



# Lake Shore Breeze

Spring 2016

Fremont Lake Association

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Fremont Lake Association will be to improve the water quality of Fremont Lake and its watershed through research, education and actions leading to lake maintenance and improvements; promote activities which enhance the social welfare of its members & provide pertinent information through its Website, Newsletter and meetings as appropriate. ▲

## FREMONT LAKE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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

Welcome back Spring! What an abnormal winter we have had and I'm sure everyone is ready for warmer weather. After having a few relatively hard winters with very cold temperatures, thick ice cover and more snow-fall than average, this winter was unseasonable warm. Although some may have liked a more mild winter, the seasonal weather patterns directly impact the vegetation growth in Fremont Lake. Exotic species, especially Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) can thrive off of changes in weather patterns.

In 2015, less EWM was found early on than in previous years, showing a positive result of the previous year's treatments. Reducing the biomass of exotic plants while maintaining native plants is a key goal to the management and this has been successful. Although there were fewer plants early on, EWM needs to be continually managed. Seed banks can lay dormant, the spread by fragmentation can occur, new introductions can occur, a plants final push to overcome changes in climate all lead to the potential of new growth. In the fall, when lakes normally cool off and growth stops, the warmer weather of 2015 allowed growth to continue later into the year than expected. Based on the warm fall temperatures last year, I performed later than normal surveys to see how various lakes were responding to the warm weather. Unfortunately, in Fremont Lake in October 2015, EWM was found growing in areas that hadn't had growth in the last two years as well as new areas of the lake. The warm fall was followed by a warm winter and EWM can grow under the ice.

Based on the growth found in 2015, I have recommended to the committee that aggressive and thorough surveys and management take place for the control of any and all exotic plants in the lake. Based on the growth found in October 2015, treatments will likely be larger in size than what was experienced in 2015. This is not completely unexpected when dealing with lake wide infestations of an exotic plant. Thankfully, the program is in place to deal with exotic plants annually, in order to protect the lake each and every year. It is important that other exotic plants are being watched for as well. One of the most detrimental exotic plants to infest our lakes is Starry stonewort. It has not been found in numerous Newaygo County Lakes and I am keeping a close watch for it in Fremont Lake. It is vital that we all work together to promote healthy native plant communities while managing the exotic plants in the lake. Prevention is KEY.

Please watch your shoreline for posting signs with updated treatment information in your area of the lake. It is always recommended that communication is made with your association and township or feel free to contact PLM @ 800-382-4434 ext. 2200 ▲

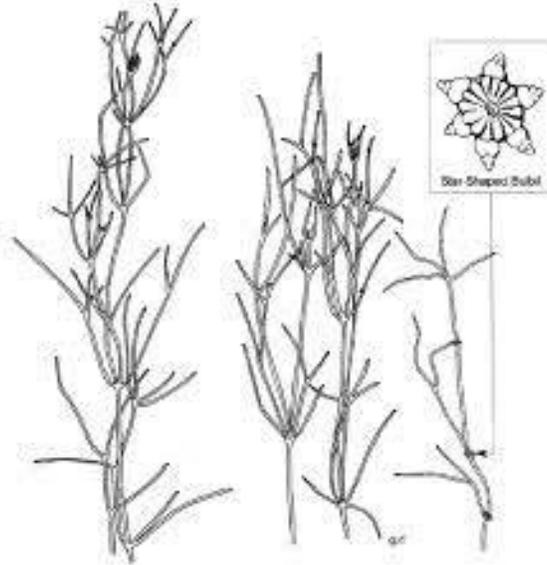
Please enjoy a safe summer on Fremont Lake.  
*Best Regards, Bre Grabill, Northern Regional Manager,  
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.*

# STARRY STONEWORT – Exotic Plant WATCHLIST

*(Editor's Note: Supplemental information provided by Bre Grabill of PLM)*

Starry stonewort has been quickly spreading throughout Northern Michigan. Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) looks like a rooted plant but it is actually an algae.

