

FIELD NOTES

Lake: North Lake, Washtenaw County, MI
Date of Observation: 17 June 2018
Activity: LakeScan™ Category 700 VS 3.0 (3.1) Vegetation Survey

Key Points

- ~ Ebrid milfoil was exhibiting extreme symptoms of a disease referred to as “Park Lake Bronzing Disease”. The scattered clumps of milfoil that were observed on 30 May were still present, but obviously not growing. Some of the diseased plants had green tips, but did not show any other signs of vigor. The ebrid watermilfoil in AROS 426 to 428 was treated with a species selective herbicide mixture nearly two weeks prior to this survey. Only barren ebrid watermilfoil stems were present in the treated area. The canal areas were nearly devoid of any aquatic plant growth.
- ~ Curly leaf pondweed was not conspicuous in any part of the lake. It has collapsed earlier than expected.
- ~ Native pondweed production was observed throughout the lake. Growth was considered to be good and beneficial, although some might consider it to be an isolated nuisance. Native pondweeds have not produced nuisance conditions in previous years. Treatment of nuisance native pondweed production is constrained by MDEQ permit policy.
- ~ Starry stonewort rhizoids and bulbils (seed-like structures) were observed to cover most of the lake bottom on 30 May. It appeared to be actively growing and may grow to nuisance levels near the DNR boat launch. Lake residents are encouraged to observe the growth of this pernicious weed and report any nuisance conditions.

Narrative

The day was mostly sunny, very hot with only a light breeze. The water clarity was excellent. The water temperature near the water surface was in the low 80's°F.

The pernicious weed, ebrid watermilfoil, has not become the dominant nuisance that has impaired the lake in previous years. It appeared to lack vigor during a 30 May 2018 pre-treatment survey and has declined further. It is common for opportunistic weeds like Ebrid watermilfoil to not only bloom, but to also crash. It is obviously diseased and exhibited symptoms similar to what is referred to as Park Lake Bronzing disease. It is unlikely that any of the diseased plants that are currently scattered around the lake will recover from the disease and grow to nuisance levels this year. Ebrid watermilfoil was growing vigorously in AROS 426 to 428 and that area was successfully treated with a combination of species specific agents.

Starry stonewort has begun to grow conspicuously throughout most of the lake. Starry stonewort dominance has been declining in Michigan inland lakes and even though it was conspicuously present in North Lake it is still unclear if it will grow to nuisance levels. Control is not recommended at this time but residents of the lake need to monitor growth on at least a weekly schedule..

