

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



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May 2001



New and improved. Chuck and Marie Perry, Hardwood Heights, started construction last fall (left) and are making progress on their new house (right) as it looked at the end of April. They moved their mobile unit toward the road and are constructing a year-round home in its place.

Hardwood Lake cleanup continues

The Hardwood Lake Board met on October 14, 2000 at the Richland Township Hall in Prescott.

Present were Brian Bellville, Richland Township Trustee; David Sommers, Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association, Rose Walsh, County Commissioner and Paul Hausler of Progressive Engineering.

There were 10 members of the public present.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to update the lake residents on the lake cleanup project for the past year and look

ahead to next year. Hausler explained that we used the chemical Sonar last year (2000) It has been in use for about 10 years throughout the country. It's very effective against Eurasian milfoil. Sonar is an aqueous solution. It dilutes through the lake. The previous chemical 2-4D can be spotty. It is a granular chemical and can miss spots. It is systemic, in that it is taken up by the plant and kills it. If you get too much 2-4D on the plant it kills the vegetation before the roots are killed.

The DEQ scrutinizes the use of

Sonar. At high doses Sonar can kill native plants. The Fish and Wildlife Service was concerned about the eagle and osprey.

To use Sonar, a three year vegetative management plan was established.

The first year (2000) consisted of the chemical Sonar and algae control. Harvesting was not needed. Sonar got a majority of the milfoil.

The second year (2001) Progressive will check the lake. Some milfoil could reappear. Since (continued on page 2)

there is a public boat launch milfoil may come in that way. If any is found it should be a small area, 2-4 acres.

With 2-4D you have to be careful as it can move into ground water and shallow wells. 2-4D was used in 1998. The DEQ audited our permit in 1999. Diquat was used in 1999. It is a contact poison and lasts for 4-6 weeks. That is one of the reasons for the poor weed control in 1999.

This summer, 2001, we will use a systemic weed killer. Sonar would not be cost effective. It's possible that spot treatment will be done with the chemical Renovate. It is a liquid and easier to treat with and has a more rapid plant take up. Also in 2001 there will likely be a harvest. Hausler expects to see curly leaf pond weed as a problem. This weed develops a hard seed pod that can germinate up to 6 or more years later. The herbicide doesn't touch the seed pods. It is an easy weed to harvest since it is a canopy type weed and floats on the surface.

We could use Sonar again in 2 years. (2003). Treatment for 2002 will be about the same as 2001.

Following the presentation some questions were asked.

Question: What was the well distance?

Hausler - 2-4D can't be used closer than 250 feet from a well. There are some patchy areas in the lake that are far enough away. The problem is we need to document where the wells are. Most people don't know their well depth. Sonar is very good. The state has a lot of data on Sonar use. A panel

of PhD scientists have looked at the science on Sonar. It is very effective at low doses in the split 6 treatment. Split 6 is a treatment in spring of 6 parts per billion (PPB). 6-8 weeks later the concentrate is brought back up to 6 PPB.

Hausler took the 5 required lake samples for analysis. They were to determine if the proper amount of Sonar was added to the lake to bring it to the proper levels of 6 PPB.

Question: Can we only use Sonar the first year of the three year plan?

Hausler - Yes.

Question: Are you satisfied with the results?

Hausler - Very. I have found no healthy milfoil in my August survey of the lake. Likely to find curly leaf pond weed next year.

Question: If the lake was at 6 PPB in August what will it be at in the spring?

Hausler - Our second treatment of the lake added 2 PPB. The Sonar should be gone by spring 2001. If we can hold the lake concentration at 2 to 4 PPB for 60 days it will kill the milfoil.

Question: Bellville - It looks like there were several FastTEST samplings. What were they for?

Hausler - The first test was a baseline. Second test was how much was put in. Third test was to see how much to add, etc.

Bellville - Should the cost be down next year?

Hausler - Considerably. Most money in 2001 will be for harvesting. We were over budget this year by about \$800, but we did have a surplus.

Bellville - We spent about

\$21,000 in 2000. We have almost enough left over for next year.

Question - Will taxes go down next year?

Sommers - No. If there is a projected surplus at the end of 2001, which is the end of our second three year period, then we should be able to lower taxes during the third three year period.

Sommers - What about the filament algae?

Hausler - Sonar acts slowly. As the plant dies it releases nutrients. The algae attaches to the plants. This algae is harder to get to. We will look at another chemical for that algae.

Zebra mussels can be bad. If they get into the lake they can cause other algae problems. They would be a very bad thing to get into the lake.

Walsh - Is everyone happy with the results?

Public - Very happy. The fishing is better.

Question - The lake seems murky.

