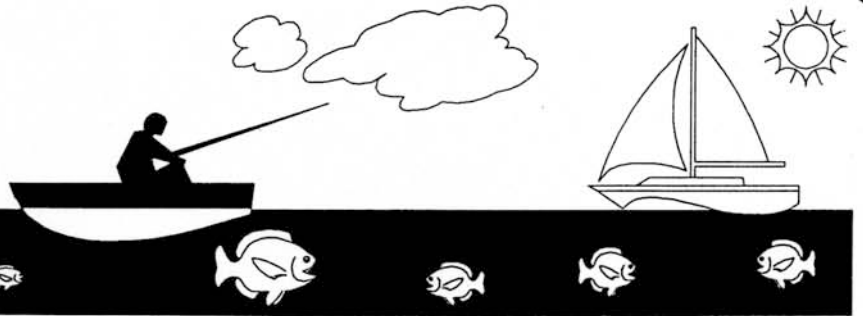


Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



President William Falbe 3135 S. Henderson Lake Rd. Prescott, MI 48756 Hm 517-873-3907	Vice President David Sommers 3664 N. River Road Freeland, MI 48623 Hm 517 781-3444	Secretary/Treasurer Judy Sheehan 3153 Henderson Lake Rd. Prescott, MI 48756 Hm 517-873-4566	Director Don Austin 4863 Sheridan Saginaw, MI 48601 Hm 517-777-0477 Lake 517-873-4131	Director George Benson 3861 Jennings St. Troy, MI 48064 Hm 313-689-3253	Director Ken Sheehan 3153 Henderson Lake Rd. Prescott, MI 48756 Hm 517-873-4566	Director Ken Pennington 3342 Hardwood Heights Prescott, MI 48756 Hm 517-873-5746
--	---	--	---	--	--	---

Annual meeting

The Hardwood Lake Association annual meeting was held on Saturday, July 16. There were 23 property owners in attendance. Board of directors members present were Bill Falbe, David Sommers, Judy Sheehan, Ken Sheehan, Ken Pennington and Don Austin. Director George Benson was absent.

James Hayes suggested we contact the Ogemaw County Road Commission to have speed limit signs installed on Henderson Lake Road south of M-55 because of the different road grade levels, curves and the excessive speed. Secretary Judy Sheehan sent a letter to the Road Commissioner who responded that they would monitor the road traffic and make a decision at a later date.

There was some concern expressed about high speed boating during off hours. At present high speed boating is allowed from 11 am to 7:30 pm. There is a sign posted at the boat launch. This is a state law. There was a suggestion made to have a larger sign made for the boat launch. Vice president David Sommers contacted the DNR in Roscommon. They felt the launch was adequately signed.

The DNR suggested that if people were a few minutes over that a friendly reminder would be the best way to handle problems. It is easy to lose track of the time when people are enjoying the water and are not wearing watches. They also mentioned that the counter-clockwise law should be observed for high speed boating.

The general membership unanimously voted to have a letter sent to Richland Township requesting a waiver of admission fees to the Richland Township park for association members. There is a \$1 daily or \$5 annual fee for use of the beach and playground areas.

Richland Township supervisor Lee Brown responded. His letter in part stated he felt the charge was minimal. It shows good faith and makes people accountable for the upkeep of the grounds.

Charles Perry received a free one year lake association membership at the drawing at the 1994 annual meeting. All members in attendance at the annual meeting are eligible for the drawing. Another reason to come to the meeting.

Treasurers report

Secretary/Treasurer Judy Sheehan submitted the following report:

8/1/93 through 7/15/94

Assets

Balance on hand	\$5,373.61
Interest	93.14
Deposits	635.40
Total assets	\$6,102.15

Disbursements

Postage	\$(120.06)
State of Michigan	(5.00)
Flowers	(37.96)
Road brine	(564.00)
Total disbursements	(727.02)

Total funds on hand \$5375.13

Tidbits

Secretary Judy Sheehan, husband Ken, a board member, and their children will make their permanent residence on the lake. Their address is in the masthead.

Dale and Sue Fisk purchased the Harry Maletz home on Henderson Lake Road.

Bruce and Barb Trevithick purchased land from the Darbees on Henderson Lake Road just north of Hardwood Heights.

George and Laura McLain purchased Dave Stanleys home on Gillings Road.

Dave and Nancy Sickles bought the Switzenberg property on Hardwood Heights.

Lake board in place

After several years of hard work the Hardwood Lake, Lake Board has been established. Under state law Richland Township authorized its formation.

The board held its first meeting on August 31 at the Richland Township hall in Prescott.

The lake board, by law, consists of a County Commissioner, County Drain Commissioner, a representative from each local unit of government, a representative from the Department of Natural Resources and a lake association member.

Lila Fegan is the County Commissioner. The County Drain Commissioner is Mike DeMatio. Representing Richland Township is trustee Brian Bellville while trustee Jess Primm represents Logan Township. Howard Wandell is the DNR representative. Wandell is on all of the lake boards in the state. The lake association representative is David Sommers.

Bellville was elected Chairman of the Lake Board and Sommers was elected Secretary.

Wandell, who is on 90 lake boards in the state, explained how a lake board operates. As defined by state law there are several steps that need to be followed. They are:

- Hire an engineering firm to study the lake. They will provide a plan that is the basis of our action.
- Hold a public hearing on the plan.
- If all is well the engineering firm will provide boundaries of the special assessment tax district and a tax formula.
- Hold another public hearing on the tax district.
- If everything is OK go out for bids for a contractor to implement the plan.
- Hire the contractor.

