



# Greater Wall Lake Association

## Fall 2023 Newsletter

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

By Alan Freid, President

Happy October Everyone, I should be happy that as I write this there isn't any sign of snow in the near future but as we found out this past year mild winters are not always in our best interest. While it was another wonderful summer here at the lake, we all saw how winter can affect our summer. The lack of sustained ice cover last winter contributed greatly to both extensive weed growth and lower lake water levels this summer and fall. It's all part of nature's cycles and we will have to wait and see what this winter brings us. As an association we try to do what we can to do to help the lake regardless of what nature brings us. While this year saw a lot of weed growth we stayed vigilant and dealt swiftly with a couple of outbreaks of invasive plant species. And while our outlet dam is currently high and dry, we've continued to work with the local drain commissioner on trying to move along a project to clear the channel that leads to the outlet to ensure that when the water level increases once again the outlet serves its function and releases water into Shallow Lake and beyond. This is part of the value of an active and committed association.

Along those same lines, the association has continued to monitor and take an active role in the ongoing controversy over the establishment of a couple of new gravel pits in our area. Though the summer was quiet as most of the focus moved to the state level, it has now come up again locally. On October 19<sup>th</sup> the Hope Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for the purpose of gaining public input into whether a special use exception should be granted for a gravel pit on the shores of Wilkinson Lake. This is a serious matter as it could set a precedent for future exceptions which could be even closer to our homes and lake. I hope that as many of you as possible will endeavor to attend this hearing so that the planning commission can be certain that they are taking your opinion into consideration and acting in the best interests of our community. Please, try to be there.

Beyond that I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter; we've tried once again to include information we believe you will find useful and enlightening and if you have any suggestions for future articles, we'd be happy to have your input. Thanks again for your support, have a great winter, maybe with lots of snow and ice, and we'll see everyone again in the spring.

#### New Board of Director Needed

The Greater Wall Lake Association has been blessed with many great Directors since its inception. Are you a person with special skills that would enhance the ability of the Board to serve Wall Lake or full of ideas or activities that you would like to see implemented on Wall Lake? Do you have a desire to learn something new to stimulate your mind? Are you willing to attend meetings, serve on committees, a resident on the lake for 2 years with current membership dues paid? If this is you, we currently have an opening for a North side Director to be added to the Board for 2024.

If you are a person with have a willingness to serve your fellow riparian's, please send a brief email to the Board of Directors at [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com) stating your desire with summary of why you want to serve and what skills you will bring to the Board or what new things you are hoping to learn. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Treasurers Report

By Melody Lutz

The Greater Wall Lake Association's board would like to thank all of our members for 2023. As of this writing, we have 144 paid members. Thank you all! By supporting the Associations with your dues and donations, you have made it possible for us to sponsor our events.....

### Garage Sale

### Fourth of July Parade

### Annual Meeting

### Kayak the Wall Poker Run

Your dues made is possible for us to stay informed through various subscriptions to professional literature regarding lake living and water quality news and legislation that affects Michigan Riparian owners. We carry liability insurance for members when helping with GWLA sponsored events. Other expenses include postage and PO box rental, office supplies, software, GWLA Property upkeep and fish stocking.

Your Dues for 2024 will continue to be \$45.00. Additional donations for Fish Fund or events are always welcome. Please don't forget to help build our Preservation Fund. This fund helps us be sure we can protect our lake in case of environmental threats to our lake. Again, thank you for your support and we hope we can count on it again in 2024.

Mail Donations for GWLA to: PO Box 56 Delton 49046

Mail Donations to the Preservation Fund to :  
GWLA Preservation Fund, 231 Broadway, Hastings, MI 49058

## Gravel Pit Update

By Andy Bohr

Hope Township officials met again recently to consider amending the zoning of property within Hope Twp and allow mining / gravel pit operations after a new application was received by Stoneco. Another meeting is scheduled for October 19 at 6:30 pm at the Hope Township Hall. More information on this meeting is on the Hope Township website at [www.hopetwp.com/notices](http://www.hopetwp.com/notices)

This meeting will be important to attend, in force, to affirm the previous Hope Township decision to deny the original application was the right decision for our community.

