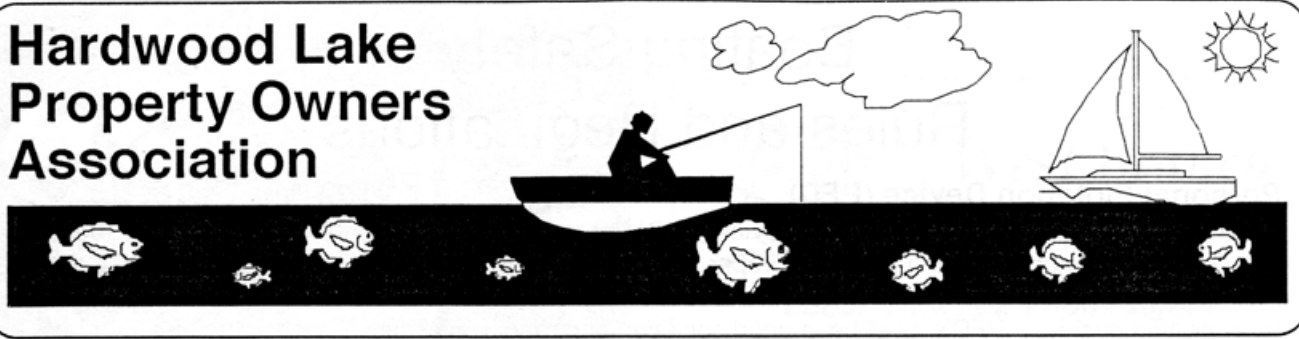


Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



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October 1999

Lake improvement board meeting

The Hardwood Lake Improvement Board meeting will be Saturday, October 2, 1999 at the Richland Township Hall in Prescott. This is a yearly meeting for all taxpayers who want to hear updates on lake and weed treatment, a review of the past year's treatment and future plans. A representative from Progressive Engineering along with lake board members will be present to answer questions from residents.

Suggestion box now at McGregor's store

Glenda and Bob McGregor now have a suggestion/comment box in their store. Hardwood Lake residents may use the box for any information regarding the lake, including social events, people, news, opinions, safety publications, etc. All information will be passed on to the appropriate people.



Progressive Engineering had Aquatic Weed Control spot check and apply treatment on August 11, 1999. The photo (above) shows algae treatment being applied on the west end of the lake. There was a lot of milfoil and an algaecide was applied. The treatment for the milfoil was found not to be effective and payment was not approved. Sonar was approved for the year 2000 treatment of weeds. Sonar is more expensive but will last longer and kills the weed at the root. The entire lake will be treated but concentrated on areas near the cottages/homes.

Treatment of Hardwood Lake for 1999

Listed on page 2 are lake treatment dates as of September 1999. Each invoice submitted by the herbicide and harvesting contractors is reviewed by Progressive prior to being forwarded to the lake board with a recommendation for payment. Each invoice is accompanied by a Payment Submittal Form which details the acres treated or harvested, types and quantities of herbicides applied, and the days and hours of harvesting. In addition, Progressive conducts field inspections of the lake to evaluate contractor performance prior to recommending payment.

See Lake Cleanup page 2

Lake study

Kip Cronk is a Master's Candidate at Antioch New England Graduate School. He chose to study Hardwood Lake as part of his program and spent most of the summer at the campground on Hardwood Lake. Kip gave a presentation to the Lake Association members as part of the annual meeting Saturday, August 7, 1999. Kip met with many of the lake owners throughout the summer and as part of his research wrote observations and comments from the residents he spoke with. Printed below is a portion of his report. Future newsletters will include more of Kip's finding.