The plant is native to Europe and Asia and was first discovered in the St. Lawrence River in 1978. In 1983, it was found in the Detroit River and has since infested many Michigan lakes. Starry stonewort resembles the native aquatic plant *Chara*. Unlike *Chara*, which is generally considered to be a beneficial plant, starry stonewort has a tendency to inhabit deeper portions of the lake and can form dense blankets several feet thick. These mats can severely impede navigation and limit growth of more beneficial plants. Starry stonewort anchors to the sediments through rhizoids (primitive root structures) which can also absorb nutrients. Like *Chara*, starry stonewort also absorbs



nutrients from the water through its cell walls. Starry stonewort has tiny, star-shaped, tan colored reproductive structures called bulbils that are firm to the touch when

compared to its soft branches.

These reproductive bulbils have been shown to stay viable for several years in lake sediments.

It is unclear what effects starry stonewort may have on a lake's fishery. However, the encroachment of starry stonewort into fish spawning beds may be a cause for concern. Both algaecides and mechanical harvesting appear to be somewhat effective in controlling starry stonewort. However, given its propensity to produce massive

amounts of growth, efforts to keep this invasive algae at bay will be difficult and potentially expensive. We are constantly on the lookout for new infestations of SSW for quick action. 🚤

## 2015 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held on Aug. 1 & attended by 28 people. Bre Grabill from PLM discussed the 2014 weed control program & explained why the 2015 cost was down by 60% compared to 2014. She indicated the algae increase was due to a decline in the Zebra Mussels (algae eaters) due the hard winter & a 7 year life cycle that reduces their population. This along with heavy nutrients entering the lake resulted in the algae concern. Bre indicated that 2016 costs will probably be higher. Several members spoke very positively of the improvement of the lake &

encouraged the Lake Association & the Township to continue with the lake management program. It was reported that the DNR Walleye stocking is scheduled for 2016. Possible new Lake Association activities discussed were; Roadside Clean-up, Shoreline Management Education, Carp Roundup Contest, Boater Safety Course, DNR Fish Study. Eric Hanson indicated the 2015 Fireworks cost about \$7,500 & was funded predominately by anonymous donations from a few families, \$900 from lake residents & a \$500 Lake Association contribution. 🚤

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTROL ASSESSMENT

The Special Assessment District (SAD) addresses our Mission Statement to manage the water quality more effectively was passed with a majority vote of Lake Property Owners. The provisions of the SAD are that the annual cost cannot exceed \$100,000 or \$300 per parcel. Parcels with lake access pay ½ & commercial property owners pay double. The City of Fremont & Sheridan Twp. subsidized the cost in 2013 & 2014. As expected, the 1st year addressed the many years of neglect & was the most costly. The severe winters a few years ago reduced the cost the next 2 years. As explained in the PLM article, this year's treatment is expected to be higher. Thanks are in order to the City of Fremont & Sheridan Twp. for their funding & involvement in managing the SAD. Their involvement this year is explained in the MSU Assessment of the Lake.

	Total Cost	Property Owners	City of Fremont	Sheridan TWP	Parcel Cost
2013	85,792	61,692	13,746	10,354	283
2014	47,300	32,166	9,459	5,675	176
2015	20,446	17,993		2,453	99
2013	100%	72%	16%	12%	
2014	100%	68%	20%	12%	
2015	100%	88%		12%	

## Michigan State University Study of Water Quality & Aquatic Plant Assessment

The City of Fremont & Sheridan Charter Township has contracted with MSU Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife to assess the general water quality & aquatic plant status of Fremont Lake. The goal of this of this project is to investigate & respond to the recommendations provided by in the original 2009 Baseline Study on Fremont Lake & it's Connecting Waterways report prepared by the Annis Water Resources Institute of Grand Valley State University. In addition, by the request of the City of Fremont & Sheridan Township, educational programs to better inform Fremont Lake users & residents the importance of conserving the aquatic ecosystem of Fremont Lake for future generations to enjoy.

MSU will be conducting surveys of Fremont Lake & its streams for 5 months from May to September. MSU will conduct 3 workshops & presentations where residents can learn about the Lake ecosystem, the watershed & the role of both native & invasive species. These sessions will be on June 23, July 28 & October 6 from 7-8:30 PM at the Sheridan Twp. Hall. The final session will include a review of findings & recommendations based on the 2009 & 2016 data & results. The cost of this project will not be charged to lake residents. The cost of \$25,878 is being paid equally by the City of Fremont & Sheridan Twp.