Also your elected officials in Lansing passed legislation, in committee, that would remove control of zoning decisions like these away from local authorities and place that control in their hands, where direct contact with impacted parties could be muted, and the influence of third party lobbyists, etc could rule the day. So far, the full House of Representatives has not chosen to vote on these bills.

Your support in civil displays - both physical (outside the meeting venues with signs, etc.) and in public comment sessions in recent meetings has helped illuminate the concerns we have to protect Wall Lake and surrounding lakes and no doubt influenced the thoughts of Hope Twp. It is imperative that you continue to voice your concerns to the township and house representative. Stay vigilant, contact your representatives in Lansing and make your concerns known there as well.

Consider supporting the Healthy Waters Alliance with a call to volunteer or a check to help defray their costs as they continue their fight -Healthy Walter Alliance, PO Box 243, Delton, MI 49046,

Email: [Healthywateralliance.hope@gmail.com](mailto:Healthywateralliance.hope@gmail.com).

GWLA will continue to monitor developments on this issue and we would appreciate any news you may hear.

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL ON WALL LAKE

Short-Term Rentals have raised the ire of many lake communities in Michigan. Many of those complaints stem from the problem that these rentals are largely unattended, and renters are unfamiliar with local ordinances and respectful lake living. Also, many of the short-term renters are unfamiliar with the Michigan Boating laws including the Michigan Clean Boating Act. If you own a Short-Term Rental on Wall Lake, the GWLA can make available to you a copy of the Michigan Boating Laws as well as our Welcome booklet on Respectful Lake Living. We can also help you replenish the information in the event it is removed from the rental. We ask you please help by making sure to educate your tenants and ask them to become familiar with the information provided. To request copies please contact GWLA at [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com). Together we can protect Wall Lake and our peaceful lake community.



## Communications Update

Member Communication continues to be a challenge and we are always looking for ways to better communicate with our residents. If you have thoughts or suggestions, please send them to us for consideration. To help us provide you with the most current Wall Lake news and legislative alerts please make sure we always have your current email information. If you have new neighbors, please make sure they also know to contact us so they can receive our communication as well. It is important that you have listed our email address as "safe sender" or "not spam", to ensure you receive our communications. If you have not been receiving updates or know someone who hasn't, please make sure of your email settings and that you have provided us your current email. You can send it to:

[greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)

Information about our upcoming events, educational information or legislative alerts will also be posted on the Greater Wall Lake Association Facebook page. Be sure to like and follow to get all the updates.



## DID YOU KNOW... Kayak the Wall was a dream of one of our long-time residents?



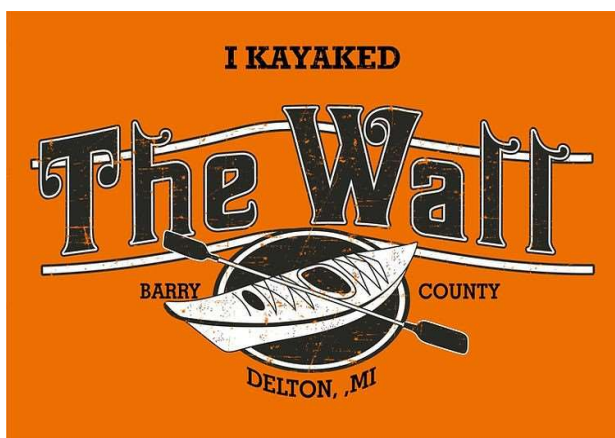
Former GWLA Board member Terry Deike (1943-2019) came up with the idea of our Kayak The Wall event. This event has quickly become our most popular event. Terry really wanted Wall Lake to have a family oriented non-motorized event, and his vision and

commitment made this event possible. His dream became a reality in 2017 with the first "I Kayaked the Wall". It was a tremendous success.

