

Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

Those Darn Lake Weeds - What Good Are They?

by Scott Brown, ML&SA Executive Director

Volume VIII Issue II

Spring 2015

The following article is re-printed with permission from the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, October 11, 2014. The goal of our weed control program is not to get rid of all weeds from our lake but only harmful invasive species.

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive from lakefront property owners is related to "how to get rid of those pesky native lake weeds". The fact is, unless they have been identified as invasive, "those weeds" are native aquatic plants that play an extremely important role in keeping your lake healthy and in ecological balance and should be removed only after consulting a lake professional or aquatic biologist and after gaining approval from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Inland lakes exist in one of two distinct stable states: Either green algae dominated with poor water transparency or aquatic plant dominated with good water transparency. Which type of lake would you prefer to live on? Would you care to guess which type of lake hosts lakefront homes with the greatest property values? How about good fishing? Which type of lake supports the best opportunity

to catch a trophy largemouth bass or northern pike? If you guessed the aquatic plant dominated lake, then you are absolutely correct!

Native aquatic plants serve as effective integrators of ecological conditions within your lake and react slowly and progressively to changes in nutrient levels and are recognized as valuable long term indicator of overall water quality. Aquatic plants are reinforced by and exert influence on many important aspects of your lake's ecology including sediment stability, water transparency, the establishment and maintenance of moderate biological productivity levels and the promotion and sustainability of plant and animal life. Aquatic plant communities also provide critical nesting areas and organic building materials as well as food for an abundance of inland lake fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. In addition, aquatic plant borne micro-organisms living on plant material forms an important food base for macro-invertebrates that in-turn directly support other lake-dwelling species through a diverse and complex food web. Moreover, emergent and floating aquatic plants serve to protect inland lake shore-

line habitat from the erosive effects of wave action. Submerged aquatic plants play an important role in aquatic ecosystems due to their numerous critical functions associated with nutrient and organic matter turnover, the provision of shallow water complexity and variability, shelter from predation, food, and fish spawning areas. Submerged aquatic plants also provide numerous mechanisms that foster and sustain high quality, clear water conditions by significantly reducing turbidity, increasing sedimentation rates, suppressing fine and coarse organic particulate re-suspension, uptake of vital limiting nutrients, and the provision of complex shelter for phytoplankton grazers.

Due to their vital importance in supporting and sustaining healthy freshwater fish communities, overall aquatic ecosystem bio-diversity and in contributing to the stability of high quality, moderately productive inland lakes, ecologists from Michigan Department of Natural Resources have strongly recommended that native aquatic plants not be removed or reduced under any circumstances. - the health of your lake and the value of your lakefront property depends on it!

So please, be a good lake steward and consult a lake manager or aquatic biologist before removing native aquatic plants from around your dock or from your lakefront shoreline - the health of your lake and the value of your lakefront property depends on it!

Did you know:

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation that will reduce the maximum blood alcohol content level for boaters from .10 to .08, the same maximum level in place for automobile drivers. The new law will also prevent people from operating boats, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles under the influence of illegal drugs. This legislation was passed in an effort to make BUI—boating under the influence—a more serious crime, thus discouraging people from doing it and making the waters safer for everyone.

NOTICE 2015

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp
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www.plmcorp.net



Lake of the Woods has been scheduled for the week of:

Date	Description	Date	Description
4/20/2015	Water Quality	7/20/2015	Weed & Algae Treatment & E.coli
5/11/2015	Survey & Spot Treat Optional	8/17/2015	Weed & Algae Treatment & Water Quality
5/25/2015	Weed & Algae Treatment	9/7/2015	AVAS Survey
6/22/2015	Weed & Algae Treatment		

