

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



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Fall 2010



The annual Lake Association picnic was a great success. Clay and Margo Dees hosted the event July 31. Clay tends the grill, at left. After dinner everyone had a chance to sit and talk.

New board members and lake meeting news

Clay Dees was elected vice president of the Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association at the annual meeting held July 3. He had served as a Director and replaced Rod McLane who wished to step down. Rod cited a busy family life with three children involved

in sports and school activities.

Judy Sheehan was reelected as secretary – treasurer.

With Clay stepping up to vice president and the resignation of Director Dan Brady there were two vacant director positions.

See LAKE NEWS page 2

www.hardwoodlake.org

Check out the BLOG. Go to the CONTACTS page and click on the Blog link.

Sean Kramer and Marj Hanes were appointed to fill the vacant positions. Seans cottage is on the north shore while Marj is on the east end. Marj's father, Robert, was a past board.



Kramer

Raffel winners

Annually there is a raffle for members that attend the meeting. Association members Bob and Glin-da McGregor, owners of McGregor's Country Store donated door prizes. Winners are:

- Clay Dees 12 piece bucket of chicken
- Steve King 12 piece bucket of chicken
- Janet McLaughlin 16" pizza
- Ron Boger 16" pizza
- Randy Nasuti 2 luncheon specials
- Sommers family received the one year free membership to the association.



Hanes

Fish planting

Several questions came up regarding fish in the lake.

Fish planting was the first question. Kathrin Schrouder, a fisheries biologist with DNRE out of Bay City said the state offers no assistance in planting fish. They plant fish as needed, usually walleye or trout, as needed with no warm water planting, which Hardwood Lake is.

She continued that the fish will reproduce anyway and there is a danger of bringing in fish as they can have diseases that can spread to the native fish. She said it would be a waste of our money and does not encourage it.

At the last fish survey in 2004 the fish population of Bluegill and Crappie looked good. The full report is linked on the LAKE FACTS page on the web site.

Hardwood Lake used to have many small

fish. That would hide in the milfoil. Once the lake was treated for milfoil the small fish lost a lot of their weed cover and possibly became food for larger fish.

Fish shelters

A question came up at the meeting regarding fish shelters.

Kathrin said "Regarding Habitat structures sometimes have been added to lakes, but they attract fish and do not necessarily help the fish population and sometimes even make them more vulnerable to anglers."

The structures need to be of non-polluting material. They have some plans. They also need to be placed with at least 6 ft. of water over the top of them. A permit from the Land and Water Management Division is needed for these.

If anyone is interested in undertaking a project like this please contact a Board Member, who are listed on Page 1.

Blighted properties

During the annual meeting several Lake Association members complained about a few blighted and unkempt properties around the lake. The Lake Association sent a letter to both Logan and Richland townships requesting assistance in dealing with the properties.

Logan Township Supervisor Kathy David responded and said:

"Our township does not have a blight ordinance in place. The county does have a blight ordinance in effect but I was told it would not cover these problems. So sorry there is nothing we could do to help you."

We will contact our county commissioner.

DNR Boat launch

A question that has arisen several times about the Lake Association acquiring the boat launch and possibly making the lake closed to the public.

Carl Lindell from the DNRE in Bay City where he is the Parks Manager and handles boat launches in the area including Hardwood Lake said he was not aware of any private group or association taking over a DNRE boat

launch. About the only reason it would happen would be a maintenance issue where the State wasn't maintaining the launch, which is not our situation. He said for a private group to take over and close the ramp so the lake became a non-public lake was not permissible under state law.

Lake weed control

Vice President Clay Dees accompanied Pam Tying of Progressive Engineering when she made a survey of lake weeds on July 8. Pam reported finding no Eurasian Milfoil, which is the primary non-native weed we are controlling. This is very good. In 2008 the entire lake was chemically treated for milfoil.

There has been no need to treat for milfoil in 2009 or 2010.

There was an algae treatment June 17, June 29 and just before Labor Day. In mid July Savin Lake Services of Hale conducted weed harvesting to remove weed biomass.



The Savin Lake Services weed harvester heads across the lake.

Populated areas were harvested. Pam reported very little weed issues along the North shore.

A question arose at the meeting about algae treatments and the chemicals used. Pam clarified the chemical treatment.

Chelated copper products are used. It's usually Cutrine which is common product. All copper products are roughly the same cost. Copper sulfate works best in controlling planktonic algae. It works quickly but it's not long-lasting.

If conditions are right, the algae can regrow within a few days. Theoretically chelated copper like Cutrine will last longer but in reality, there's not a big difference. Some lakes and

ponds with severe algae problems treat with copper weekly. The problem is copper can build up in sediments and become toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Because of that, Pam recommends only treating with copper when necessary.



Members of the Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association held their annual meeting at the Logan Township Hall.

Lake wide garage sale

A proposal to coordinate a weekend lake wide garage sale was brought up. Would you be interested? The advantage is it could create a lot of traffic for anyone holding a sale. What are your thoughts? Please see the survey to help decide.