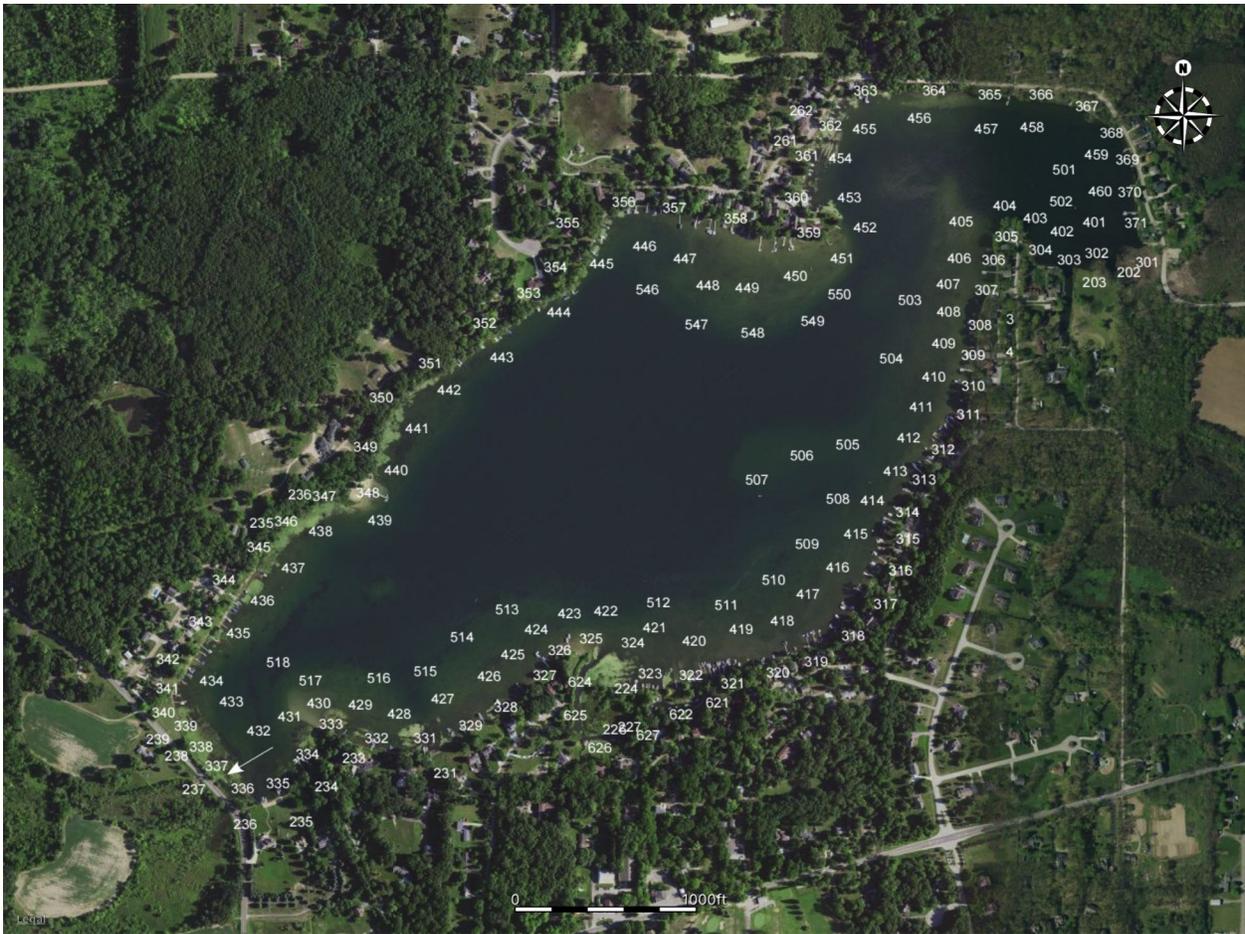


Figure 1. North Lake AROS map.

Management Prescriptions

No additional management interventions are recommended at this time. Starry stonewort could suddenly grow to nuisance levels and do this in a matter of days. However, it is not currently considered to have produced nuisance conditions.

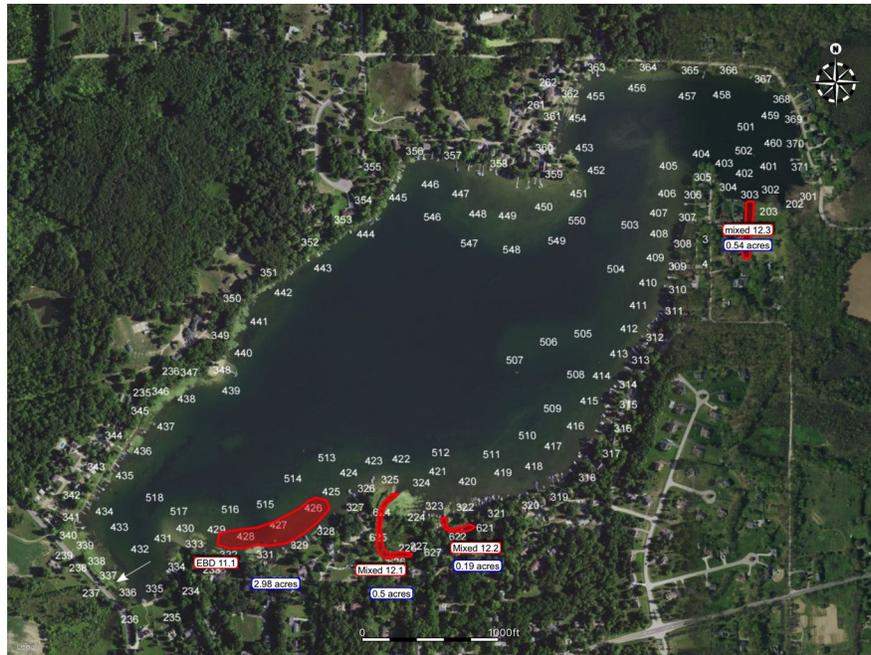


Figure 18TmtZ10 Proposed herbicide treatment for the control of extreme nuisance conditions caused by ebrid watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed in North Lake, June 2018.



Diseased ebrid watermilfoil on North Lake 17 June 2018.