Lake (to avoid North Lake powerboat traffic). Another donor funded the new front entrance to the camp (along with some assistance from DTE), and CRA provides their leadership skills at no cost.

Future plans are to make the camp a year-round facility. At present, the buildings are not insulated with no HVAC systems. The fund raising program mentioned earlier has specific projects in mind including improvements to existing facilities and a new multipurpose building that would include a gym.

Part of the plan to make the camp a viable operation is to open the facility to use by private and public organizations for retreats and other events on a rental basis. These would be primarily in the non-summer months. To do this, the camp must meet certification requirements for this type of facility and be ADA compliant. These are part of the improvement plan.

The camp may have an open house available this summer. If so, we will post the date on our website and send an email notice of dates and details.

Visit our website at [www.northlaker.org](http://www.northlaker.org) for more details on the future plans for the camp.

## NORTH LAKE TROPHIC INDEX

The MICORPS Lake Monitoring Program the NLPA participates in, issues annual reports for each lake and develops a "Trophic Index" rating each year. The scale on page 5 shows the relative score of our lake and a brief description of each lake type is given. North Lake scored 41 again in 2018. The earliest scores for North lake in the 1970s showed about a 44 score. Lower is better, so we have improved about ten percent in the past 40+

## HIGH ALGAE LEVELS IN LAKE

This past spring we experienced lots of green slime floating on the lake and a special treatment was applied after it appeared fish beds could be affected (in addition to the unsightly goo). It is impossible to know the precise causes of the algae bloom; but the heavy spring rains cause runoff of potassium and nitrogen from fertilizers. Some things are beyond our control, but minimizing fertilizer runoff is our responsibility. Please be kind to the lake!

## LAKE LEVEL LOG

2018 set a new high water level exceeding the levels of 2015 and continued at high levels throughout the year. We began recording lake levels in 2012 so the information on the chart to the right is from a limited timeframe.

This year started 5 inches below 2018 but remained high through July 15. History says the level will decline but so far, it has remained relatively high.

## LILY PAD PROBLEMS ?

For the past six years, we treated Lily Pad problems at requested docks. Under our DEQ permit we can treat a 20 foot wide access from your dock to the open water in the lake. This is done on a case by case basis. We currently have 35 lakefronts enrolled in the program. *If you want an access cleared to your dock, you must send a written request, along with a photo of your dock from the lake with your home/access in the background for identification purposes.* We want to treat your dock area, not your neighbor's. Send your Lily Pad request, by **August 6**, to:

Richard Frendt  
7837 Stonehenge Valley Dr.  
Gregory, MI 48137  
Or email your request to:  
[rjfrendt@aol.com](mailto:rjfrendt@aol.com)

**If you had your dock area treated in 2018, do not send a request this year.** We will continue to treat your dock area assuming problems persist and the treatment is approved by Dr. Pullman, the county's consultant.

years. The average score of all lakes enrolled in the program was 40 last year. Some example scores are Long Lake near Traverse City at 30 and Ford Lake near Ypsilanti at 58 (2016 Score).

Oliotrophic		Mesotrophic.		Eutrophic.			Hyper-Eutrophic.		
30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	65	70