Hausler - This seems to happen with Sonar and also with windy conditions stirring up the nutrients.

Question - Will the milfoil come back next year?

Hausler - It could happen. We need to plan ahead. Most likely it will not. We will evaluate the lake by mid-May 2001.

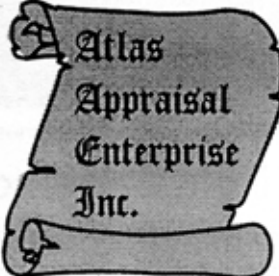
Bellville - Do you like this public information update?

Public - Very worthwhile. The lake looks very good. Thanks to the board.

Question - Have you seen Zebra Mussels?

Hausler - In some nearby
(continued on page 3)


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lakes. It is just a matter of time before we see them here. It could be three years or thirty years.

Question - How would you notice them?

Hausler - On docks, rocks, plants. They start out looking like very small clams. They then grow bigger, to thumb nail size.

Walsh commented that she was happy to hear everyone was happy. She had heard no complaints this year. She had some last year.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Sommers - In the summer of 2001 we will have a public hearing to determine if we continue the project for another three years (2002 -2004). The Lake Association has tentatively scheduled its annual meeting for Saturday, July 7, 2001 at 9 am. It would make sense to have all of our meetings on one day.

Everyone agreed.

The plan calls for the Lake Association meeting to be held Saturday, July 7, 2001 at 9 am. The feasibility hearing would be held Saturday, July 7, 2001 at 10 am with the tax hearing to be held immediately following.

NOTE: Following the meeting a couple of issues came up. While these are not under the authority of the Lake Board they are of general interest to the property owners and included here.

LAKE WATER LEVEL


Sommers talked about the lake level height. It is up about a foot over normal. The past two years it has been down a foot or two. He had talked to Drain Commissioner DeMatio. DeMatio said the lake residents could go through the process to establish a legal lake level. If that was done the Drain Commissioner would be responsible for keeping the lake level at the prescribed level. The property owners would be charged for this. It could be very expensive. The drain tubes are the responsibility of the road commission. They are not plugged. We had a lot of rain during the summer (2000). The lake drains about 4,000 acres. It just takes time for all the water to drain through the wetland at the west end of the lake. Rod McLane said he went through the swampy area to the west and saw no beaver dams or apparent blockage.

GYPSY MOTHS

Last fall Edith Sommers talked to Dan Jenson of the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service in West Branch regarding Gypsy Moths. He had been out to survey the area and saw no real evidence of the moths. It would be a waste of time and money to spray them. There are more natural predators now than there were in the past. Bellville said there was about \$771 in the Richland Township account for Gypsy Moth control. It can only be spent for moth control and inspection is part of the moth control. They are not spraying at this time. They have been paying about \$300 a year to have the checks done. Walsh said they are focusing on areas where there are a lot of trees. Bellville said the county and township are keeping an eye on the situation. Walsh said there is not much spraying going on. The new threat out there is Oak wilt. Everyone should keep watching for them and report to the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension in West Branch. Phone 989-345-0692.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 9 ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR, Downtown West Branch.

June 16-17 11th ANNUAL SUMMER ARTS & CRAFTS - Tawas

June 22-23 SMILEY DAYS, Downtown West Branch

June 30 FOURTH OF JULY, Skidway Lake. Parade, fireworks and more!

July 4-7 HERITAGE DAYS, Downtown West Branch. Lots of family fun, art show, parade, 2 mile fun run, duck race, tea party, Heritage Art Show, beverage tent, entertainment, fireworks celebration and more!

July 3 FIREWORKS, Newman Park, Skidway Lake Tuesday at dusk.

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY GRAND PARADE & FIREWORKS - Tawas

July 14 3 on 3 BASKETBALL CHALLENGE, Skidway Lake. Sat. at 9 a.m., Newman Park.

July 18-22 SUMMERFEST 2001 - Tawas

July 20 KIDS' BIKE & PET PARADE - Tawas

July 20 SHOW OFF YOUR IRON, Downtown West Branch, Harley-Davidson bikes on display.

July 20-22 H.O.G. Rally, Ogemaw County Fair Grounds, Harley Owners' Group annual convergence.

July 20-22 PIONEER POWER CLUB ANTIQUE TRACTOR & FLEA MARKET, West Branch. Demos and rides, antique tractors, steam engines, threshing,

flea market and more.

July 21 - STREET DANCE & CLASSIC CAR CRUISE - Tawas

July 22 - CLASSIC CAR SHOW - Tawas

July 28-29 RELAY FOR LIFE, West Branch Little League Fields, 24 hour walk for cancer.

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

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

Edith M. Sommers

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**LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING
SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2001
DETAILS INSIDE**

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