

J U L Y 2 0 1 3

# The Ripples ~ ~ ~

Eagle Lake Property Owners Improvement Association

## Purple Loosestrife

"Lovely" purple flowers growing on your lake bank will cause havoc to the lake environment. It is a non-native, invasive wetland plant that spreads rapidly by seeds. Each plant disperses over one million seeds every year.

It destroys wetland habitats by establishing itself as the dominant plant in the area, but does not provide good habitat for the wildlife.

ELPOIA 'spotters' will again be going around the lake, looking for this plant. The best time to control purple loosestrife is in late June, July and early August, when it is in flower and before it goes to seed. Then the plants are easily recognized.

Proper disposal of plant material is extremely important. Vegetation must be placed in plastic bags and taken to a landfill site. Composting is not advised. Also, seeds can attach to your clothes and equipment, transporting the small seeds to new areas. That is why ELPOIA has volunteered to help our residents with this task. If PL is spotted on your property, we will remove the plants after asking your permission to do so. Please help us by saying YES to our request!



**Dues Notice:** The annual dues notice can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. Voluntary dues of \$15 are used to support a wide variety of Improvement Projects around the lake. Please cut out the notice and send to the address listed. *We need everyone's support to keep the lake healthy and useable.*

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**County Fair**  
July 24-28  
Racine County Fair  
Grounds in Union  
Grove. Music, food,  
exhibits, rides and  
more. Family Fun.

**ELPOIA Meeting**  
August 3rd  
Annual Meeting at  
the Dover Town  
Hall, 9:00 a.m.

**Hometown Picnic**  
August 24th  
Annual Kansasville  
Hometown Picnic,  
Racine County Park,  
Eagle Lake. Noon-5

## ZINNEN BOAT LAUNCH SITE

In 2003, ELPOIA received a DNR grant to demonstrate proper restoration of shoreland properties around the lake. One site chosen was the Zinnen Boat Launch, located on Minnetonka Road in the Terrace (West side of lake). The lake bank was fortified with environmental logs and bags filled with sand/dirt. The site was planted in a wide variety of native prairie plants to better stabilize the soil. In addition, a core group of volunteers led by Jim Kairis (Manor), Loraine Zinnen & Krista Mozina (East Shore), Nancy Usher (Island) and Judy Amundsen (Pan Yack) kept the plants watered, the weeds at bay and mulch on the area.



## 10 YEARS LATER.....

The Launch Site lacked care the past two years and ELPOIA needed some strong young men (Clayton and Cole, Harvester Crew Members) to help our Native Plant Consultant Nan Calvert get the project back on its feet. They smoothed out a significant ice heave in the lake bank, then dug up a LOT of invasive weeds and bushes that had taken over the site. One could actually see the native plants that had managed to survive the 'weed' invasion.

## Launch Site - 2013

In June, 84 native plant forbs were planted on the site, supplementing the original plants from 2003. Nan Calvert drew up a landscaping plan and then helped volunteers Bob Miller (Pan Yack Park-at right), Judy Amundsen (Pan Yack Park) and Judy's sister, Marilyn Johnson (visiting from Iowa) put the plants in the ground. Abutting neighbor Frank Schroeder has graciously let ELPOIA use his water connection to keep the plants well watered during this first year. Anyone wanting to help with the project, call Judy at 878-2195.



## Need for Native Plants

Benefits of using native plants include longer life spans, less need for fertilizer and insecticides, drought resistance, winter hardiness, disease resistance and increased desirability to birds, bees and butterflies.

As a consequence of their long, hardy life, they are also slow growing. Native perennials build a large, strong root system (some species reach depths of more than 20 feet- picture at left) before making lots of leaves & flowers. Compare this to sod roots, pictured at far left of diagram.

## New ELPOIA Library



Area residents who live on or near the lake are invited to check out the new ELPOIA Library, located at the Dover Town Hall. Here is your chance to become more informed about topics concerning Eagle Lake and its watershed. Feel free to check out any of the 3-Ringed Binders, read them and bring them back for others to use.