**Oliotrophic:** < 36 Deep, clear lake, little plants or algae. Supports trout & walleye

**Olio/Mesotrophic:** 36-40

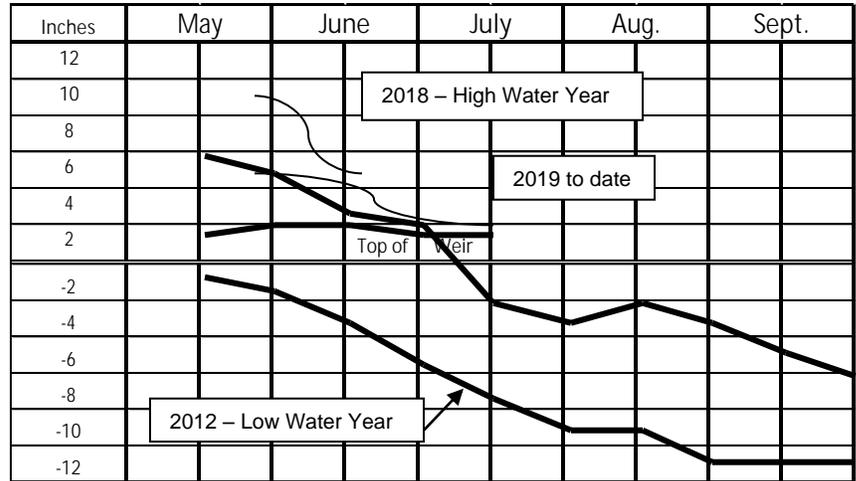
**Mesotrophic** 41-45 Some weeds, supports bass, pike & panfish. No trout, walleye.

**Meso/Eutrophic:** 46-50

**Eutrophic:** 51-61 – Shallow, turbid lake, abundant plants

**Hyper-Euritrophic:** > 61 Extremely high algae and weeds in lake

**LAKE LEVEL CHART**



## Paul Lammers and Dave Pruess Lake Report

*Dave and Paul are long time NLPAs volunteers who provide valuable input to the County and to Doug Pullman in locating and plotting weed problems. A big thanks for their efforts!*

As in past years, one of the major goals of the NLPAs has been to control and treat invasive weeds in North Lake as allowed by MDEQ and applicable statutes. The gravest concern presently is Eurasian milfoil. The currently used chemical treatment tends to temporarily kill those growing plants but does not, for the most part, eradicate them for future years. Another problem with this weed is that, due to continued treatment, some has hybridized which makes it even more difficult to control.

Last year's milfoil infestation (2018) was a bit of a surprise in that the growth had not been as severe as past years. As a result, there was only one modest milfoil treatment and in not as many locations throughout the lake. Unfortunately, this was not the case this year. As Dave Pruess and Paul Lammers perused the weed condition in late May and June, they found not only significantly more sporadic individual milfoil plants along the shallow shoreline but also more dense patches in shallow as well as in deeper water.

Another problem in the spring was the great number of batches of green algae floating across many areas of the lake. Perhaps due in part to the rainy spring weather, these slicky green patches had become such a nuisance that an algae treatment was conducted by Aquatic Services on June 4, 2019. That seemed to rectify the problem. In a normal year, the wind as well as warm and sunny weather usually disperses this algae. Dr. Doug Pullman, our professional adviser from Aquest Corporation, indicated last year and even this year that the weed condition in North Lake is one the best in the area thanks, in large part, for our Special Assessment District (SAD). Many of us remember times before the SAD when we had a grave milfoil infestation. It was a bit of a surprise this spring to find so much milfoil in our lake especially since it was not so bad last year. After a pretreatment

## NLPA BOARD

**President** Dan Kruse  
**Vice Pres.** Charlie Taylor  
**Sec/Treas.** Sheryl Ulin  
**Website Mgr.** Mary Lou Frendt  
**Laker Editor** Dick Frendt

### Landing Representatives:

**Gilbert Drives**  
No Active Representative  
**Glen Oakes**  
Dan Kruse  
**Hadley/Eisenbieser**  
Kent Thiel  
**Noah's Landing**  
Jim McInnis  
**North Lake Farms**  
Rod Payne  
**North Lake Road**  
Steve & Anne Koch  
**Park Lawn**  
Eric Batzdorfer/Paul Seelbach  
**Sauer Drive**  
Don Zak  
**Stonehenge Valley**  
Gordy Fournier  
**Watt Road**  
Paul Lammers  
**Webb's Landing**  
Dave Pruess

## FIREWORKS GET BIGGER!

A "big" change happened in this year's show. In the past, Dave Steinbach and his crew had two barges dedicated to the high aerial rockets and two barges for the low displays. This year there were three high and one low. Dave also changed vendors this year and the result was the spectacular show we all enjoyed. Thanks Dave for all your work!

