



# PLM NEWS

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.  
Great Lakes Division

## Welcome Summer of 2017

Whether you like winter or not, it's time for spring and preparation for an enjoyable summer on the water! There is no doubt this will be a busy spring due to thin ice, minimal snow pack and extremely early ice-out conditions. The good news is that the short mild winter will reduce winter internal loading of nutrients and winter fish kills. The bad news is that aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Hybrid watermilfoils, Curly leaf pondweed, Starry Stonewort and other new AIS have had ideal conditions to start growing early. Each season is a little different, as each waterbody is also unique. Which "side of the bed" will your lake wake up on this spring... We will see! Our PLM scientific Magic Eight Ball shows....



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*...over Thirty-five years of invasive  
plant management*

## Improve Your Pond Through Aeration

If you want to improve the overall quality of your pond, make your fish happy and potentially reduce some of the algae growth, it may be time to consider an aeration or fountain system. PLM offers several different options that can be specifically tailored for your needs. Please contact our Aeration & Fountain Manager, Jake Hunt for details.



## Treatment Changes for 2017/2018

If you recall from our past Newsletters, PLM has been proactively changing the way we manage algae growth in your ponds by incorporating the use of SeClear in our treatments. SeClear not only controls the algae present at the time of treatment, but also reduces the amount of phosphorous within the water column, thereby reducing the potential of future algae growth. It is our plan to continue the incorporation of this new technology in all ponds that we service. The use of SeClear has proven to enhance the quality of ponds, yet not increase yearly management cost. Ponds that may have been treated every one to two weeks in past years will only be treated every two to four weeks in the future. In addition to the reduced frequency of treatments, you will also notice that no more than half of your waterbody will be treated per application. These changes not only improve the appearance and health of your waterbody, but also follow all state and federal guidelines.



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PLM Lake & Land Management, Great Lakes Region has a Facebook page! This page is a great way to provide our customers with up to date information on exciting things happening within our company and the aquatics industry.

## Fishing for Answers; Here's How You Can Help Great Lakes Fisheries

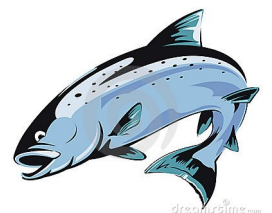
By Dan O'Keefe, Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Sea Grant

Anyone who fishes the Great Lakes regularly can tell you that the only constant is change. Fish are here today and gone tomorrow. Being successful requires adaptability, patience, and the ability to anticipate how fish will react to changes in their environment.

To make things even more complicated, a long list of non-native species has invaded the lakes. Quagga mussels filter the water, leaving open water clear and sterile while fouling the bottom of the lakes with their waste. Round gobies eat the quagga mussels and are, in turn, eaten by predatory fish. Spiny water fleas kill and consume native plankton, but are also eaten by some plankton-eating fish.

Scientists are working hard to understand how economically valuable salmon, trout, walleye, and other species are adapting to these conditions and anglers can also pitch in to do their part. Michigan Sea Grant and partner groups including Wisconsin Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension are offering a variety of citizen science programs that anglers can contribute to during the 2017 fishing season. Here is one example to check out and get involved.

**The Great Lakes Angler Diary App** is a web-based app that can be accessed from any computer or mobile device at [www.GLanglerdiary.org](http://www.GLanglerdiary.org). The app can be used to record information from fishing trips and share that information with Michigan Sea Grant. The survey will help scientists determine how your information will be used. The more information you record, the more useful your data set will be. The app allows you to record data on all salmon and trout species, cisco, walleye, musky, and lake sturgeon. Download the app today before the fishing season begins!



For nearly 40 years PLM has assisted townships, associations and homeowners with the management of their lakes and ponds. Did you know that we also have the resources to manage wastewater treatment lagoons? In order to become more in line with the federally mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, regulation was increased to improve the efficiency of lagoon systems and reduce the discharge of certain nutrients.

Duckweed and watermeal are two species of plant that have long been issues in wastewater treatment. They prevent light penetration and thereby reduce the effectiveness by which bacteria can break down bio solids within the system. Utilizing our years of experience managing these species on residential ponds; PLM has been able to assist a number of wastewater lagoons with treatment, thereby ensuring compliance with State regulation.

With additional regulation, can come logistical issues and ultimately, increased cost. Permanent equipment is available to automatically treat lagoons on a regular basis. However, many townships and lagoon operators simply cannot afford the substantial upfront cost which may be upwards of six figures. PLM has been able to provide sustainable, cost effective options for lagoon operators looking to reduce Phosphorus levels prior to discharge. Batch treatments of Aluminum Sulfate via boat mounted spray system has proven to be the go-to option for municipalities looking to utilize sustainable options.

Through experience, comes expertise. Not only does PLM perform the applications with specialized equipment, we also offer our assistance in the permitting process. Much like the permitting required for our lake and pond applications, wastewater treatment lagoons require treatment protocol review and approval. Experts in all things water!



## Riparian Responsibilities

Yes, if you live on a lake, YOU have responsibilities. Properly maintaining your lawn near the lake is an essential part to a healthy aquatic ecosystem. Some ways you can help your waterbody include:

- Use phosphorous free fertilizers
- Do not allow grass clipping to enter the lake
- Pick up dog and geese droppings
- Rake shoreline in the spring and fall to remove leaves, sticks and debris
- Pick up floating plants that wash up on shore
- Rake swim areas
- Clean boats prior to entering or leaving your lake
- Do not dump bait into the lake
- Educate your new/old neighbors of their "Riparian Responsibilities"



If you, your lake association, lake board or weed committee, need additional educational outreach information regarding "Riparian Responsibilities", please contact your PLM representative for assistance.

## Continuing to Strive for Excellence!

In order to continue to lead the aquatic industry, maintain educated/trained staff and provide you the service you've come to expect, PLM cannot and will not stop! PLM must grow to serve YOU! Over the years PLM has lead the way implementing new management methods: biological controls, water quality programs, phosphorous remediation and new herbicides and evaluation treatments. PLM networks with AIS oriented Societies, Associations, Partnerships, Districts, Townships and State of Michigan agency's throughout the state and across the country.

### PLM Michigan's Highlights in Growth/Improvement for 2017

- New facility in Morrice, MI for our growing Eastern Division
- After a few short years, our new Northern Division in Ewart, has added another warehouse
- PLM has ten DEQ Sonar Evaluation treatments scheduled for this spring.
- PLM is currently working with SePRO Corp. under an EPA Experimental Use Permit (EUP) to apply a new active ingredient herbicide, Procellacor, to a waterbody in Kent County. Preliminary result indicate that the product is extremely safe, has low toxicity and very effective on Eurasian and Hybrid Watermilfoils.
- PLM is converting our mapping programs into GIS formats to improve communication and treatment efficacy.
- Two new 2017 EPA compliant Airboats will be added to our fleet of over 30 watercraft.

## PLM to Offer Winter Plow Service 2017/2018

Our Alto location will begin offering snow plow service for Hastings, Middleville, Caledonia and neighboring communities. This new service is a deviation from our current aquatic management options. However, PLM has the trucks and manpower available year round. Adding this as an option for our customers in the "off season" is a natural fit. David Comeau, who has been plowing for over 5 years will head this operation out of our Alto office. Please contact him for more information!