A new twist was added to the event...Kayak The Wall Poker Run in 2018. Terry's love of cards was taken to the water front. Unfortunately, we lost Terry before the 2019 Run, however Katie Dolfman, after working with Terry for 2 years, stepped up to continue to carry on this much-loved event in Terry's honor.

Thank you to volunteers like Terry and Katie that are willing to dream and organizes events like these for our community to enjoy.

If you have any ideas for similar events to enjoy on our lake, please send them to [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com).



This was the original logo in 2017.

# GWLA SPONSORED EVENTS

## 4th of July Parade

Congratulations to the Zelenock's, of Beechwood Point Drive, for winning the Dominic Court trophy! This isn't the first time the Zelenock's have been honored with this award. Do you all remember the ice cream truck? After 45 years on Wall Lake, Rick and Jan Zelenock love how this annual tradition has grown to include their grandkids, great-grandkids, nieces, nephews, and neighbors!

There were approximately 25 entries that participated in this year's event. Thank you to all that participated making this event a wonderful way to say "Happy Birthday" to our country and to celebrate with family and friends the freedoms we all enjoy!



The Dom Court winners for 2023!



For more photos of our Wall Lake Family, don't forget to follow our Greater Wall Lake Associations Facebook Page or our website at [www.mywalllake.com](http://www.mywalllake.com).

## Kayak The Wall Poker Run

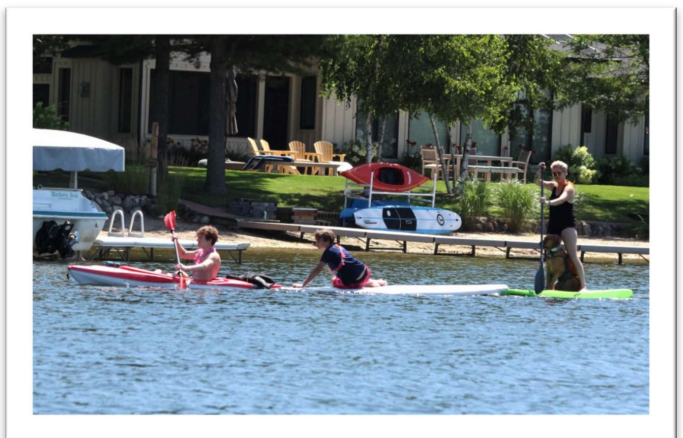
Terry Deike would be proud to see his vision carried on and enjoyed by so many for the past 8 years since it began. Thank you to Katie Dolfman for the time she dedicated to organizing this well-loved event.

This year we had 189 participants. It was wonderful to see all of the families participating together and it was a great opportunity to get to meet some of our new Wall Lake residents. **John Havenaar** was the winner of the 2023 Poker Run.

Also, a big thank you to **Ken's Sports Shop, Building Dreams Construction, Dan Shaver-Amazon, Mary Otto, Lisa Warner and Rhea Terberg-Jaqua Realtors, Katie & Christy's mid-Lakes Screen Printing, L. A. Transport-Waterboy, Lee and Melissa Larson, Connie Vaugh, Nancy Schoessel and The Local of Centerville** for their door prize contributions for our participants.

Thank you to the station "hosts" and their teams: Mary Branch, Mike & Andrea Jeanette, Christy and Katie, Lisa Warner, Lisa & Mark Roodbergen. Thank you to the event photographer Erica Lutz. And a special thank you to all who participated.

Let's make next year the biggest ever!



