

An **ALERT** to All Who Appreciate Lake Charlevoix,

A fast spreading plant is invading Lake Charlevoix and can dominate our shoreline in just a few years. Imagine an extremely dense, wall of reeds blocking the view of the lake and diminishing property values. The damaging phragmites (frag-MY-teez) plant has overrun many once beautiful inland lakes in southern Michigan and is now marching north.

Lake Charlevoix is still in the early stages of this infestation based on a shoreline survey done via snowmobile by the Lake Charlevoix Association (LCA). Approximately 100 sites containing the reeds were photographed. The LCA is coordinating treatment and removal of this destructive plant this summer and we would very much appreciate your support and involvement. The enclosed brochure describes the problem and our solution in more detail.

The sites with invasive phragmites have been highlighted on a map, which is viewable at <http://www.lakecharlevoix.org>. Look to see if your property has or is near a stand of phragmites. If your mailing label is highlighted, our February survey indicates your shoreline is invaded. After re-surveying in June, we will be contacting all properties where the invasive phragmites is confirmed, requesting permission to treat it.

There are five things we would like you to consider doing to support and help us.

1. Please do not attempt to treat or remove phragmites now. We will be using the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)-approved treatment plan.
2. Add your name to our email list so we may better keep you informed of the progress and next steps in our project. (Simply send an email to [info@lca-mi.org](mailto:info@lca-mi.org))
3. Attend one of the educational meetings highlighted in the brochure. Awareness and understanding by all is key to our success.
4. Volunteer to help. We will need help in several ways and many hands will make light work. If you would like to help, please send an email to [info@lca-mi.org](mailto:info@lca-mi.org).

We will need:

- a. People to perform a detailed survey in mid-summer
  - b. People to be trained to treat the plants after Labor Day
  - c. People to remove the dead plants approximately two weeks after treatment
5. Join LCA. It's \$25 per year

We look forward to working with everyone to make this important project a big success. Eliminating phragmites will surely help to preserve the quality of our experience with Lake Charlevoix and, of course, our property values.

Sincerely,

The LCA Phragmites Team,

Dan Mishler  
[dan@lca-mi.org](mailto:dan@lca-mi.org)

Sue Costa  
[sue@lca-mi.org](mailto:sue@lca-mi.org)

Mike Dow  
[mike@lca-mi.org](mailto:mike@lca-mi.org)