Thoughts on Hardwood Lake (from local residents)

NEGATIVE IMPACTS - CONCERNS

- * Agricultural runoff.
- * Homes piping materials into the lake.
- * Timbering in the watershed.
- * Road construction and the placement of the colvert.
- * Old garbage in lake and watershed.
- * Chopping aquatic plants and leaving them in the lake.
- * People not interested in the clean-up effort.
- * Ignorance of people within the watershed.
- * Fires around the lake.
- * Too much light pollution.
- * Leaking septic systems.
- * Big green lawns.
- * Lake is not big enough.
- * The lake has a clay bottom.
- * Lake Association should disappear.
- * High cost of clean-up.
- * Only a few residents participating.
- * Not everyone belongs to the association.
- * Property values being effected.
- * Fertilizer.
- * Building put in before regulations.
- * Inlet.
- * Farm impact.
- * Boat use on lake, too many wave runners.
- * Too many people using lake.
- * Nitrogen from farms getting into lake.
- * People putting stuff into the lake.

POSITIVE IMPACTS BY RESIDENTS:

- * Maintain the lake from erosion.

Lake Cleanup from page 1

- May 27 - Pretreatment aquatic vegetation survey by biologists from Progressive.
 - May 28 - Adept Aquatic Weed Control is authorized to treat up to 33 acres of Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed with the herbicide Reward.
 - **1st Treatment** - June 9, 1999 - Lake treated for plants and algae total of 22 acres each for total of \$4,483.60. Chemicals used were Reward and Cutrine Plus
 - June 23 - Progressive staff conducted post-treatment and preharvest survey of lake.
 - June 22 to 24 Professional Lake Management completed harvest of 25 acres (14 tons). Cost is \$218 per acre for total of \$5,450.00.
 - July 2 Progressive conducted post-harvest survey.
 - July 7 Progressive authorizes 2-acre treatment of Eurasian milfoil and 22-acre algae treatment.
 - **2nd Treatment** - July 13, 1999 - Eurasian milfoil (4 acres) \$697.60; algae (20 acres) \$588.60 = \$1,286.20. Chemicals used were Reward and Cutrine Plus.
 - **3rd Treatment** - August 11, 1999 - Eurasian milfoil (3 acres) \$523.20; algae (18 acres) \$1,052.94 - Chemicals used were Reward and Cutrine Plus.
- The third spot treatment for the milfoil was not paid due to insufficient die-back.

Progressive has a list of lake association contacts. It is important to note that in order for Progressive to coordinate with the contractors in an efficient manner, they must schedule the surveys and treatments on short notice. As a practical matter, it may not always be possible to have association representatives accompany them on the surveys.

- * Mowing and trimming.
- * Conscious of water conservation.
- * Enjoy the lake.
- * Cleared land for a better visual effect.
- * Keeps area maintained.
- * Lots of people are improving their lots.
- * Lake Association.
- * Try to keep lot clean and being careful with themselves and guests.
- * Getting more people involved.
- * Good septic.
- * Don't use fertilizer.
- * No real impact upon lake.
- * Paying taxes for clean-up.
- * The weeds can be controlled.
- * Composting.
- * Discourage bathing in the lake.
- * Work hard to keep beach front and lake clean.
- * Remove undesirables from the water.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Create a green belt along Hardwood Lake using plants native to Michigan.
2. Do not put materials into the lake or surrounding wetlands.
3. Dispose of chemicals properly, most should not be put into your septic system.
4. Maintain your septic system, clean it every two to three years.
5. Do not introduce plants or animals to

the watershed.

6. Maintain the treatment for Eurasian milfoil.
7. Encourage non-developed property within the watershed to stay undeveloped.
8. Maintain the outflow of Hardwood Lake.
9. Post signs around Hardwood Lake to inform users of laws and regulations.
10. Obtain permits when performing work around or within the lake.
11. Use low phosphorus products.
12. Use natural vegetation to prevent shoreline erosion.
13. Do not put grass clippings into Hardwood Lake.
14. Buy a mulching blade for mowing.
15. Limit gas and oil products from entering Hardwood Lake.
16. Limit the amount of light put on the lake after dark.
17. Change from two stroke engines to four stroke engines.
18. Use erosion control measures when working within the watershed.
19. Limit the size of unnatural sand beaches.
20. Join in the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program to obtain water quality information.



