

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



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Spring 2012



On May 24th technicians from Aquatic Services treated 2.74 acres of Hardwood Lake for milfoil and 7.5 acres for curly-leaf pond weed, both invasive species and an additional 3.5 acres of mixed weeds. Populated areas were also treated for nuisance planktonic algae. Maps of the treatment areas can be seen on the web site at <http://www.hardwoodlake.org/weedupdates.html>

The newsletter is in color on the web site.

www.hardwoodlake.org

For updated information click on *late breaking news* link on the **HOME** page

Public hearing & meeting

The lake weed control program is on a four year cycle with 2012 concluding the current cycle. The Hardwood Lake Improvement Board will hold a Public Hearing at 9 am July 7 to discuss the feasibility of continuing the project. A representative from Progressive Engineering will be there to discuss the project and answer questions.

Immediately following this hearing there will be a tax district hearing.

The annual Lake Association hearing will follow the two public hearings. Among the items on the agenda are elections for vice-president and secretary / treasurer.

The meetings will be held at the Logan Township Hall which is located at 4507 E. M-55 at Clark Road.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Lake Association.

Judy retires

Longtime Lake Association Secretary / Treasurer Judy Sheehan has announced she will not seek reelection at the July meeting. During her time on the board she also served several terms as an elected Richland Township Trustee.

Judy has moved from the area. Her home on the west end of the lake is for sale.

Margo Dees has agreed to fill the position and the board has appointed her to interim Secretary / Treasurer.

We all wish Judy the best of luck in the next chapter of her life.

Potluck / barbecue July 28

The 2012 Lake Association family potluck/barbecue is Saturday, July 28, 2012 at 6 p.m. The Ohlogge's will host the event at 3106



20 people and your own lawn chair if possible.

Gillings Road.

The association will provide meat & soft drinks. Please bring a dish to pass that will serve 20 people and your own lawn chair if possible.

If coming by boat, it's the big yellow house on the east end of the lake. There will be three docks available.

For sale

The following properties are for sale.

- 3116 Gillings Rd.
- 3047 Henderson Lake Rd.
- 3141 Hardwood Heights
- 3175 Hardwood Heights
- 3241 Hardwood Heights
- 3330 Hardwood Heights

Law change

You must now be 16 years old to operate a personal watercraft by yourself.

More information is on the website.

McGregor's Country Store & Pizzeria

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Ed Swanson

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Homes of Hardwood

Have you ever gone for a walk or boat ride and wondered who owns a particular cabin or home on Hardwood Lake? At the 2011 annual meeting it was suggested a directory of residents and homes be created. This has been done and is linked through the CONTACTS page on the website, www.hardwoodlake.org.

If there are updates please contact President Dave Sommers.



Michigan's phosphorus fertilizer ban

by Tony Groves, Pam Tynning and Paul Hausler

Progressive AE

Copyright Michigan Lake Info

Phosphorus is the nutrient that most often stimulates excessive growth of aquatic plants, leading to a variety of problems known collectively as eutrophication. Elevated phosphorus levels are causing premature aging of many Michigan lakes.

In an attempt to address this problem, Michigan passed legislation several years ago that limited the phosphorus content of laundry detergents and more recently extended the ban to dishwasher detergents. However, phosphorus in fertilizers remained a problem. Phosphorus is a key ingredient in many commercial lawn fertilizers and is commonly applied at rates well in excess of what is needed to maintain a healthy lawn. Excess phosphorus can run off into lakes and streams where a single pound of phosphorus can generate hundreds of pounds of aquatic vegetation.

With the passage of a new state law (PA 299 of 2010), Michigan has joined a number of other Great Lakes states in banning phosphorus in lawn fertilizers. The new law, which took effect on January 1, 2012, prohibits the application of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus unless a new lawn is being established (and phosphorus is needed to promote root growth) or if a soil test indicates a soil phosphorus deficiency. The new law also regulates the application of lawn fertilizer near surface waters and prohibits lawn fertilizer applications on frozen ground or ground saturated with water.

Under the new law, fertilizer containing phosphorus can be applied on golf courses operated by staff members that have been certified by the Department of Agriculture as having completed training on best management practices for the proper use of phosphorus fertilizers. Agricultural fertilizer applications are exempt from regulation under the new law. Communities with existing phosphorus fertilizer regulations in effect prior to the enactment of the state mandate will be allowed to maintain their local regulations if they so choose. The state may impose civil or administrative fines on violators of the new law.

Water Quality Benefits

It is anticipated Michigan's fertilizer law will result in significant water quality benefits. While it will likely take many years to document water quality improvements in Michigan's lakes and streams, a recent study conducted on the Huron River found that total phosphorus levels in the river dropped about 28% following a phosphorus fertilizer ban enacted by the City of Ann Arbor. In this report, it was noted that the phosphorus fertilizer ban was accompanied by a number of additional initiatives (such as programs to promote shoreline vegetative buffers) and it was not possible to single out the phosphorus fertilizer ban as the sole reason for the measured decline in river phosphorus levels. However, these initial results are encouraging.

One of the challenges in evaluating the impact of the new phosphorus law on water quality will be to design sampling protocols and programs that can differentiate between natural variability and actual trends in water quality. While additional studies over several years will be required to document the impact of Michigan's phosphorus fertilizer law, the law is certainly a positive step toward protecting water quality.

For a complete look at the Michigan Fertilizer Law, please visit www.michigan.gov/mda-fertilizer.

• **Its the law** •
**High speed
boating hours
11 am - 7:30 pm**

Local laws adopted by the State of Michigan allow high speed boating on Hardwood Lake between the hours of 11:00 am and 7:30 pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

High speed boating is defined as the boat being on plane.

Looking for something
to do?

Check out the local area websites for up-to-the-minute activities.

www.westbranch.com
www.tawas.com
www.ogemawherald.com
www.visitwestbranch.com

The sites are linked on
www.hardwoodlake.org



Slow down on
the roads.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL