

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



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Fall 2013

Lake weed control continues

The Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association meeting was held Saturday, July 6 at the Logan Township Hall. Present were 13 members, including five board members.

Secretary/treasurer Margo Dees reported 37 paid members as of the meeting.

President Dave Sommers gave a progress report on the weed control project now in its 14th year. The project manager, Progressive Engineering conducted a weed survey and recom-

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Weed harvesting was done during the week of July 15. 16.25 acres were harvested by West Michigan Aquatic Weed Removal under the direction of Progressive Engineering. For a map of harvested areas go to the web site and click on <[Late Breaking News](#)>

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

Lake news

mended herbicide treatment areas, which was done June 17. A map and description of the treatment is on the website. Weed harvesting was scheduled for mid-July. Overall the weed issue was in good shape. See page 4 for additional information.

The goal of the weed control project is to contain the invasive species. Property owners still need to maintain their own property.

The primary invasive weed, Eurasian milfoil, seems to be in check requiring only spot treatment the last five years. Usually whole lake treatment is scheduled every four years. It was last done in 2004 and 2008. Since then spot treatments have been required at a considerable cost savings which is a good sign. Progressive will continue to monitor the weeds.

Goose control issue

Following concerns in 2012 of an increasing Canada Goose population on the lake, a goose control program was looked into. The geese tend to congregate on lawns where they defecate, creating a large and unhealthy mess.

The bottom line - it was not successful in 2013.

The necessary federal, state and local permits were obtained. The joint federal/state (USDA) permit was \$200. As part of a control program, one of the first things we had to do was a "capture and relocation" program. A goose capture company, Goose Busters, was contacted. They said they could handle our

program. They have a federal permit to transport captured geese.

Art and Kay Fernandez were the local contacts as they reported numerous geese on their yard. Geese were to be captured and relocated to another location. The only instructions provided was not to chase or harass the geese a few days before a scheduled capture.

On the scheduled day of the capture, Goose Busters arrived at a time without prior notice, even though they had promised several times to give us some advanced notice of their arrival time. The crew's basic reac-



tion was "Where are the geese? We don't see them and are leaving." A couple geese flocks were pointed out. Goose Busters advised they had not brought a boat. They were expecting to find a captured flock on shore to take away.

After some contact Goose Busters agreed to come back for another attempt. Via email they advised they would arrive on a Friday, called Art and Kay, then failed to show up. Later they called Art and Kay to advise they would arrive at 6 am on July 1. About 6:45 am Art called and was told they were at another lake and would arrive sometime that day. They actually arrived at noon. Carl Peevey made his pontoon boat available (he had been ready

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Goose control

at 6 am) but was unable to locate any geese on the lake. The best advice for property owners regarding good control was obtained from the DNR which is to stake your yard and run a fine line (like fishing line) between the stakes, forming a small fence to keep the geese off the yard. Several lake residents have reported this has worked for them.

The Lake Association will look at a goose control program again next year.

Hitz passes

Long time lake resident Charles E. Hitz passed away June 3, 2013 at Huron Woods Nursing Home at the age of 85 years. The Navy veteran served during W.W. II He enjoyed spending time at his cabin on Hardwood Lake, gardening, woodworking, deer hunting and pheasant hunting.

Funeral and Committal services took place June 8, 2013.

Dust Control

There was a question at the annual meeting regarding dust control on Hardwood Heights and Gillings Road. According to the Ogemaw County Road Commission, roads are brined for dust control twice a year. It is paid for by a special assessment on everyone's property tax bill. Generally, in the spring roads are graded, then dust control applied. This is usually done around mid-May. A dust control application is normally scheduled before July 4. A third application can be done but must be paid for by the property owners.

Richland Township Trustee and Lake Board Chair, Bill Cliff said the second application was late this year because the township was undertaking a road improvement and regravelling program. They didn't feel it was good use of funds to apply dust control then come by in a few weeks and top coat with gravel and hinder the dust control.

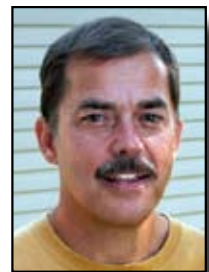
Hardwood Heights is the border between Richland and Logan Townships. Logan is on the north side of the road. Richland Township is working with Logan Township on the gravelling and road improvement program.

Trash disposal

A question came up asking if there was a place to take large items, such as a sofa, for trash disposal. Richland Township Trustee Bill Cliff was not aware of disposing any place in the area. There use to be a transfer station for large items in the Township several years ago but has closed. He recommended contacting the local trash services to see what their policy was on large item pickup during the weekly trash collection or a fee for one-time pickup.

Election of officers

The office of president and directors were open for two-year terms. Dave Sommers was re-elected as President. Sean Kramer, Marj Hanes and Sue Young were re-elected as directors. Kevin Ohlrogee, right, was elected replacing long time director Randy Nasuti, who has his cabin up for sale. We wish Randy the best.



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? A directory of residents and homes be created and is linked through the CONTACTS page on the website, www.hardwoodlake.org.

As you can imagine, it is difficult to keep up with changes. If you know of any please contact President Dave Sommers.



Weed control update

Yes, the lake association is aware of the abundance of weeds growing in shallow areas of the lake in the early fall and is in the process of addressing the problem.

The weed control project is funded through property taxes



Wild Celery is a native plant that is making a comeback.

and is overseen by the Hardwood Lake Board. The Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association has a seat on the Lake Board.

Progressive Engineering is the firm hired to oversee the weed control issue on the lake. They schedule a contractor to treat the lake or mechanically harvest weeds as needed.

Spring was late this year. Progressive made their lake weed inspection June 4. Based on that survey, a lake treatment was conducted on June 17. The treatment map is posted at http://www.hardwoodlake.org/Resources/Hardwood%20Lake%20Treatment%20Map%202013_06_04.pdf

In mid-July mechanical weed harvesting was conducted with Progressive inspecting

the work July 18. They had the harvester go back over several spots. They then ordered a treatment for July 24 of another invasive species,

Stonewort.

Maps of the treatment areas are posted online along with a lot of information on the weed control program. <http://hardwoodlake.org/weedcontrol.htm> The lake will never be a clear, pristine lake.

Because of the huge success in treating invasive weeds, natural weeds are now starting to grow back. The lake is full of nutrients from runoff into the lake. The lake drains about 4,000 acres of land, primarily to the northeast, which includes cattle farming. Lake residents who fertilize their yards also contribute large amounts of nutrients into the lake causing weed growth. Something is going to grow.



One of the native weeds growing in abundance in the shallow waters.

Have you noticed the sign on Henderson Lake Road?

The Association paid for the sign (and one on Gillings Road also). Trustee Sue Young planted the flowers and takes care of them.



Following a pass through the lake harvested weeds were unloaded into a truck for disposal at the Richland Township cemetery where they will decompose into compost.



Paul Hausler, standing, of Progressive Engineering surveys the lake on July 18 following the weed harvest. He was checking to make sure the areas he specified were properly harvested. He was also looking for additional weed growth that needs herbicide treatment.

Lake Board meeting

The Hardwood Lake Board is scheduled to meet Monday, October 14, 2013 at 7 pm. at the Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55.

The meeting is open to the public.

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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