



# AQUA-TALK



**"Professionals Preserving Aquatic Environments Today...  
for Tomorrow."**

Volume 16, Issue 2

## Governmental Affairs/Aquatic Politics

Over the past two years there have been a lot of changes regarding DEQ rules, permit fees, permit requirements and new legislation. Although it seems clear on how the major changes are going to affect us for the 2004 season, we still anticipate some additional changes in the future. PLM would like to review a few key points:

?????None of the proposed legislation (HB 4730, HB 4729, HB 4142) that would improve the way in which we work with the DEQ and/or Dept. of Agriculture has been approved at this time. Public hearings have already taken place and concerned citizens have pleaded their cases. The Committee is currently reviewing the legislation. If any of the new proposed legislation passes we will update you in the spring Aqua Talk newsletter.

?????The DEQ claims that the new increases in permit fees that passed as part of bill SB 596 will enable them to hire approximately three more staff members that will work directly on permit applications. The additional staff will give the DEQ enough manpower to approve permits in a timely manor. Although we do not agree with the significant permit fee increases, we are hopeful that your additional monies will be beneficial and permit delays will not occur in the future. However, since this is the first year under these new circumstances we will still be requesting that all DEQ permit fees and contracts be returned to PLM this fall (see contract for date required back). Our goal is to have all permit applications sent to the DEQ by November 15, 2003.

?????One of our primary concerns regarding the new rules was what the DEQ was actually going to require for a whole lake treatment, i.e. Sonar treatment, as part of the lake management program. A committee was formed to discuss these concerns during the first week of September. The committee concluded that the requirements would include water quality monitoring (similar to what PLM already provides), a brief description of fisheries, spawning areas and a general land use area map. These are reasonable requests that we can provide the DEQ at little or no additional cost to you. However, these requirements are only hear say at this time and have not been finalized into law. The DEQ is going to provide written notice of the actual requirements by December 1, 2003. If additional fees are required we will notify you in the spring Aqua Talk newsletter.

### PLM Michigan Staff

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Vice-President  
Biologist  
Certified Aquatic Applicator  
**Jaimee Bale**  
Technical Services Manager  
Environmental Scientist  
Certified Aquatic Applicator  
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**William Bird**  
Harvesting Manager  
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Harvesting Manager  
**Garry Benchley**  
Harvesting Technician  
**Suzanne Stadler**  
IT Professional/Office Manager



## Renovate is a Success in 2003!!



In the spring of 2003 Renovate 3 was approved for aquatic use in Michigan by the DEQ. Renovate 3 is a systemic herbicide (ability to kill the entire plant) which can be used for Eurasian watermilfoil control. Prior to 2003, 2,4-D was the only systemic herbicide available for spot treating Eurasian watermilfoil. While it is an effective tool, well restrictions associated with 2,4-D have limited our ability to use in near shore areas and its use has primarily been in off shore and undeveloped areas. Renovate 3 has the same systemic effects on Eurasian watermilfoil as 2,4-D but without well restrictions. Also, because it is a liquid herbicide, it can be applied with ease around docks and boats. The 2003 season was an experimental year for Renovate 3. We have been using Renovate 3 with different blends of surfactants and drift control agents to determine the most effective mode of application. Eurasian watermilfoil treatments in 2003 using Renovate 3 have been successful and Professional Lake Management is optimistic about its use for Eurasian watermilfoil control in 2004!

**Fall/Winter  
Office Hours**  
**Monday thru  
Thursday**  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Friday**  
8:00 am - 3:00 pm  
(800)-382-4434

## New Permit Fee Structure for 2004!!

The DEQ and state legislation have approved a new fee system for the granting of permits. The fees are as follows and are based on **treatment area:**

- \* Ponds requiring a certificate of coverage - \$75.00
- \* Less than ½ acre - \$75.00.
- \* ½ acre or more but less than 5 acres - \$200.00
- \* 5 acres or more but less than 20 acres - \$400.00
- \* 20 acres or more but less than 100 acres - \$800.00
- \* 100 acres or more - \$1,500.00

The permit fee check should be made out to the **"State of Michigan"** and should be sent to the PLM Michigan office (P.O. Box 132, Caledonia, MI 49316) no later than **November 15th** of each year. **The DEQ will not process a permit application without the permit fee check attached.**