2023 Kayak the Wall participants



## Fisheries Update

By Kevin Bouchard

Last fall on October 23rd we planted 1000 walleye that ranged in size from 6-8 inches. The total cost was \$3150.00 for the fingerling size walleye and delivery to our lake by Laggis Fish Farm. We decided to postpone any additional plantings until the 2024 season, to build our fund balance. We are currently considering adding yellow perch, and walleye in the 2024 season. Additional species have also been discussed at our board meetings, and consultation has been sought from the Department of Natural Resources fisheries department. Our focus will be to make sure any new species introduced would not have a negative effect on the existing fish populations. We will need to continue to supplement existing walleye populations as they do not reproduce within Wall Lake. If you would like to offer any financial help, suggestions, or comments to improve what we are doing, please reach out anytime to Kevin Boucher at:

[kevinmboucher91@gmail.com](mailto:kevinmboucher91@gmail.com).

## UPDATE FOR WALL LAKE OUTLET

Many of you know that Jim Dull, Barry County Drain Commissioner, has been working on permits to dredge our outlet channel to the Dam. He has applied to EGLE but so far, no permit has been obtained. There were signs that the Loons nested again this spring. Some of you may be wondering if water is still flowing over the levy. The answer is no not currently. The picture below was taken recently. The GWLA Board is watching this closely and will continue to update you.



## GWLA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

By John Weslowski

As many Walls Lake residents know, the GWLA acquired two-plus acres of lake property that runs along M-43 highway. Since the purchase, we have kept the property as a natural area, designed to enable wildlife to thrive. This past year the focus was to increase the wood duck population on Wall Lake by installing 6 wood duck houses on this property.

On March 12, with the help of Delton Kellogg high school students, the wood duck houses were installed along the shoreline, in various locations on the property. A mid summer inspections showed 3 of the 6 houses were occupied. A complete assessment of all the houses will be completed later this fall and a report posted on Facebook.

Many thanks to all the volunteers! We are excited to see the future wood duck population grow on our beautiful Wall Lake.

## Garage Sale

The annual garage sale was a success once again for those that wanted to purge their unwanted items. Thank you to neighbors who participated in this annual event.

## SAVE THE DATES for 2024

GWLA Annual Garage Sale.....Saturday June 1, 2024

Annual Meeting.....Saturday June 22, 2024

4th of July Boat Parade.... July 4th 2024

Kayak the Wall.....Saturday July 27, 2024

**New for 2024... North vs South Golf Tournament- Stay tuned for details!**

*Dates are subject to change.*

**The Greater Wall Lake Association  
wishes you a happy and  
safe holiday season.**

# WALL LAKE WATER QUALITY UPDATE

By Andy Tomaszewski

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.

## **Wall Lake Update 2023:**

Management on Wall Lake during the 2023 has been fairly typical but with a few unexpected issues. For the most part, treatments have focused on specific but small area where Eurasian watermilfoil was found. While significantly less than it was 10-20 years ago, we still have to put out the “little fires” where we find them. Spot treatments have occurred on the following dates”

5/22/23	Spot milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed
6/22/23	Spot milfoil
7/20/23	Spot milfoil
7/21/23	Spot Cabomba
8/16/23	Spot milfoil and Cabomba inspection
8/22/23	Spot milfoil (finish up)

The unexpected issues in 2023 were the finding of Cabomba in the northeast channel (dead end of Cordes) and a fairly large patch of milfoil near the southwest wetlands. Roughly 3-4 years ago, we found Cabomba in the same area. We had treated it promptly and had not seen it again.

Cabomba is not a widespread exotic plant in Michigan but is very concentrated in the Delton area. Several Lakes in the area have it. When found again in 2023, it was addressed the next day. Hopefully we have eliminated Cabomba in this area.

The second unexpected issue was a large patch of milfoil in the southwest part of the lake. With a lack of a winter in 2022/2023, milfoil likely took a foothold in that area. It was treated aggressively and hopefully should be a non-issue moving forward.