DEQ permitting restrictions, national holidays, and/or weather conditions may influence the timing of treatments throughout the 2015 season. PLM treats each lake according to a schedule or season plan, established with the cooperation of your lake association, lake board or residents on the lake. The treatment schedule is approximate. Please watch your shoreline for the posting of the 8.5x11 inch, yellow or green signs. The signs will indicate the date of the treatment, the products used, and any restrictions on the use of treated water for swimming, watering lawns, etc. The property owners in this area are planning to have the waters chemically treated to control lake weeds and/or algae. This notice is being circulated in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) procedures. Below is a list of herbicides that may be applied to the lake and the associated use restrictions. On the day of treatment, signs will be posted along the shoreline within 100 feet of treatment areas that indicate what products were used and specific water use restrictions that apply

Check all that apply	Chemical product/active ingredient	Chemical trade name	Do Not Use this water for swimming or bathing until	Do Not Use this water for ornamentals or turf irrigation until	Do Not Use this water for domestic purposes or agriculture irrigation until	Do Not Use this water for livestock watering or similar purposes until
X	Endothall	Aquathol K, Hydrothol 191	1 Day(s)	N/A	14 Day(s)	14 Day(s)
X	Flumioxazin	Clipper	1 Day(s)	3 Day(s)	5 Day(s)	N/A
X	Chelated Copper Herbicide	Komeen Crystal, Nautique	1 Day(s)	N/A	N/A	N/A
X	2,4-D ester	Navigate 2,4-D	1 Day(s)	INDEF or until approved assay indicates a concentration of 100ppb or less for ornamentals; No restriction for established turf	INDEF or until approved assay indicates a concentration of 100ppb or less	INDEF or until approved assay indicates a concentration of 70ppb or less
X	Triclopyr liquid	Renovate 3	1 Day(s)	120 Day(s) or until approved assay indicates 1ppb or less; No restriction for established turf/grasses	120 Day(s) or until assay indicates 1ppb or less. N/A on domestic	See product label
X	Triclopyr/2,4-D amine	Renovate Max G	1 Day(s)	Site-specific recommendation* No restriction for established turf/grasses	120 Day(s) or until assay indicates 1ppb or less triclopyr and 100 ppb or less 2,4-D. N/A on domestic	See product label
X	Triclopyr granular	Renovate OTF	1 Day(s)	Site-specific recommendation* No restriction for established turf/grasses	120 Day(s) or until assay indicates 1ppb or less. N/A on domestic	See product label
X	Carfentrazone-Ethyl	Sting Ray	1 Day(s)	14 Day(s)	14 Day(s)	1 Day(s)
X	Diquat Dibromide	Tribune	1 Day(s)	3 Day(s)	5 Day(s)	1 Day(s)
X	PLM Blue, Cygnet Select: water dye (tracer), Copper Sulfate Alonglife: copper sulfate, Cutrine Plus-Ultra, Captain-XTR, Algimycin, Earthtec, SeClear and SeClear G, Formula F-30, K-Tea: chelated copper, Cygnet Plus, PolyAn: Adjuvant, Pak 27, AquaSticker, Green Clean L and Green Clean 5.0: oxidizer, AquaPrep: enzymes & non-ionic surfactants, Nutrisorb,, M.D. pellets: gram negative, naturally occurring bacteria. PLM Enzyme: enzymes, Phoslock: phosphorus locking technology.				No Restrictions on swimming, bathing, irrigation, domestic purposes or livestock watering.	

For a complete listing of all product labels, please see our website

N/A= Not Applicable INDEF= Indefinite

*Site-Specific recommendations to limit ornamental irrigation with Renovate & Sculpin granular treated water will typically last 2-14 days. Contact PLM for further information.

The chemicals used for Aquatic Nuisance Control are registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The potential for damage to fish and other non-target organisms is minimal provided that the product is used as directed on the product label and the permit. To minimize the possible effects on health and the environment, the treated water is restricted for the above purposes.