Rose Walsh, our County Commissioner, informed the board that the cottage on Hardwood Heights near Henderson Lake Road (above) has defaulted to the state for delinquent taxes. It could be up to a year before anything can be done with it. Back taxes have not been paid and the county could eventually end up buying it back and then resell the property.

Tidbits

Brining Road - Richland Township road fund is in the works. There is a possibility next spring there will be approval of brining Hardwood Heights and Gillings Road (located on the east end of Hardwood Lake). Currently, the Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association is paying for brining of the roads. In 1998 we paid \$816 for dust control. The amount rose to \$960 for 1999. This is more money than is brought in by lake association dues for 1999 which was \$795.00.

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Current membership is at 54 paid members. We need to find ways to increase the membership. People that live on the lake are the most informed. Go to your neighbors and get them interested in joining the association.

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As of July 1, 1998 the association had on account \$5,942.65. As of August 27, 1999 the account was at \$4,342.59.

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Saturday, July 15, 2000 at 9 a.m. is the tentative date for the Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association annual meeting. The location will be moved to the Richland Township Hall in Prescott. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

Trash pick up.

Summer residents have asked about trash pick-up. There is no seasonal pick-up anymore but residents may specify which months they would like to have trash pick-up available to them. Cost is \$18.00 a month. You must call to start pick-up and call to cancel. A 95-gallon trash can is provided by CES. The can is to be placed by the curb by 6 a.m. on the designated day which is Wednesday for Hardwood Lake. If you elect year around pick-up, you can be billed quarterly. If you pay by the year and pay in advance your account will be credited \$12.00 (bringing the cost to \$17.00 per month). Anything that can fit into the can will be picked up. If there are large items (appliances, old carpeting, etc.) you may call CES to pick it up. Their toll free number is 800-247-2404.

Boating reminders

The largest portion of summer recreational boating is over with. If you have a water safety complaint call the Ogemaw County Sheriff Department. If an officer is unable to personally observe an infraction, you may still make a complaint but you must be willing to sign the ticket and be available for a court appearance.

Please do not burden the police with frivolous complaints.

Reminder -- High speed boating is allowed by state law and local ordinance from 11:00 am to 7:30 pm daily. During all other hours high speed boating is not allowed. This includes all watercraft, including personal watercraft.

Boaters should attempt to operate in a counterclockwise manner around the lake when highspeed boating or during congested times.

Bob & Glenda McGregor dredge their lakefront

Bob and Glenda McGregor are satisfied with their recent dredging done the week before Labor Day. During four years of owning the property they tried many discouraging attempts to clean the lake themselves including raking, old mattress springs, etc. They feel the \$6,000 spent will pay off over 10 years the contractor says is the average span the dredging is effective.

Matt Miller of West Branch (517) 685-2110 did the work. The size of the dredging operation was 30x60 feet. The DNR approved the dredging. Miller

obtained permits from the DNR who came out and approved the site. The DNR prefers everything that comes out of the lake be put into the owners yard. Also, the amount taken out has to be placed back into the lake, sand was used. Miller started out digging 14-foot holes in the lake on both sides of the area to be dredged. He then took the dragline out and hauled out 35 loads of muck. The next step was to place down a tarp because the muck continued further down. Finally, 35 loads of sand was dumped on top of the tarp.

Miller spread the muck over 4 acres of McGregors property and planted grass seed. The best time of year to do this, according to the contractor, is early spring or late fall and mid-week when there is less interference from boat traffic. May's Ready-Mix did an excellent job with the sand even though M-55 was blocked off. Miller said he would be back next spring to inspect and to feel free to call with any questions or problems.

Newsletter help needed

I am the new newsletter editor for the Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association. Our cottage has been in my family since 1963. Before that, we spent summers renting cottages on Gillings Road which at that time had a small resort. The newsletter is for and about you. I welcome all information. If you would like anything published or like to express your views please call, write, email or drop a note into the box at McGregor's store. Send email to DAVIDSOMME@AOL.COM

Edith Sommers

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FIRST CLASS MAIL