

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



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July 2001



A still morning in early July on Hardwood Lake.

Weed control to continue for three more years

The Hardwood Lake Improvement Board voted to continue the weed control project at the lake during the public hearing on July 7. The cleanup, which is now in its sixth year will continue through at least 2004. This will be the third three year program.

Tony Groves of Progressive Engineering reviewed the lake cleanup for the approximately 40 property owners in attendance.

Groves proposed an annual budget of \$24,525, the same for the past three years. After consideration this amount will be reduced by \$5,000 annually. This reduction

is because of a projected surplus of funds which are due in part to the success of last years treatment.

Groves gave an overview of the lake cleanup which was started in 1994 under state law following a lake study. Groves said it was a plant control project.

The main focus of the cleanup is Eurasian milfoil and algae. It is under control using herbicides and harvesting. Last year a chemical with the brand name of Sonar was used. The actual chemical is Fluridone. It was an entire lake treatment. Progressive has been working with the state for several

years using Sonar. The lake was treated at the rate of 6 parts per billion (PPB). This chemical selectively removes the milfoil and leaves other weeds. Groves said that all the plant life shouldn't be removed, just the nuisance weeds. The lake is responding very well. Two surveys have been done this year and one algae treatment. There is less than three acres of curly leaf pond weed that has needed treatment along with the algae. Money is being saved by not having to do the large acreage treatments this year.

See CLEANUP on Page 2



Over 40 property owners attended a public hearing on the continuation of the lake cleanup. The hearing followed the Associations annual meeting at the Richland Township Hall. The lake project will continue at least through 2004.

CLEANUP from Page 1

Groves explained the special assessment district in that front lots pay a full share while back lots pay a half share.

Groves presented a proposed budget for plant control for the years 2002 - 2004.

Aquatic plant control	\$19,525
Admin./ Inspections	\$ 5,000
Total	\$24,525

Surplus carryover	(\$5,000)
Annual assessment	\$19,525

This is a \$5,000 reduction over the the past three years. The administrative budget has increased due to more state reports, lake monitoring, lake surveys, state protocol and more

required oversight by Progressive.

Following Groves presentation the meeting was opened to questions. Those of most general interest are presented below

Q. Can the surplus be used for more algae treatments?

A. Groves — It can, but we have already budgeted for it. The lake has a lot of nutrients.

You can only treat algae so many times. The treatment only works for a few days. In the hot, muggy weather it will return quicker.

Q. You have been exceeding the limits on the amount of herbicides used. I'm worried.

A. Groves — We are not exceeding the limit. Last year we treated with Sonar at 6 PPB. All we have done this year, as of July

7, is a 15 acre algae treatment. We are using less chemicals than last year.

Q. What about the algae treatment and the chemicals settling to the bottom and getting into the fish?

A. Groves — The copper in the copper sulfate we use for algae is not toxic in the sediment. We only treat the algae when it's bad and have been able to treat less.

Q. I am worried about the toxic chemicals.

A. Groves — The Sonar killed the milfoil. Because of the nutrients in the lake the algae grew more. We have had only one algae treatment for the lake at this time of the year which is very unusual.


Q. What about grass clippings in the lake, I see neighbors trimming and the clippings going into the lake.

A. Groves — Grass clippings and leaves are bad for the lake. Anything you do on your property gets into the lake.

Q. On lake levels. I was told a beaver dam was removed. The lake has dropped. It was high earlier. What can the drain commissioner do on keeping the tubes open or closed and the drain from the lake?

A. Dematio — As the drain commissioner I can take care of it but there must be established a legal lake level. You must submit a petition to the county by two-thirds of the residents. The county hires a consultant to determine the level the lake should be at. The circuit court would hold a public hearing and then could establish a lake level. If this is all done the drain commissioner could do whatever

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was needed to keep the lake at the established level. This could include damming or pumping water into the lake. This costs money. A special assessment district would need to be established, much like the lake cleanup district. This is for lake front owners. It is a very costly and controversial item. On one lake where beavers damed a culvert the costs were in the \$47,000 range.

Q. On the harvester. One comes in close and one stays out farther. Which one will be used?

A. Groves — Usually the harvester runs parallel to shore, out from the docks. They usually don't go between the docks because the wind can blow them into the docks. It sound like we need the smaller one.

