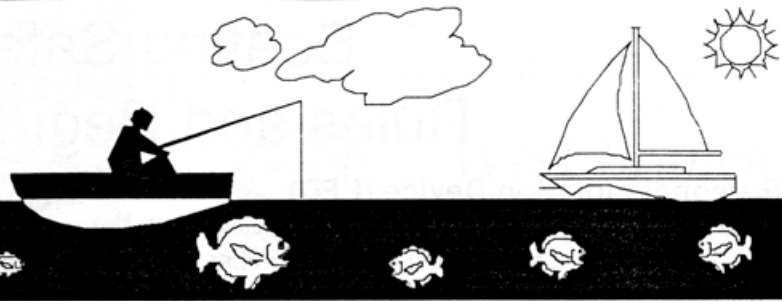


Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



President David Sommers 3664 N. River Rd. Freeland, MI 48623 H 517-781-3444	Vice President Rod McLane 663 Lomasney Lane Marysville, MI 48040 H 810-364-7084	Secretary / Treasurer Judy Sheehan 3153 S.Henderson Lake Road Prescott, MI 48756 H 517-873-4566	East Director Glenda McGregor 3040 Gillings Rd.. Prescott, MI 48756 H 517-873-4953	North Director Clay Dees 7174 Glenburnie Ln. Clarkston, MI 48346 H 810-625-5557	West Director Don Kube 3145 S.Henderson Lake Road Prescott, MI 48756 H 517-873-5094	West Director Vacant	Newsletter Editor Edith Sommers 3664 N. River Rd. Freeland, MI 48623 H 517-781-3444
--	--	---	---	--	---	--------------------------------	--

May 2000



Docks on the north end of Hardwood Lake are in various stages of preparation for summer usage.

Meeting dates

Saturday, May 27, Board member meeting Hardwood Lake Association at 9 a.m. Sommers cottage.

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association annual meeting. Saturday, July 15, 2000 at 9 a.m., Richland Township Hall in Prescott. Coffee and donuts provided.

Election of officers, Secretary and Vice-President and trustees.

Non-members are encouraged to attend and become members.

The cost is \$15 per year. Being a member helps people become informed, able to vote and make our lake enjoyable.

There is a vacancy for West Director because of Sheryl Sowa's resignation.

BOATING SAFETY

High Speed Boating 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. daily. Boaters should operate in a counterclockwise manner around the lake when high-speed boating or during congested times.

Personal Water Craft (PWC) are not allowed on Michigan waterways before 8 a.m. and must be off the lake one hour prior to sunset. This is a Michigan state law. The restriction on high speed boating between the hours of 7:30 PM and 11 AM applies to PWC.

Children under 6 must wear a life jacket when in an open area of a boat. This includes the deck area of a pontoon boat

Children under 14 may not operate a PWC. Those born in 1979 and later must have a boating safety certificate to operate a personal watercraft.

All boaters and skiers must stay at least 100 feet from all docks, swimmers, moored boats, anglers and danger areas.

To make water skiing and tubing safer boat operators must have a competent observer, who is able to communicate conditions and needs of the person being towed, on board.

Gypsy Moth Spraying

Richland Township will not be spraying for gypsy moths this year. The millage ran out. The township board decided to not ask for another millage. They felt that the areas affected were lake areas, and the whole township was being assessed without benefit.

Gypsy moth spraying and mosquito spraying issues have been brought up to the lake association. The association will discuss both issues at future meetings. Remember, non-members would benefit at the cost to association members.

Road Brining

Hardwood Heights Road and Gillings Road (at the east end of the lake) will be brined again this summer at a cost to the lake association of \$960. The cost will be the same as last summer with three applications just before the three holiday week-ends; Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. There was talk of the township paying for brining this year but the money went into road repair.

New Member

Welcome new member Bob Witoszynski - Bob bought Don and Marcy Austin's mobile unit last Fall.

Lake Study

Kip Cronk is a student at Antioch New England Graduate School and spent most of last summer on Hardwood Lake. He

met with many lake residents to get their views on lake matters and presented them at last year's association meeting. Kip would like to follow up and may be contacting some of you again this summer.

Eye Sore

Ogemaw County is taking bids to have the dilapidated house on Hardwood Hgts. torn down.

Garbage Pickup

Garbage pickup is available at Hardwood Lake by calling CES 1-800-247-2402. The cost is \$18 a month with pickup every Wednesday. A 95-gallon container is provided by CES and must be by the roadside by 6 a.m. on pickup day.

Contributed by Judy Sheehan and Sheryl Sowa.

THREATS FROM INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species encroachment is one of the biggest threats to native ecosystems that resource managers face today.

Some of the effects of invasive species:

- * Decrease in biological diversity of native ecosystems
- * Cause direct threats to agricultural crops resulting in decreased productivity
- * Poison some wildlife and livestock species
- * Reduce water quality and availability for native fish and wildlife species
- * Contribute to soil erosion
- * Decrease the quality of important habitats for native fish and wildlife

- * Clog lakes and waterways and other wetlands, weakening the ecosystem
- * Adversely affect water treatment facilities and public water supplies
- * Reduce habitats needed by threatened and endangered species
- * Decrease the quality of recreational activities in areas of heavy infestation
- * Direct and indirect competition with aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals
- * Human health risks from some invasive species

There are many organizations working to control invasive species and prevent these kinds of impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

The use of Sonar for treatment on Hardwood Lake is approved by the DNR

The treatment of weeds on Hardwood Lake began May 4th for 2000. Progressive Engineering sent a letter to Michigan DNR regarding this issue. Below is a portion of the letter to Ms. Lori Sargent, RE: Hardwood Lake Proposed Treatment dated April 4.

