





- “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, it’s the only thing that every has.”

- Margret Meade

- Oakland County





# PLANT A SEED: EDUCATION



Clarkston Watershed Group invites Bob Williams to present about phragmites



Clarkston Watershed Group invites Bob Williams to demonstrate wipe and spray techniques on phragmites



NOHLC started controlling phragmites with Cut & Treat technique



Emily Duthinh wrote pamphlet describing Cut & Treat technique to control phragmites



Wild Ones North Oakland Chapter invites Emily Duthinh to demonstrate Cut & Treat technique



Elizabeth Wagner invites Emily Duthinh to do demonstration for subdivision



Deer Lake Farms treated phragmites on communal beach

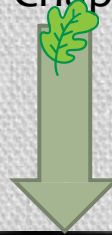


Linda Lapinski treated phragmites in common area of Walton Creek Subdivision



# OPIS FORMED IN FALL 2012

Wild Ones  
North Oakland  
Chapter



Elizabeth Wagner



Linda Lapinski

North Oakland  
Headwaters Land Conservancy





# OPIS MISSION STATEMENT

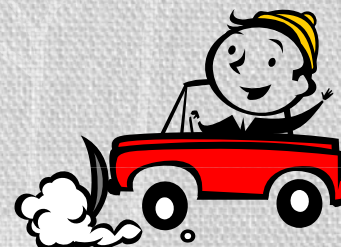
- Oakland Phragmites & Invasive Species (OPIS) Task Force is a group of concerned citizens working to protect the quality of Oakland County's lakes, streams, and wetlands: preserving them for future generations from non-native invasive species.
- OPIS is working to control the spread of Phragmites and other non-native invasive plants in Oakland County and beyond, by empowering concerned citizens and government through education, advocacy, and action.





# OPIS APPROACH

- Emphasize impact on property values and liabilities.
- Make it easy for homeowners to treat their invasive plants; “snowplow model” to control invasive plants.
- Focus on lake associations and HOAs.
- Association or township selects one contractor, obtains a group permit. Motivated individuals identify neighbors with invasive plants, educate homeowners. HOA works with contractor to control invasive plants at homeowner’s expense.





# OPIS ACTIVITIES IN 2013

- Incorporated, bylaws, selected officers

- Website,  Facebook, publicity.

- PowerPoint presentations to Clarkston City Council, Independence Township trustees, Deer Lake Property Owners Association board and membership, Oakland Township trustees, West Bloomfield Wetlands Review Board, Oxford Garden Club

- Demonstration workshop in Oakland Township

## Invasive Species Task Force works to eliminate phragmites in Clarkston

The rain held out, and the Oakland Phragmites and Invasive Species Task Force was able to unveil a newly dedicated sign with a smooth of a tabloids educating residents about the harmful ecological effects of these plant species.

Representatives from North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy, Wild Ones, The City of the Village of Clarkston and Deer Lake Homeowners Association joined the task force in unveiling the sign near Middle Lake, adjacent to Depot Park in downtown Clarkston.

Funds donated to North

Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy by Elizabeth and Ben Wagner came to assistance from a donation of their Saturn car to Charity Motors. The monies received were earmarked specifically for the sign.

The area off of White Lake Road was sprayed on Thursday Sept. 1 in the next step in the removal of phragmites in Clarkston.

The Oakland Phragmites and Invasive Species Task Force is working on meeting in October with West Bloomfield Township to address the township board and start the process to rid that area of phragmites and other invasive.



Photo courtesy of John Mowbray

From Wagner (from left), Sharon Harbeck, Sharon Gardner, Elizabeth Wagner, Ben Wagner, Jason Miller, John Mowbray, Merle Dorgan, Ray Roth and Linda Lapinski are pictured at the unveiling of the "Phragmites" sign on White Lake Road in Clarkston.





# OPIs STRATEGY

- Initial focus on Clarkston's Depot Park and Independence Township.
- In 2014, goal is to expand to entire township; Township selects one contractor and obtains township-wide permit.
- Eventually plan to “franchise” to other townships. OPIS will provide networking and support, address county-wide issues (OCRC, county government, etc)





## 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- City of Clarkston spent \$5,500 to control phragmites in Depot Park, including mowing, controlled burn, spraying.
- OPIS partnered with NOHLC, Wild Ones, and the CRWA to install sign at Depot Park, publicized activities in newspapers, TV.
- Independence Township controlled phragmites at Deer Lake Beach and Lakeview Cemetery. Township allocated \$20,000 to control invasive plants in 2014.
- Deer Lake homeowners worked together to hire one contractor to control phragmites at nearly all residences.
- Some property owners in Independence Township and Oakland Township treated their phragmites.
- Interest expanding into surrounding townships.



# 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

