

## Fremont Lake Aquatic Plant Update

By: BreAnne Grabill, Northern Lakes Manager, PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. has been surveying Fremont Lake since 2009 to gain a better understanding of the aquatic plant life in the lake in order to make management recommendations for the Fremont Lake Association. In 2009, a large infestation of two exotic species, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and Curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) were found. Exotic species need to be properly managed whenever they are found, however management options vary depending on many factors including density and distribution. In 2010 and 2011, surveys again showed a wide spread distribution of these two plants and PLM recommended that the Association start working at forming a lake wide management program. However, during July and August of 2011, a dramatic decline in the amount of EWM was noticed throughout Fremont Lake. It is not typical to have EWM ever decline when control measures have not been taken. PLM is actively working at determining the cause of this decline. EWM has been invading Michigan for decades and therefore has been well studied and documented. Control measures have been taken across the State to reduce its abundance. The decline in Fremont Lake is extremely unique and will be monitoring Fremont Lake closing in 2012 to determine the cause of the reduction, if it happens again, as this could potentially change the management recommendations for the lake long term. Native plants are also abundant throughout Fremont Lake and in some areas these plants, specifically Wild celery, are causing nuisances. Native plants are extremely beneficial in a lake ecosystem providing food, habitat, and sediment stabilization.

Control options are available for individuals looking for weed and algae control in their beach areas. Please feel free to contact PLM if you are interested in joining your neighbors in receiving treatments @800-382-4434.