“Hardwood Lake was determined to be highly eutrophic and its plant community was dominated by the invasive exotic species, Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. Eurasian milfoil and, to a lesser extent, curly-leaf pondweed are canopy-forming plants that tend to shade and outcompete more desirable native flora.

As part of the improvement plan, Hardwood Lake has been treated with selective herbicides to control exotic plant growth, and mechanical harvesting has been conducted to control other nuisance plants. It should be noted that Eurasian milfoil has the propensity to propagate by fragmentation, thus mechanical harvesting is not a viable management alternative for Eurasian milfoil control. In 1999, Hardwood Lake was audited by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) upon application for a permit to treat with the selective, systemic herbicide 2,4-D. It was determined that shallow drinking water wells may exist near portions of the lake’s shoreline, and therefore the DEQ denied the use of 2,4-D, but approved diquat. Diquat is a non-selective contact herbicide. Aquatic vegetation surveys conducted after the diquat treatment indicated significant regrowth of Eurasian milfoil in late summer and minimum coverage of native aquatic plants. Thus, the use of diquat in Hardwood Lake is not ideal since it does not provide long term control of milfoil or promote diversity of native flora.

In a report entitled “Evaluation of the Use of Sonar in Michigan” prepared by the Michigan Environmental Science Board the following recommendation was made:

In particular, the Michigan Environmental Science Board recommends that the application rate of Sonar for selective control of Eurasian watermilfoil be six ppb (parts per billion) followed by the potential of retreatment boosting the concentration back to six ppb two to three weeks after the initial treatment based on results of a FasTEST for water column concentrations of the compound. Under this protocol, impact to non-target native plant species would be minimal in the year of treatment and beyond, and the amount of native vegetation habitat remaining would be adequate for fish and wildlife.

We are proposing this exact protocol on Hardwood Lake and, given the well water restrictions associated with 2,4-D and the limited efficacy of diquat, we feel the use of Sonar is an environmentally and ecologically sound management alternative.

In response to your concerns over the possible impacts to nesting osprey and/or bald eagles, a minimum distance of 400 meters is proposed to be maintained from osprey and/or bald eagle nesting areas during the proposed Sonar treatment. Dissolved oxygen decreases and bioaccumulation of toxins are less of a concern with Sonar than other approved herbicides. Fluidone (the active ingredient in Sonar) is a slow-acting carotenoid production inhibitor which generally takes four to six weeks to kill the targeted plant species, therefore the potential for dissolved oxygen decreasing due to increased biological oxygen demand (BOD) is extremely low. It does not appear that the proposed use of Sonar in Hardwood Lake would result in harm to any threatened or endangered species.

As outlined in the Three Year Lake Vegetation Management Plan For Sonar Use prepared in my office, the goals of the plant control program in Hardwood Lake include creation/protection of fish habitat, promotion of native plant diversity, fisheries habitat enhancement, and endangered species protection. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cites invasive species encroachment as one of the biggest threats to native ecosystems and lists reduced habitats needed by threatened and endangered species as one of the effects of invasive species on an ecosystem.

Paul J. Hausler, Water Resources Department, Progressive Engineering
Progressive Architecture Engineering

FROM THE EDITOR

With summer approaching it’s time to think about weekends up north. I stopped by Hardwood Lake in early March and found it very quiet and serene. The shoreline had begun to thaw with about 20 feet of open water around it. We have yet to see what the lake level will bring this summer.

Dave had an opportunity to SCUBA dive in Second Lake this past winter. He found a lot of weeds and zebra mussels in the lake. We, at Hardwood Lake, are fortunate to be beyond the weed growth stage with our lake cleanup in the fifth year and progressing smoothly. The threat of zebra mussels is great and is expected at some point to invade all of Michigan’s inland waterways. Let’s do our best at keeping props and boat bottoms clean and free of mussels when returning to Hardwood from another lake.

Weed control this year started May 4th. The use of Sonar for this summer will be more effective than methods used in the past. See the article at left.

I welcome any information you have about the lake for this newsletter. Please feel free to give me a call or email at Davidsonme@AOL.COM.

The McGregors have graciously put in a suggestion box at their store for ease of input or anonymity. Please use it!

EDITH SOMMERS

SUMMER 2000 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEST BRANCH

June 10 Arts & Crafts Fair,
Downtown West Branch

June 22-24 Smiley Days,
Downtown West Branch

July 1-4 Heritage Days, Downtown
West Branch

July 14 H.O.G. Rally, Ogemaw
County Fair Grounds, Harley-
Davidson Owners' Group annual
convergence.

August 1-September 30 Saturday
Farmers' Market, West Branch

August 12-13 Victorian Art Fair,
Irons Park

August 15-19 County Fair,
Ogemaw County Fairgrounds

SKIDWAY LAKE

July 1 Fourth of July, Skidway
Lake, Parade, fireworks, and
more.

July 4 Fireworks, Newman Park,
Skidway Lake. Tuesday at dusk.

THE TAWASES

May 27 - May 28 8th Annual
Shoreline Arts & Crafts, Tawas
City Park

June 24-25 10th Annual Summer
Arts & Crafts, East Tawas

July 4th Independence Day
Grand Parade & Fireworks

July 12-15 Summerfest 2000

July 24-29 - Iosco County Fair

August 5-6 40th Annual Tawas
Bay Waterfront Fine Art Festival
& Wine Tasting Social - Tawas City
Park

August 12-13 4th Annual Tawas
Bay Antique Market Show &
Sale - Tawas City Park

September 2-3 10th Annual Labor
Day Arts & Crafts - E. Tawas &
Tawas City

--- JUNE 10-11 MICHIGAN FREE FISHING WEEKEND ---

—
Edith Sommers
Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association
3664 N. River Road
Freeland, MI 48623

FIRST CLASS MAIL