

SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP – BEST PRACTICES FOR GREEN & DUCK LAKE OWNERS

The Green Lake and Duck Lake Board of Director members work hard throughout the year to monitor and protect our twin 2000-acre lakes. Volunteers take water clarity (Secchi-disk) measurements, E. coli samples and a July aquatic vegetation sampling at 26 locations at three different depths in search of non-native invasives around Green Lake. A professional service is contracted to monitor and treat the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) already present in Duck Lake, as well as find and treat non-native shoreline invasive plants on both lakes. Board members regularly attend lake health seminars and enroll in online courses to further improve knowledge of the latest best practices for riparian (lake owners) for stewardship not only of our waters but also our shared shoreland. GLADLA member dues help cover the costs of registration, materials and water quality lab testing. There are many things that riparian lake owners can do on their own property to help.

Why are knowledge and implementation of the best shoreland stewardship practices by our lake neighborhood important? We all want to protect our waters for current and future generations. It is much less expensive to monitor and protect than it would be to have to repair and restore! Healthy shorelands help stabilize the shoreline, absorb wave activity to prevent erosion, anchor sediments, reduce-control-filter run-off), enhance habitat for fish and other wildlife, reduce Canadian Geese visits and maintain property values.

How do Green and Duck Lake property owners learn how their shoreland measures up with the current best practices? Several of our members have taken the comprehensive “Score the Shore” survey from Michigan Shoreland Stewards (www.mishorelandstewards.org). This organization has been making valuable information available to the 11,000 (5 to 10,000 acre) Michigan lake shore owners for many years. A few of our neighbors have received a “Gold” rating for their natural shorelands. This free and non-binding service provides lake shore homeowners with a self-assessment of how their property stacks up with the best practices for their shore. The survey questionnaire provides a checklist for how to improve the various areas of lakeshore property.

Your fellow neighbors and members of your GLADLA board are happy to provide on-site visits with additional resources and offer suggestions on individual shorelands.

SHORELAND STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION RESOURCES

iNaturalist – A cell phone app that helps identify plants; native, non-native and invasives

www.shorelinepartnership.org – Website (related to www.mishorelandstewardship.org) with ideas for healthy shorelines

www.MNPPA.org – Website part of the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association to locate local growers and landscape professionals

www.epa.gov – Federal government information on National Lake Assessment

www.mcorps.net – Michigan Clean Water Corps has additional information on programs for monitoring, maintaining and improving lakes and streams

www.michigan.gov - EGLE (MI Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy) – Shoreline protection information

www.canr.msu.edu/resourcesmart-waterfront-plants MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources for Smart Shorelines

www.gtrlc.org Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy Invasive Species Management Video – Field Notes

Some local plant suppliers that our riparian neighbors have used successfully:

Birdsfoot Native Nursery Garden Goods Pine Hill Village

Four Seasons Nursery Agrecol.com (extensive mail order catalog)