A signed contract stating the agreement with Professional Lake Management to perform an aquatic management program must also be included with the permit fee check. **The DEQ will not process a permit application without a signed contract attached.**

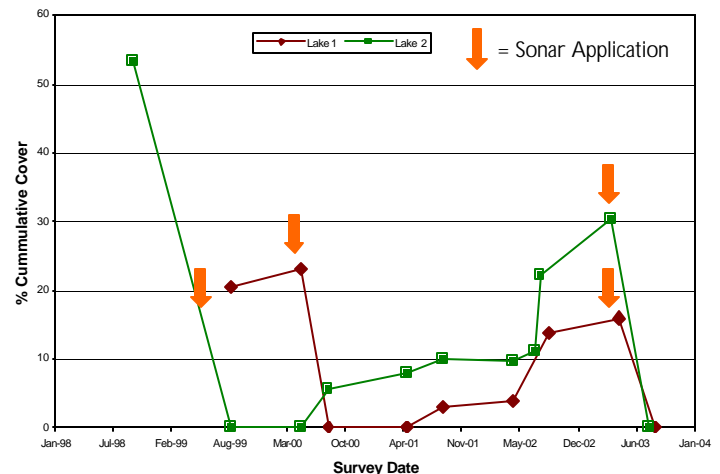
A permit may not be required if a water body is less than ten acre, has no outlet and is privately owned or all homeowners abutting the water body have given written consent to Professional lake Management to treat their frontage. If your water body falls under this criteria, then please send a copy of the deed/ covenants and/or a statement that the water body in question is in single ownership. If your water body is not singly owned then please send in written consent forms from **ALL** the abutting homeowners on the water body. *Luke Britton*, PLM Pond Manager, stated that "by providing all the above information to PLM will save you time, money and effort. By not having to get a permit through the DEQ you will not have to experience treatment delays as many of you have in past seasons." Also, based on the new permit fees, you could be saving \$75.00 to \$400.00 every year on permit costs., in addition to costs saved on eliminating posting requirements and associated posting fees!

## The Benefits of Vegetation Monitoring.

Many lake associations may wonder why continued monitoring and surveying of their lake is necessary. Vegetation monitoring and surveying is an essential tool in any lake management plan. Not only do aquatic vegetation surveys enable PLM to identify and address areas of nuisance vegetation, but they also help establish valuable lake trend data. Vegetation surveys are usually conducted in the spring and fall of every year. Surveying twice a year enables PLM to see not only spring vegetation, but also native plant species that do not appear until later in the season.

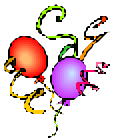
In the graph below, PLM has plotted 2 lakes that have been continually surveyed for 6 years. Both lakes have a history of dense Eurasian Watermilfoil and have each received 2 Sonar treatments. Sonar treatments were conducted on Lake #1 in April of 2000 and April of 2003. Lake #2 received Sonar treatments in April of 1999 and April of 2003. As you can see the EWM decreased drastically after the initial Sonar treatments and slowly increased over the years. Continued monitoring and aggressive systemic herbicide treatments greatly slowed the rate of re-infestation and EWM levels were not able to reach the high density levels that the lakes had prior to the initial Sonar applications. This graph is also a great illustration of the effectiveness of Sonar on controlling lake wide EWM problems.

**EWM Density of Sonar Treated Lakes**



## PLM News & Happenings...

### It's Party Time!!



We may be getting carried away by calling a PLM/Customer Seminar a "Party" but we can promise you an informative good time! It has been several years since we have provided the opportunity for our customers to meet our staff and get some face to face PLM/industry updates. The exact date (late March/early April) and structure of the seminar is still in the planning phases. Invitations will be mailed prior to the holiday season.

### The PLM Family has grown again!!



- \* Andy Tomaszewski, Southern MI Manager, and wife welcomed their first child into the family on July 8, 2003. Shawn William weighed 7 lbs and is doing great!! Congratulations!
- \* PLM's Abbie Wells had a baby girl! Mary Grace was born on September 20, 2003. We are proud to announce that both mommy and baby are doing well!

We are now accepting credit cards for all payments. We are also offering online statements. If you would like your invoices emailed or faxed to you or have any questions, please email Suzanne at [suzanne@prolakemgmt.com](mailto:suzanne@prolakemgmt.com).