Cabomba



Eurasian Water Milfoil

***Our Mission Statement: To protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Wall Lake and its watershed through the promotion of responsible and effective environmental and educational policies. We are dedicated to preserving Wall Lake as a pristine legacy for future generations.***

**Our primary fundraising is from the dues and donations from the lake community residents. GWLA is a 501-3C so your donations may be tax deductible. You can also contribute to the Barry Community Foundation Greater Wall Lake Preservations Fund. Your support has helped us provide protection for our wetlands through purchase of property, provide legal defense from harmful activities when necessary and continue the fish stocking program. If you believe in our mission, please consider making a donation to support the Greater Wall Lake Association as part of your year end financial planning. Its still not to late to support the GWLA by sending your \$45.00 dues for 2023 today. Also, watch for a Dues Reminder from Greater Wall Lake Association in your email in January 2024 for your 2024 dues. GWLA is dedicated to our mission and together we can achieve that goal.**

# Aquatic Plant Classifications

## Native, Nuisance and Invasive Plants

By Amy Seymour

**Aquatic plants** serve important functions in lakes; they produce oxygen, reduce wave action, provide habitat for fish and other wildlife, are a major food source for lake organisms, help stabilize bottom sediments, and help prevent shoreline erosion.

### Native and Beneficial Plants

Native and beneficial plants are usually low growing and rarely cover large area. These plants should be encouraged and only removed when necessary. If they are removed, they're sometimes replaced by nuisance or invasive plants. Chara, some Pondweeds and Wild Celery for example provide good habitat especially for young fish.



Chara



Pondweed



Wild Celery

### Native (sometimes nuisances) Plants

Native plants that can sometimes be nuisances usually grow from a moderate height to near the water surface or grow in dense amounts near the bottom waters. Like the beneficial plants they should be controlled only when necessary. Some examples of these plants include Coontail, Sago Pondweed, Waterweed and Wild Celery. Notice that Wild Celery is listed in this category and the native and beneficial. That's because it can start growing in more dense stands and interfere with recreational activities. Nuisance plants may cause lake wide problems and may need to be moderated and controlled as necessary. They should not be removed from areas when they are not a problem as along undeveloped shorelines and in wetlands.



Coontail



Sago Pondweed



Waterweed



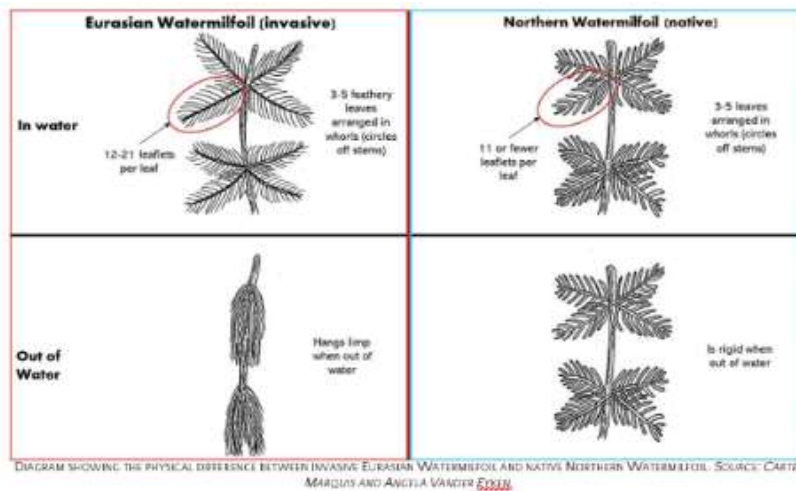
# Plant Classifications con't

## Invasive Plant Identifications

Finally, there are the invasive species. These species are from outside their geographic range and thus not native to the habitat in which they now reside. They can quickly grow and take over an entire lake and cause or likely to cause harm to the environment, human health, or the economy. Monitoring for the invasive plants is very important and treatment and removal should occur quickly after detection. Common invasives include, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Hydrilla and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Two guides for identifying aquatic invasive plants are available for download through the web.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/a\\_michigan\\_boaters\\_guide\\_to\\_selected\\_invasive\\_aquatic\\_plants\\_\(e3189\).pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/uploads/resources/pdfs/a_michigan_boaters_guide_to_selected_invasive_aquatic_plants_(e3189).pdf)

