

2019 Chippewa Lake Weed Control Spring Weed Survey

May 22, 2019

On May 21, I rode along with the PLM crew to do the spring lake survey. The survey consists of zigzagging the entire lake and channels. Periodic sampling with a rake determines the density and type of lake weeds (see pictures below). An important part of this sampling is to look for new (to our lake) invasive species such as Starry Stonewort which can be extremely aggressive and has invaded many lakes in Michigan including some nearby. Special attention is paid to areas that we have had trouble with in the past. The purpose is to determine where and what type of treatment to be used so that we can treat the weeds before they build up extensive growth. The survey takes about 3 to 4 hours to complete on Chippewa Lake.

On this survey we found some areas of Curly Leaf Pond Weed, primarily in the north west portion of the lake and some Eurasian Milfoil which are invasive weeds that we have been in our lake for many years. I was very relieved that we did not find any Starry Stonewort. We did find a significant amount of submerged algae which can grow and surface as the weather gets warmer.

Curly Leaf Pond Weed is an early spring weed which is why we see so much growth now. Eurasian Milfoil takes off as the water gets warmer. The algae was somewhat of a surprise to me but PLM has been seeing it in many of Michigan lakes this spring.

Overall, I was very pleased with the current weed status of the lake. We continue to have a healthy diverse amount of native lake weeds but we do need to be diligent on monitoring invasives to keep them under control.

PLM is currently analyzing the results of the survey to determine where any treatment will be required. In the next week or two (after the holiday weekend) PLM will be spot treating as necessary. Notices will be distributed where required and will also be posted on this website.

If you have any questions email bryan@chippewatwp.org or see me in person, township office hours are 9-12 Monday – Wednesday.

Bryan Roels
Supervisor
Chippewa Township

PLM Survey Crew and Boat



Mix of native weeds (which is what we want)





Invasive Curly Leaf Pond Weed



Algae in the channel (most is submerged right now)

