

Negaunee Lake Maintenance report from the NLA Lake Maintenance Committee 9.8.2015

In an attempt to answer questions and field complaints about the condition of or treatment of the lake, I had a conversation with Bre Grabill, area manager at PLM, our lake maintenance service provider.

I'll recap what I've learned recently and over the last few years to attempt to answer questions you may have.

When the PLM team arrives for a treatment, they survey the lake to determine what needs treating and where (within the scope of our arrangements with them, i.e. they don't treat lily pads without us explicitly requesting, likewise they don't harvest without a separate request.)

When the survey is complete, they then prepare chemicals for the treatment and create the treatment NOTICE sheets that they then post all around the lake. They only treat what is present, they don't spray as a preventive. Treatment of the lake may take more than 1 trip around the lake, depending on several elements;

- . what is being treated today,
- . what chemicals can be combined in the same tank,
- . how many tanks are on this boat

While they are treating they have to abide by DNR/DEQ rules.

- . UNDEVELOPED shoreline CANNOT be treated for ANYTHING but exotic plants. I.E. non-native like Eurasian milfoil.
- . A maximum of 100' of a developed property may be treated. So if a property has more than 100' of shoreline the applier will use best judgment on what to treat based on docks, boats, beach, breakwall.
- . Our current DNR/DEQ permit only allows for treatment from the shore out 50' around most of the lake. We could expand the scope of our permit which would double our permit price from \$400 to \$800/yr. This would allow us to treat out to 300' from shore as long as depth is no more than 5'. This would also require that we do a depth analysis on our lake, since chemical treatment is not allowed in depths greater than 5'. This effort would cost around \$700.

With respect to the weed conditions this year, the primary culprit is a plant called Chara.

It is native and it is common. Some other lakes like ours are experiencing similar problems this year. Why it's so heavy this year may be because it is trying to recover from 2 consecutive bad winters where early ice, extended cold and fairly heavy snow, all contributed to lower oxygen levels in the lake causing death of living things. Next year PLM will be on the lookout for an early outbreak and treat it more aggressively.

BOGS

PLM can harvest bogs and of course weeds. Harvesting is expensive (approx. \$250/hr) and harvesting bogs CAN BE very time consuming because of their thickness and weight. We could get rid of bogs ourself. We could push or pull them to a shoreline, cut them up and throw on shore. If we put them on NLA property we could then move them again when they dry out. It would take a fair amount of volunteer manpower. NOTE: Bogs will sink in fall and rise in summer. If someone were to organize a "bog brigade" maybe we could get rid of a few of them.

Lake Maint. Committee

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