

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



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Summer 2014



Enjoying a evening kayak on Hardwood Lake

The Property Owners Association annual meeting will be held at 9:00 am. **Saturday, July 5** at the Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55

Weed control update
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The newsletter is in **color** on the website.

www.hardwoodlake.org

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

Weed control update

Last September there was a warm spell causing a growth of algae mainly along the east and north shores of Hardwood Lake. The algae has returned and was very noticeable in early June.

Paul Hausler of Progressive Engineering conducted a weed survey Friday, June 6, 2014. See photo below.

After a very hard winter and late spring Paul reports everything, including contractors, are behind schedule. The issues we are facing are wide spread.

During the survey, Paul said he has never seen such an early bloom of algae. He said the dynamics of the lake are changing from planktonic to filamentous algae which are two basic types we see on the lake. The floating green scum is planktonic while the stringy stuff is filamentous algae.

Paul found a small amount of Eurasian Milfoil in the west end of the lake during the survey.

Herbicide and algae treatments are scheduled for June 17.

Paul also noted a healthy growth of native weeds. They snag the filamentous algae, making the lake look bad.

Weed harvesting on the lake is scheduled to start June 30.



Paul Hausler and an intern survey the lake.

Paul noticed the water is looking clear. This allows more sunlight to reach deeper, causing more weed growth.



There are several factors that influence weed growth. Nutrients for weed growth come from the lake bottom, which is very mucky. Not much can be done about that short of dredging the lake which is cost prohibitive. The other is runoff from the nearly 4000 acres of watershed.

There are agricultural activities, including cattle farming, in the watershed.

Lawn fertilizer also washes into the lake increasing the nutrient load and promoting algae growth. **See articles on Page 3**

The bottom line is Hardwood Lake is a eutrophic lake. Eutrophic lakes have poor clarity and support abundant aquatic plant growth. The cool bottom waters usually contain little or no dissolved oxygen. Therefore, they can only support warm-water fish such as bass and pike. It will never be crystal clear.

The primary goal of the lake weed control program was to control the non-native evasive Eurasian Milfoil which has been kept in check for the past few years. We were told that as we eliminated one type of weed something else would grow, using the nutrients in the lake.

It is an ongoing battle, with different issues every year, as long time residents can attest to.

More information on lakes can be found at www.michiganlakeinfo.com

Long time lake residents Art and Kay Fernandez have moved to West Branch to be closer to Kay's job at the West Branch Regional Medical Center. She now enjoys a close drive to work.

Michigan's Phosphorus Fertilizer Law

by Tony Groves, Pam Tynning, and Paul Hausler Progressive AE

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.

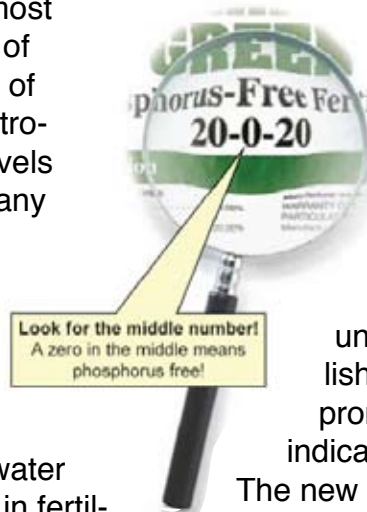
In an attempt to address this problem, Michigan passed legislation several years ago that limited the phosphorus content of laundry detergents and more recently extended the ban to dishwasher detergents. However, phosphorus in fertilizers remained a problem. Phosphorus is a key ingredient in many commercial 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.



10 Ways To Protect Your Lake

1. Don't use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus. If you use a professional lawn care service, insist upon a fertilizer that does not contain phosphorus.
2. Use the minimum amount of fertilizer recommended on the label .
3. Water the lawn sparingly to avoid washing nutrients and sediments into the lake.
4. Don't feed ducks and geese near the lake. Waterfowl droppings are high in nutrients and may cause swimmer's itch.
5. Don't burn leaves and grass clippings near the shoreline. Nutrients concentrate in the ash and can easily wash into the lake.
6. Don't mow to the water's edge. Instead, allow a

- strip of natural vegetation (i.e., a greenbelt) to become established along your waterfront. (www.shoreline.msu.edu) A greenbelt will trap pollutants and discourage nuisance geese from frequenting your property.
7. Where possible, promote infiltration of storm water into the ground. Build a rain garden to capture runoff from driveways and downspouts. (www.raingardens.org)
8. Don't dump anything in area wetlands. Wetlands are natural purifiers.
9. If you have a septic system, have your septic tank pumped every 2 to 3 years.
10. Don't be complacent — your collective actions will make or break the lake!

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• **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.

DNR SPECIAL LOCAL
WATERCRAFT CONTROLS
DNR Administrative Rule R281.765.14
Adopted November 1, 1977

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.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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