[https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/-/media/Project/Websites/invasives/Documents/Outreach/Guide\\_WatchList\\_AquaticPlant.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/invasives/-/media/Project/Websites/invasives/Documents/Outreach/Guide_WatchList_AquaticPlant.pdf)



Eurasian Watermilfoil

Northern Watermilfoil

**Hydrilla or Elodea?  
Read the Leaves to Tell the Difference**

Hydrilla (Exotic)	Elodea (Native)
a. 4 or 5 leaves at each node b. Leaves have visible teeth c. Leaf vein has small spines	a. Only 3 leaves at each node b. Leaf edges appear smooth c. Leaf vein is smooth underneath

Hydrilla

Waterweed



Curly-leaf

Pondweed

See page 10 for more information about Hydrilla



## Why Map Aquatic Plants?

New to our lake this year is Aquatic Plant Mapping. To have a detailed listing of native plant species growing in our lake, including any invasive species that maybe problematic will benefit present and future generations to come. It also creates a map that shows the overall distribution and density of our lakes' plant population. All mapping is done in the littoral zone. The littoral zone is defined as areas shallow enough light may be able to penetrate to the bottom of the lake where you get rooted plants to grow. In our lake, that is water 15 feet and under. Aquatic mapping is done in late summer when the plants are fully grown, leafed out and potentially flowering.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> of this year Alan Freid, Dan and Amy Seymour spent 2.5 hours of online training and another 4 hours of training on the lake with the professional guidance of Dr. Jo Latimore, faculty member of MSU in the Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife and Director of MiCorps. We collected and hauled onto the boat aquatic plants raked from the bottom of the lake with a special rake pitched in directions of **12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock and 9 o'clock** on a transect line. A transect line is an imaginary line that extends perpendicular to the shoreline. Data is recorded by the density of plants found on the rake as, **Dense (D)** species fills the rake in all four casts, **Heavy (H)** species found mixed with other plants in all four casts, **Moderate (M)** species found in three of the four rake casts, **Sparse (S)** species found in two of the four rake cast or **Found (F)** species found in one of the four rake casts. The collected vegetation is sorted into plant types, identified and recorded. It is also noted whether it was found in the 1-, 4- or 8-foot depth positions. Each transect line receives 12 rake casts for our records.

Starting with **Transect line #1** in the **southeast corner** on the lake, we identified and recorded 11 aquatic plant species with 10 being native and 1 invasive. The 10 native plants were as follows; White water lily, Yellow water lily, Chara, Variable pondweed, Large leaf pondweed, Illinois pondweed, Fern pondweed, Narrow-leaf pondweed, Slender Naiad and Water stargrass. The invasive species plant was Eurasion milfoil.

**Transect line #2** was at the **M-43 boat launch**. We identified and recorded 13 aquatic plant species with 12 being native and 1 invasive. The 12 native plants were as follows; White water lily, Chara, Large leaf pondweed, Illinois pondweed, Fern pondweed, Narrow-leaf pondweed, Slender Naiad, Watershield, Nitella, Arrowhead, Water celery and Pickerel weed. The invasive species plant was Eurasion milfoil.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> Alan, Dan and I went out for a second Aquatic Plant Mapping and charted 2 more transect lines. **Transect line #3** was at the **northwest corner** on the lake. We identified and recorded 10 native aquatic plant species and no invasives. The 10 native plants were as follows; Fern pondweed, Illinois pondweed, Leafy pondweed, Pickerel weed, Dwarf watermilfoil, Slender naiad, Nitella, Water celery, Coontail and Naiad.

**Transect line #4** was at the **Reynolds Road boat launch**. We identified and recorded 8 native aquatic plant species and no invasives. The 8 native plants were as follows; Yellow water lily, White water lily, Illinois pondweed, variable pondweed, Fern pondweed, Large leaf pondweed, Water celery and Naiad.