It will take one to one and one-half years to generate the tax revenues from the assessment. If we get on the 1995 tax rolls we should start getting money during 1996.

Wandell said the DNR sampled the lake in 1976 and again in 1991. One of the items tracked is total phosphorus in the water. Total phosphorus is an item that is tracked that provides a way to compare water quality. Examples for a lake are:

- less than 10 micrograms of total phosphorus is a good quality lake. This would be like Higgins Lake.
- 10 to 20 micrograms of total phosphorus is considered a medium quality lake and would be like Rifle Lake.
- 20 to 30 micrograms of total phosphorus is a good quality lake. It is good for Bass fishing and a fair recreational lake.
- greater than 30 micrograms of total phosphorus is considered poor.
- Hardwood Lake had a surface count of 50 to 60 micrograms of total phosphorus.

Wandell said the average for the 700 lakes in the state is 13 micrograms of total phosphorus. Ninety five percent of the lakes are at 35 micrograms of total phosphorus or less. Hardwood Lake is in the top one to two percent of lower quality lakes in the state. Wandell said it is not a public health threat but it is not pleasant.

This water quality problem could be a natural condition of the lake or may be caused by man such as lawn fertilizer or septic tanks. The average for Minnesota is 100 micrograms of

total phosphorus. Some areas in Michigan are just naturally better for lakes. The geology of the area may just naturally produce more nutrients. Northern Ogemaw County is better for lakes than the southern part of the county.

In response to a question from the audience Wandell said he doesn't feel the lake has changed much since 1976. It takes 20 to 30 years to establish a basis for a lake. A 1976 summer sample of Hardwood Lake yielded 40 micrograms of total phosphorus at the surface with 600 micrograms of total phosphorus at the bottom. A spring 1991 sample was 55 to 57 micrograms of total phosphorus. You can't draw a clear comparison because these were taken at different times of the year.

Hardwood Lake is in the top one to two percent of lower quality lakes in the state. It is not a public health threat but it is not pleasant.

Howard Wandell, DNR

Wandell said there are several approaches to the problem. One is long term watershed management. This would include things like working with local farmers on runoff, working with homeowners on septic systems and lawn fertilizers.

Short term management would be more of a weed management program. Alum can be used to treat the nutrients and help settle some of the suspended solids in the water. The use of alum is an expensive venture.

Chemical treatments knock the weeds down but they come back. This is a cheaper method but mainly cosmetic and you may only get a few months of relief. When the weeds are killed they sink to the bottom but decompose only about 40 percent.

Indiscriminate weed killing cannot only kill the bad weeds but the good ones also.

Harvesting weed from the lake can also be done but some weeds propagate by fragmentation. In other words if you break them into ten pieces you will get ten new plants.

During the public meeting a question from the audience was raised regarding fair taxation of people around the lake and if the DNR would pay a portion because of the boat launch.

Wandell said all properties would be assessed. The DNR is exempt from special assessments but would pay its fair share if funds are available.

He said properties are assessed by benefit derived and the engineer will help assess that. As an example, and not to be construed as actual figures, properties with lake frontage may be assessed "X". Properties with access to the water but not on the lake may be assessed ".5X" while commercial properties would be assessed "2X" and undeveloped lots might be ".25X".

Wandell continued that the engineer will recommend the

See Lake Board on next page

Lake Board continued

assessment district and help determine the probable costs. These cost will be disclosed at the public hearing.

At the September 20 Lake Board meeting proposals from three firms were evaluated for the lake improvement study. Firms submitting bids were Paul B. Lapham and Associates, Progressive Engineering and Wade-Trim.

Progressive Engineering of Grand Rapids was hired to do the engineering study on the lake. They hope to be on the lake

the last week of September to take the first water samples.

An immediate concern is to get the engineering study moving. The first tax revenue that can be collected won't start coming in until late 1995.

In an effort to provide some operating funds both Richland and Logan Townships have agreed in principal to loan money to the Lake Board along with the Hardwood Lake Association.

The funds will be administered by the Ogemaw County Treasurer.

Membership update

Secretary/Treasurer Judy Sheehan reminds you that if you have not yet paid your 1994 dues of \$15 please submit them promptly to Secretary/Treasurer Judy Sheehan. Remember only fully paid association members have a voice in the lake association.

Judy reports the following members have paid their 1994 dues:

Donald Austin
Leslie (George) Benson
Tom Benson
Leo Bergeron
Donald Bradley
Ruth Bradley
Terry Brandon
Daniel Campbell
David Cartwright
Robert Christner
Evelyn Cook

Sheryl (Durant) Dankert
Clayton Dees
Bill Falbe
Ralph Falbe
Viola Falbe
Arthur Fernandez
Dan Fisk
Donald Goddard
Phillip Goniea
James Hayes
Charles Hitz
James Holland
John Hollingshead
Terrill Holm
Howard Jodway
Michael Joseph
Frank Lapan
Dave Lopez
Delores Loturco
George McClain
Dr. Rodney McLane

Lee McLaughlin
Max McLaughlin
Robert Nerowski
Clare Nickless
Norene Ohlrogge
Kenneth Pennington
Charles Perry
Margaret Perry
Norma Pugh
Eugene Remaley
Dale Rolison
Austin Schmidt
Kenneth Sheehan
David Sommers
Jeffery Stock
Don Thompson
Bruce Trevithick
Clarence Winans
Gordon Wolven