A sample of topics covered include: Aquatic Exotic Plants and Animals, Invasive Plants, other Invasives such as Garlic Mustard, Gypsy Moths and Emerald Ash Bore, information about owning waterfront property, landscaping for wildlife and water quality. In addition, there is a lot of information about water issues and chemical treatments for lakes, government issues and permits, lake issues and the law and boating and fishing issues.

Historic Eagle Lake Management Planning Grants and Restoration Grants dating back to 1992 are also on file. Come in, check it out!

### **ELMD HOLDS INFO MEETING**

ELMD held another informational meeting June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Dover Town Hall. A good group of lake residents heard updates on the weed harvesting program, the status of dredging the Zinnen and County Boat Launches and an update re: possibly raising the dam

to increase water levels. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns.

Residents were particularly concerned about the sudden growth of sago pondweed, making it difficult to navigate their boats and jet skis around the lake without getting the weeds wrapped around their props. ELMD Board Member Don Hermes reported that he uses an old-fashioned, long-handled dandelion weed puller (the one with a forked end) to reach over the boat and scrape off the weeds. This only works if you have a motor that can be tilted. And it doesn't work on in-board motor boats. Reversing your engine will not always back off the weeds, as sago coils around the prop like strong twine or wire. The prop will not cut it. Sometimes, you just have to jump in the lake!

Don also reported that the weed harvester crew has and will continue to cut navigational channels all around the lake. There are 16 piers in various areas that now have flags on the ends. There are corresponding flags on the buoys straight out from these piers. To avoid getting tangled in large weed beds, motor your boat to the right or left of your own pier until you get to a flagged pier. Then head straight out to the flagged buoy to get to the navigational channel cut 25' on both sides of the buoys. Stay within this channel and you should be able to avoid the weeds.

*The picture below shows the flag on the end of a pier in Pan Yack and the corresponding buoy out in the*



*water.*

## Do we have your e-mail address????

ELPOIA is trying to reduce the cost of mailing out THE RIPPLES by sending it electronically via e-mail. If you have received this newsletter via US Post, it means that we do not have an e-mail address for you OR that we have an incorrect address for you. We realize that not everyone around the lake has a computer or uses e-mail to communicate. We will continue to send out 'hard copies' of THE RIPPLES if this is the case. However, we would prefer to send out the newsletter electronically. If we have your e-mail address, we can also send you our Lake Updates about happenings around the lake.

Also, if you are a Summer Resident and have a change of address/phone for your Permanent Home, PLEASE send these changes to ELPOIA: [jwamundsen@aol.com](mailto:jwamundsen@aol.com). If you sell your lake property, please let us know you are selling, your property number and who the new owner will be, if you know. This information will be most helpful in keeping our records current. You can find your property number on the mailing address (if you get the RIPPLES via regular mail), on your sewer utility statement or on your ELMD Annual Assessment Statement. THANK for your help!

## Birds & Butterfly Gardens

Thinking of putting more plants on your property? Consider using plants that attract birds and butterflies. They are attracted to the natural variety of nectar, seeds and insects found in native plants. Join garden areas together to make larger, more enticing natural feeders.

Some plants you will want to consider are Red Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Purple Coneflower, Brown-eyed Susan, Sky-blue Aster, Sand Coreopsis and Prairie Blazing Star. Check out "Plants, Nursery Sources and Plant Selection & Planting" found in the ELPOIA Lending Library at the Dover Town Hall. You'll be glad you did, and so will the birds and butterflies!



*(Cut here, fill in the information, include dues payment and send to address below)*

### Eagle Lake Property Owners Improvement Association Kansasville, WI 53139

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Property Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(Listed on your mailing address)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL DUES

For the Year 2013: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Minimum, More Gladly Accepted

Return to: Judy Amundsen, Secretary  
24033 W. Oakwood LN  
Kansasville, WI 53139

*Please return this notice with your payment. ELPOIA is a 501 3 (c) Organization. Donations are tax deductible.*