Mosquito control

An issue brought up at the annual meeting was mosquito control.

President Dave Sommers said he would look into it. Dave lives in Saginaw County where there is a county wide mosquito abatement commission.

He talked with Randy Knepper, Director of the Saginaw County Mosquito Abatement Commission who he has known for over 25 years. There are four mosquito control organizations in the state that he was aware of: Bay, Midland, Saginaw and Tuscola counties.

The primary control method during the summer is fogging. A truck drives down a road after dusk and sprays a chemical fog to kill the flying mosquitoes, typically malathion. Knepper said this is only effective for 3-5 days before new mosquitoes move into the area.

In the early spring there is usually a hatch of mosquitoes. They hatch in puddles left from the snowmelt and are usually very aggressive with a stinging bite. These are controlled by larviciding in the spring. A natural bacteria, bti, is applied to corn cob which is then spread in the pools and kills the larvae.

Knepper mentioned the website www.mimosq.org which has a lot of information.

Dave also talked with Chuck Mullins, general manager of Advanced Pest Management of Fenton. They were recommended and work in the Hardwood Lake area. He said basically the same thing as Knepper.

We have about 2 miles of road to be treated.

Mullins said a single fogging application would be about \$450. Larviciding is about \$40 an acre. These are rough estimates and would be dependent on inspection of the lake area.

Mullins said they can set up almost any type of program. From a full-blown program, including mosquito traps to determine numbers to a single fogging.

To get two foggings, probably around Memorial Day

and July 4th, would be around \$900. Each fogging would be good for only a few days.

There are about 60 lake association members who pay dues of \$15 each for a total income of \$900. There are about 40 properties on the lake that do not belong to the association.



The Lake Association Board is concerned that two foggings would take an entire years income. The other concern is that 40% of the property owners would receive the benefit without paying for it.

We could give mosquito control a try next year with two sprayings around Memorial Day and July 4th and see how it works. If there is a positive feedback a special tax assessment could be considered to continue mosquito control.

Based on the cost, we are asking you opinion. Would you like to see a mosquito control program and would you be willing to have the costs paid through a special assessment on your property taxes?

Please fill out the enclosed survey and let us know your thoughts.

The Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association is for and about you. Some members reside full time on the lake while most come from various cities and counties in the state. A few live outside of Michigan. The newsletter keeps this diverse group updated on events around the lake.

If you have news you would like to share with your neighbors please send it to newsletter editor Edith Sommers. She can be reached at edithsommers@charter.net, 989-751-3819 or by mail at 3664 N. River Rd., Freeland, MI 48623. You may also send information to news@hardwoodlake.org.

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The website (www.hardwoodlake.org) was established to make lake information available to everyone.

It features general information on the lake and campground along with background information on the weed control program.

For information on hours for high speed boating, waterskiing and other requirements check the boating laws page.

As a benefit for members, it offers a "BUY or SELL" page. If you are having a garage sale, want to buy or sell a boat or cottage, it will be listed FREE on the web.

Send an email to webmaster@hardwoodlake.org.

We also have a "COTTAGE RENTAL" page. To rent out your cottage, postings are FREE. If you have a small flier describing the rental, send that along. Contact webmaster@hardwoodlake.org for questions.

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minute activities.

www.westbranch.com

www.tawas.com

www.ogemawherald.com

The sites are linked on
www.hardwoodlake.org

Little Andrew Sheehan, 3 1/2
months didn't have many hotdogs
at the annual family picnic but is
enjoying the bottle dad Dale Shee-
han is feeding him. Andrew is the
grandson of Ken and Judy Shee-
han

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

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Members Survey Fall 2010

Your input is important regarding several issues on Hardwood Lake which are **explained in detail in the Fall 2010 newsletter**. Please fill out the form and mail or email to the address below. For your convenience this form is also available on the Newsletter page on the website. Feel free to add a comments or suggestions to help the Hardwood Lake community. Contact Secretary / Treasurer Judy Sheehan for membership information. Her contact information is on the newsletter masthead and on the web.

Are you a member of the
Hardwood Lake Property
Owners Association?

YES

NO

Would you be willing to help
with a fish habitat?

YES

NO

Please include
contact information

Name

Address

City, State zip

email

Would you like to see a mos-
quito control project?

YES

NO

Would you be willing to have
the cost of mosquito control
added to your property taxes
through a special assess-
ment?

YES

NO

*This is a survey to get your input. It
is not a commitment to put in a spe-
cial assessment.*

Return survey to:
David Sommers
3664 N. River Rd.
Freeland, MI 48623
or email to
davidsommers@charter.net

Would you like to see a lake
wide garage sale weekend?

YES

NO

Which day ?

Memorial Day

July 4

Labor Day

Other

Date you would like

Would you attend?

YES

NO

Would you participate?

YES

NO

Please return survey by November 15, 2010