Q. What is brine?

A. Parent (Logan Township Trustee who takes care of the brining for Logan Township) — A chloride or salt. We use a low grade brine. We used to use a heavy solution. It is a much lower solution to cut down on runoff into the water. Some roads are privately brined and they go 500 feet beyond the property. We no longer give free bags of chloride.

Q. What is the oxygen content of the lake?

A. Sommers — We had a college student take some samples a couple years ago. He reported there was no oxygen in the water below 10 feet.

Groves — Once a lake loses its oxygen it usually won't regenerate. This is the type of lake we have.

Q. The milfoil will come back?

A. Groves — Yes. It will come back on boats and by birds. Sonar will probably be used in about three years. We will wait until the milfoil gets bad again.

Q. Are the lilies protected?

A. Groves — Lilies are good. They are tough to control. If there are a lot the harvester can cut a path through them.

Q. Is anyone unhappy with the cleanup?

There was no show of hands.

Comments were made that this will never be a perfect lake. We will always have green stuff and lily pads. If we don't continue the cleanup the lake will revert to what it was before treatment with weeds so thick it was hardly swimmable or boatable. This is the reality - the lake must be main-

tained.

During the month of August all property owners will receive a letter advising them of their tax liability for the next three years.

The Hardwood Lake Board will meet at the Richland Township Hall in Prescott, Michigan at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 1, 2001 for the purpose of reviewing the special assessment roll and for hearing any objections.

Lake Association Update

At the annual Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association meeting Judy Sheehan reported the association has \$4,759.17 on account.

Expenses this past year include brining the dirt roads. Cost for brining will be \$750.00 for three applications. Logan and Richland townships are drafting a petition to get a special assessment formed for brining through the tax rolls for next year. Logan Township is no longer giving out free calcium chloride.

The DNR put in a dock and new outhouse the boat launch. They also planted pike fingerlings.

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Election of officers

President

Dave Sommers reelected

Directors

Gilbert Ezzo - reelected

Clayton Dees - reelected

Carl Peevey - elected

Tom Kowalski - elected

WELCOME TO NEW OWNERS

Dan & Pat Brady 3179 S.

Henderson

Dick & Pat Fisher 3237 Hardwood

Carl & Karen Peevey 3145

Henderson

Jim Wilson 3063 Hardwood Hgts.

Randy & Deb Yocom 3113 Ozelma

Deaths: Max McLaughlin and

Robert Witoszynski both on

Hardwood Heights

Properties for Sale

Falbe 3135 Henderson Lake Rd.

Kibbe-Virgin 3330 Hardwood Hgt.

Witoszynski 3296 Hardwood Hgt.

Pennington 3342 Hardwood Hgt.

GET TOGETHER PLANNED FOR AUGUST 18TH

Gil Ezzo has offered to have a pot-luck and campfire on his property on the lake Saturday, August 18th at 6:30 p.m. Gil's place is on the east end. It's the second property from the right looking at the shoreline from the lake. You may come by boat or take Gillings Road. Please bring a dish to pass and your beverage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

.August 4 - September 29. FARMERS MARKET every Saturday. West Branch, fresh produce, cut flowers, home grown herbs.

August 4-5 RODS & RELICS CAR SHOW, Ogemaw Fairgrounds. Hot rods, stock cars and funny cars of yesteryear.

AUGUST 4-5 40th ANNUAL TAWAS BAY WATERFRONT FINE ART FESTIVAL & WINE TASTING SOCIAL - Tawas

August 5 - JAMBOREE, Ogemaw Nature Park. Tours, live animals and family fun.

August 11-12 - VICTORIAN ART FAIR, Irons Park, West Branch. Spend an old fashioned day at the park, 275 vendors, kids' games, entertainment and food.

August 11-12 5th ANNUAL TAWAS BAY ANTIQUE MARKET SHOW & SALE - Tawas

August 14-18 COUNTY FAIR, Ogemaw Fairgrounds. Traditional county fair in a woodsy setting.

September 1-2 11th ANNUAL LABOR DAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW - Tawas

September 22 5th ANNUAL SILVER VALLEY TRAIL RUN - Tawas

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

Edith M. Sommers

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FIRST CLASS MAIL