## BOAT PARADE SHINES

The *North Lake Eagles Nest* (Chad and Danielle Weinberg's boat) took top honors, but the *Stars and Stripes Forever* and *Shark Attack* were outstanding boats. Too many other great entries to mention; everyone is stepping up their game! Thanks Kim and Scott Broekhuizen for bringing this fun event to North Lake!

## A BIG THANKS!

Thanks to all who contribute to the NLPA and Laker success; especially to Mary Lou Frendt for her ideas and editing skills!

lake inspection by NLPA reps, our new Washtenaw County official, Lauren Koloski, our applicator Jeff Knox from Aquatic services and in consultation with Doug Pullman from Aquest Corp, a large milfoil treatment (61 acres, more than 25% of the lake) was conducted on July 1 prior to the holiday. Future treatment or treatments may also be necessary. Other significant weeds in the lake also drew attention. Patches of the long stemmed Curly Leaf Pondweed were found in areas with deeper water such as in eight to ten feet. The leaves of this weed usually turn a brownish color this time of year and will probably diminish somewhat. Unfortunately, no treatment is allowed for this weed. Chara, a green matty weed covers large areas in shallow waters. Along with this, starry stonewort which looks like a green brillo pad with longer stems than chara, can together grow almost to the water surface which significantly affects boaters going in and out of their dock areas. Treatment of these weeds could be allowed if severe enough. Celery, which is a long stemmed plant was noted in shallow areas as well. Presently, there is little treatment that can control this weed. One good thing about chara and starry stonewort is that they cover the bottom of the lake well enough that other weeds have difficulty growing through (one reason not to treat these). Naturally, we can also see much water shield, a plant resembling water lilies but much smaller, growing next to water lilies themselves. As you note from your travels around North Lake, the weed issues continually require attention and timely weed treatment. We are fortunate for the professional services from Dr. Doug Pullman from Aquest Corporation, our applicator Jeff Knox from Aquatic Services, and Washtenaw County officials. We welcome comments and suggestions from lake front and access owners so we all can continue to enjoy the many activities in and around North Lake.

## AQUEST LAKE REPORT

*The following is excerpted from the 2018 North Lake Management Report prepared by Douglas Pullman, PHD, of Aquest Corp. Dr. Pullman is retained by Washtenaw County to assess lake conditions, recommend treatments and prepare an annual report. See the full report via a link on our website, Northlaker.com.*

### Executive Overview

**Water Quality and Plankton Communities.** North Lake water is generally clear and there were no obvious impairments of either water quality measures or plankton community structure that were observed in 2018.

**Submersed Plant Community.** Many species inhabit the submersed flora of North Lake and most of these are considered to be desirable because they stabilize the ecosystem and are part of critical habitats. Only a few of the species that are a part of this flora are invasive and can potentially crowd out many of the desirable plant species that inhabit the lake. A rich and diverse submersed flora is an indicator of good lake health and this is a characteristic of the North Lake submersed plant flora. Some of the most notorious weeds found in Michigan inland lakes are found in North Lake. These plants not only interfere with recreation, spoil property values, and make lakes unsightly, but they also degrade critical ecosystem functions and destabilize a lake ecosystem. Fortunately, nuisance conditions have been reduced and recreation values have improved in North Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that has plagued North Lake for decades. It has interbred with a native North American milfoil to create hybrids. Ebrid watermilfoil is the term applied to any of the many Eurasian watermilfoil genotypes and Eurasian watermilfoil hybrid plants that represent a significant threat to the biodiversity of the plant community and stability of aquatic ecosystems. Ebrid watermilfoil is currently the greatest threat to the North Lake ecosystem and recreational and utilitarian values. However, a characteristic of this plant is that it can also decline unexpectedly. This is what occurred in 2018 and the dominance level for this species dropped precipitously. The ebrid watermilfoil appeared to be afflicted by a pathogen or herbivore activity. Considerably less effort needed to be expended for the suppression of this species in 2018.