

## Lake Invasives Update

For the past seven years, LPLA has hired Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) to monitor the lake for invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and invasive phragmites. In June 2019, RLS detected 5.5 acres of EWM and 2.5 acres of phragmites. Both were treated with herbicide in the fall of 2019, and three subsequent surveys showed that both were well-controlled.

However, a comprehensive survey done by RLS in June, 2024 confirmed that we have a resurgence of EWM. There is now a total of 14 acres, most of which is toward the middle of the lake. It is thought that recent mild winters with little to no ice cover on the lake may have contributed to EWM's fast growth. Other lakes both in Michigan and Wisconsin have reported similar rapid EWM growth. Fortunately, the invasive phragmites appears to remain under control.

We have contracted with PLM Lake and Land Management to chemically treat the EWM. As of July 12, we are working to get permission for the treatment from riparian property owners nearest to the application area. The chemicals used are targeted to EWM and EWM-native hybrids. These do not kill our native milfoil, or any of the other native plants in the lake, and they do not have any adverse effect on fish, animals, or humans.

The chemicals used to treat the EWM remain in the target area; they don't spread very far from the area where they are applied. The chemicals are absorbed within hours by the EWM, but as a precaution, signs will be posted to alert swimmers and boaters to remain out of the treatment area for 24 hours.

In general, surveys done subsequent to the 2019 treatment confirm that Little Platte Lake has a very healthy and diverse aquatic plant population, and we are striving to keep it that way.