Emergent, floating and submersed plants will be identified and recorded starting from this year going forward. Our plan for 2024 is to map **Transect line #5, southwest corner of Beechwood Drive, Transect line #6, Wall Lake Drive boat launch, Transect line #7, Lakeview Avenue and Transect line #8, North side of lake along Reynolds Road.**

An abundance of healthy **Native aquatic plants is beneficial** to keeping invasive plants from invading our lake. They absorb wave energy created by wind and recreational boating. They create habitats in the lake for fish, reptiles and amphibians and on our shorelines for waterfowl and medium-sized mammals such as beaver, muskrat and mink. Aquatic plants stabilize sediment at the bottom of the lake to provide better water quality. Most importantly they absorb phosphorus, produce dissolved oxygen (nutrient cycling) that fish and other aquatic life depend on for survival. Besides all that they are BEAUTIFUL.

Amy Seymour, Michigan Master Naturalist, Conservation Steward, Introduction to Lakes Online Course

## NEW INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT IN MICHIGAN—HYDRILLA

Hydrilla, considered one of the world's most invasive aquatic plants, has been detected for the first time in Michigan. The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy confirmed two small populations of the plant in adjacent private ponds on residential properties in Berrien Springs in Southwest Michigan.

The small patches of [hydrilla](#) (*Hydrilla verticillata*) were discovered during routine monitoring following treatment for another invasive plant, parrot feather, which was found in the pond in 2020. Both species are [prohibited in Michigan](#), meaning it is unlawful to sell, possess or import them into the state, and both are on Michigan's [invasive species watch list](#) due to their potential environmental threat.

Hydrilla has several ways of reproducing, allowing it to spread rapidly, outcompete native plants and quickly form dense single-species infestations. Root tubers, turions (buds) and even small plant fragments can develop into new plants, making it very easy for hydrilla to disperse through water or attach to ornamental plants sold for water gardens.

EGLE's immediate response actions include surveying connected ponds, a receiving stream, and the St. Joseph River to ensure the full hydrilla population extent is known. Herbicide treatments are underway in the infested ponds, targeting hydrilla plants to prevent further tuber production this season. A response plan will focus on preventing the spread of hydrilla beyond its current location, with the long-term goal of eradication.

Hydrilla can thrive in both low- and high-quality waters and has been found in lakes, rivers, reservoirs, wetlands, ponds and streams. Plants are generally rooted in sediment in water depths up to 25 feet and remain submerged, with long, leaved stems floating near the surface. Because it outcompetes native plants, it can quickly fill a lake or pond, choking off recreational access. Though hydrilla can be treated with herbicide, it is difficult to eradicate because tubers and turions can persist in the sediment for years, and plants can reproduce from even small fragments.

Early detection of hydrilla provides a better opportunity for successful control and eradication. Michigan's Invasive Species Program relies on reports from the public to help in early detection and response efforts.

Photos of Hydrilla are included in a previous article on Page 8. Any suspicious aquatic plants should be reported as soon as possible to [EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov). Include close-up photos and provide the location of the detection in your report.

Information is taken from a Press Release by Healthy Water Alliance on October 2 2023.

If you have questions or concerns about Wall Lake you may contact the Greater Wall Lake Association by:

Mail: PO Box 56 Delton, MI 49046

Email: [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.mywalllake.com](http://www.mywalllake.com)

Or follow the Greater Wall Lake Association Facebook page.



### Greater Wall Lake Association 2023-2024 Board of Directors

*Alan Freid, President*

*Andy Bohr*

*Eric Daniels*

*Kevin Boucher, Vice President*

*Mark Hancock*

*Mark Perkins, Secretary*

*Tim Harsevoort*

*Melody Lutz, Treasurer*

*Dale Grimes*

*John Weslowski*

*Steve Larson*

*If you wish to contact the GWLA Board please go to the website [www.mywalllake.com](http://www.mywalllake.com) and hit the Contact button or send an email to [greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com](mailto:greaterwalllakeassoc@gmail.com)*