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. Certified Applicators: Salvatore Adams, Tyler Beatty, Jason Broekstra, David Comeau, Jaimee Conroy, Bill D'Amico, Jeff Fischer, BreAnne Grabill, Dustin Grabill, Steve Hanson, Mitch Hiler, Jake Hunt, Nate Karsten, Justin Krueger, Blake Mallory, Michael Pichla, Ernest Schenk, James Scherer, Ben Schermerhorn, Lucas Slagel, Jeff Tolan, Andy Tomaszewski, Mathew Wardell

This is Michigan Law!!!

Your association must forward this to all riparians! Tentative treatment dates and notice of products to be applied must given to all riparians not more than 45 days before and at least seven days prior to the initial treatment.



Navigation Rules

Safe navigation on Michigan waterways is everyone's responsibility. All operators are equally responsible for taking action necessary to avoid collisions.

To prevent collisions, every operator should follow the three basic rules of navigation.

- Practice good seamanship
- Keep a sharp outlook
- Maintain a safe speed and distance

There are two terms that help explain these rules.

Stand-on vessel: The vessel that should maintain its course and speed

Give-way vessel: The vessel that must take early and substantial action to avoid collision by stopping, slowing down, or changing course

Meeting Head-On:

Power vs. Power: Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel. Both vessels should keep to the starboard (right).



Power vs. power meeting head-on

Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. sail meeting head-on

Crossing Situations

Power vs. Power: The vessel on the operator's port (left) side is the give-way vessel. The vessel on the operator's starboard (right) side is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. power in a crossing situation

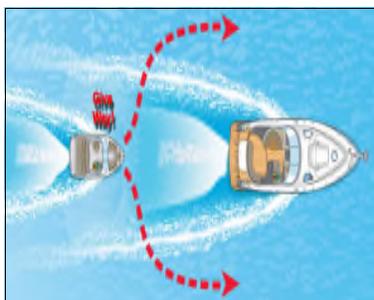
Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. sail in a crossing situation

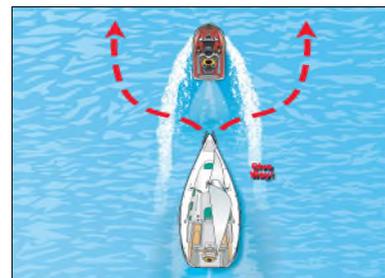
Overtaking

Power vs. Power: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the



stand-on vessel.

Power vs. Sail: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. sail

Nighttime Navigation:

Be on the lookout for the lights of other vessels when boating at night. Several types of lights serve as navigational aids at night. There are four common navigation lights. There are four common navigation lights.

Sidelights: These red and green lights are called sidelights (also called combination lights) because they are visible to another vessel approaching from the side or head-on. The red light indicates a vessel's port (left) side; the green indicates a vessel's starboard (right) side.

Sternlight: This white light is seen from behind or nearly behind the vessel.

Masthead Light: This white light shines forward and to both sides and is required on all power-driven vessels. A masthead light must be displayed by all vessels when under engine power. The absence of this light indicates a sailboat under sail.

All-Round White Light: On power-driven vessels less than 39.4 feet in length, this light may be used to combine a masthead light and sternlight into a single white light that can be seen by other vessels from any direction. This light serves as an anchor light when sidelights are extinguished

Reprinted from The Official Boating Handbook of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Boater Safety Certificate

Michigan law places certain restrictions on boat and personal watercraft (PWC) operators. These restrictions vary depending on the operator's age, the type of vessel being operated, and the horsepower of that vessel.

Even if not required by law to get the Michigan boating license, many boaters take the boat safety course in order to save on their PWC or boat insurance.

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 legally without restrictions.

Personal Watercraft

Those **less than 14 years of age** may not

legally operate a PWC.

Those **14 and 15 years of age** may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate **and ...**

- He or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian **or ...**
- He or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian

Those **at least 16 years of age** and born

after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

Those born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

As a reminder the Van Buren County Marine Division will no longer be presenting the instructor based classes previously sponsored by the association.

Michigan now offers two online boating safety classes and exam: BoatEd.com and BoaterExam.com. Both courses stay up to date with Michigan laws governing boating and safe vessel operation with the boating handbook of Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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