## 2016 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Fremont Lake Association reorganized in 2007 to address our Mission Statement that defines our purpose is to enable Members to more effectively manage a multi-million dollar asset that we all currently share & enjoy for the Common Good as well as improve property & community values.

To this end, we've accomplished numerous projects & activities by using Association funds as direct payments, seed money &/or matching funds of the grants we've been able to obtain. In addition, our communication goal is to maintain a website & send this Newsletter to about 225 stakeholders in the Lake. The cost of printing & mailing the Newsletter is about \$1 per copy. While our dues are voluntary, your involvement is needed to enable the Association to continue

the effort to improve Fremont Lake.

Please note that this year's Membership Form is a "One-Stop Form" that includes your \$25 Annual Membership Dues & a Fireworks Donation for 2016. Your voluntary dues contribution enables us to communicate information & provide funding to Eric Hanson & Scott Crandell for the Fireworks. Please return check to Fremont Lake Assoc., Sheridan Township, PO Box 53. Fremont, MI 49412

It's important to note that the provisions of the Special Assessment District to control Aquatic Nuisances are that all funds from the Assessment are used exclusively for that purpose.

# Report on the Dam

*Submitted by Dale – Newaygo County Drain Commissioner*

The dam had its regularly scheduled inspection and we did a few maintenance things to it. We had some boards made at



the vocational school out of aluminum which was a good deal and will last longer and seal better. We worked with the road commission on the

project they did on the northeast side of the lake. We also worked with them on a land owner that still has a water problem and they are running another tile to our drain. I continue to hear complaints about our drains not performing well on north side of lake. The fact is they are working well and

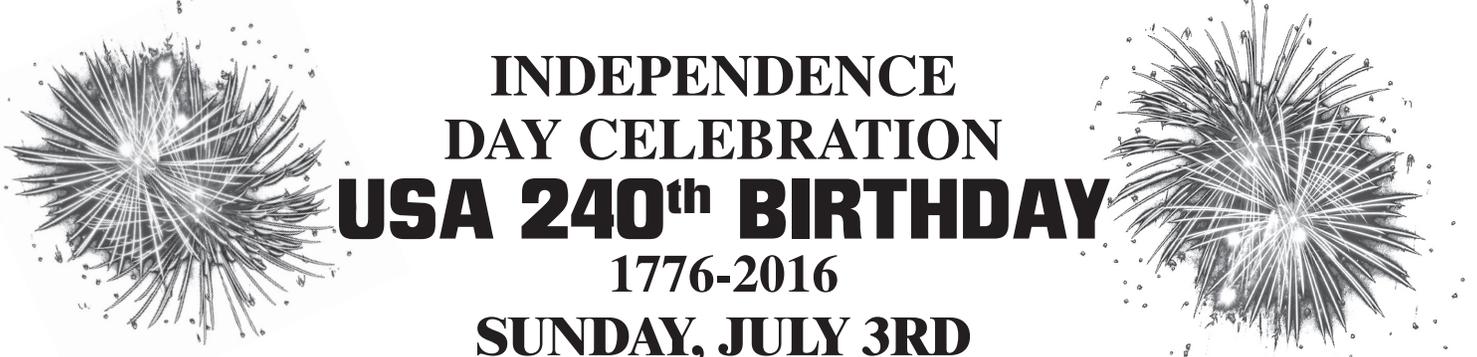


we could dig them deeper and it would not do any good as the lake holds back the flow there. It is a elevation thing that is the way it is. We also tested once on a complaint of the drain smelling. The test came in at the acceptable or average rate for phosphorus and nitrates. There also was no significant e-coli. I understand that MSU is going to do some water testing this year which I have asked to be involved with. I have passed along to the lake association information I think can be helpful and am always willing to work with you for the health of your lake.



## 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 11 at 9AM at the Harrington Inn. The agenda includes; Treasures Report, Report on the Weed Control Program and discussion of 2016 activities. Coffee & donuts will be provided.



# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION USA 240<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

1776-2016

## SUNDAY, JULY 3RD

*(Rain date for Fireworks & Boat Parade is July 4<sup>th</sup>)*

We continue to honor, enjoy & celebrating Independence Day with Spectacular Fireworks, Creative Boat Decorations with Enthusiastic Crews, & Patriotic Parties. The “Community Fireworks” that’s again being organized by Eric Hanson & Scott Crandall promises to be spectacular & appreciated. These “Community Fireworks” are financed by anonymous donations from a few families, lake residents, community citizens & a \$500 Lake Association contribution. Please send your donation to Fremont Fireworks Assoc. LLC, c/o Crandell Funeral Home, Box 148, Fremont or include your contribution with your Membership. In other words, “Big Booms need Big Bucks”!!



Our Boat Parade got organized late in 2015 but 2016 should get us going again. At 7:30 the fleet we'll again gather at the VanBoxel Point to sail around the Lake. To keep our competitive spirit flowing, our distinguished judges will award Prize Winner Ribbons. “Participant Ribbons” will given be to the entire fleet. We continue to seek judges of integrity & high standards so please let Norm Knorr know if you are qualified & will serve in this important function!! (924-4749) 

### 1st Place Boat Parade Winners

- |      |                              |                    |
|------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2007 | 4 <sup>th</sup> of July      | Oosterhouse Family |
| 2008 | Olympics                     | Cappel Family      |
| 2009 | Honor the Flag               | Morehouse Family   |
| 2010 | Pirates of the Caribbean     | Saii Family        |
| 2011 | Anything Disney              | Saii Family        |
| 2012 | Salute the Military          | Knorr Family       |
| 2013 | Christmas in July            | Essebaggers Family |
| 2014 | No Boat Parade               |                    |
| 2015 | Anything 50's                | Vogel Family       |
| 2016 | USA 240th Birthday 1776-2016 |                    |

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**Fremont Lake Association**  
c/o Sheridan Charter Township Hall  
PO Box 53  
Fremont, MI 49412  
www.FremontLake.net

**Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, June 11, 9:00 AM**  
**Harrington Inn, Fremont**

**Boat Parade & Fireworks –**

**Friday, July 3, 7:30 PM**  
**Theme – USA 240<sup>th</sup> Birthday 1776-2016**

**Board of Directors**

David Landheer – Chair  
Bruce Haveman – Vice Chair  
John Sella – Treasurer  
Doug Nieboer – Secretary  
Nels Johnson  
Ken Wilfiss  
Newsletter Editor – Norm Knorr



**FREMONT LAKE ASSOCIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES**

- 2007 FLA reestablished & By-Laws adapted
- 2007 - Present - Member conducted Water Sampling sent to DNR/DEQ
- 2008 - 2009 - Water Rescue & Safety Demonstrations
- 2008 Ice Mountain Water Quality Grant application (not awarded)
- 2008 Chris Caris Memorial - Fishing for Kids Activity started with FLA member volunteers
- 2009 Purchase & Install Signage at City & Twp. Launch Sites
- 2009 GVSU/AWRI Survey of Water Quality & Lake Inlets  
Funded FACF Grant & Association Funds
- 2009 MSU / DEQ Survey of Deep Water Sediment Core Samples
- 2010 By-Laws amended
- 2010 Website established \* \* \* fremontlake.net \* \* \*
- 2010 DNR stocking of Walleyes began
- 2010 Property Owner Weed Control contracts began with Professional Lake Management (PLM)
- 2011 Shoreline Restoration Planting with Muskegon Watershed Assembly  
Funded by FACF, Muskegon Conservation District & FLA funds
- 2011 Swan Control Project implemented in cooperation with USDA
- 2011 Interview with Price & Co to improve Fremont Lake's water and ecological health.
- 2011 Professional Lake Management evaluation of Weed Problems – No charge
- 2012 PLM contract to recommend actions needed for weed control- Funded by Twp, City & FLA funds
- 2013 Reestablish a Special Assessment District (SAD) to control Aquatic Nuisances  
Funded by City, Twp, Lake Resident Assessment & FLA funds (Similar to SAD in 1980's)
- 2014 2<sup>nd</sup> year of SAD to control Aquatic Nuisances. Funded by City, Twp, & Lake Resident Assessment
- 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> year of SAD Funded by Twp, & Lake Resident Assessment
- 2016 MSU Study of Water Quality & Aquatic Plant Evaluation – Presentations 6/23 7/28 10/6 

