

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



President: David Sommers 3664 N. River Rd. Freeland, MI 48623 C 989-751-8517
Vice President Clay Dees 7174 Glenburnie Ln., Clarkston, MI 48346 H 248-625-5557
Secretary / Treas Margo Dees 7174 Glenburnie Ln., Clarkston, MI 48346 H 248-625-5557
Director Sean Kramer, 2939 Edgefield Dr. Waterford, MI 48328 248-250-4669
Director Kevin Ohlogge 2134 Woodridge Ct, Highland, MI 48357 C 248-202-8792
Director Marj Hanes, 1718 Kassuba Rd, Gaylord, MI 49735 989-731-9609
Director Sue Young 6131 Duffield, Flushing, MI 48433 C 810-813-6072
Newsletter Editor Edith Sommers 3664 N. River Rd. Freeland, MI 48623 C 989-751-3819

email: davidsommers@charter.net
email: clamar1976@yahoo.com
email: clamar1976@yahoo.com
email: seankramer65@hotmail.com
email: kevinohlogge@aol.com
email: hanesmarj@gmail.com
email:
email: edithsommers@charter.net

Fall 2015

The newsletter is
in **color** on the website.



Ohlogge Family photo

Enjoying a summer day on Hardwood Lake are three of Debbie and Kevin Ohlogge's grandchildren. Left to right are Avery Susan, 12, Michael Susan, 10 and Taylor Susan, 14.

Lake Association Update

At the June Lake Association meeting President Dave Sommers was reelected as well as were Directors Marj Hanes, Sean Kramer, Kevin Ohlogge, and Sue Young. They all serve two year terms.

Weed control continues to be an ongoing issue and a considerable portion of the meeting was spent discussing the continued lake cleanup project. See report on page two. The information is current as of mid-September. The Lake Improvement Board will be meeting on

continued on page 2

www.hardwoodlake.org

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

Lake Association Continued

Monday, October 12 at 7 PM at the Logan Township Hall.

...

A question came up during the June Lake Association meeting. "Can I hire our herbicide applicator to conduct a separate treatment on my lake front?" Aquatic Services of Goodrich, MI is the applicator and holds the state permit to treat the lake. If a resident wants a private treatment they would have to arrange treatment & payment through the Lake Board, which would have to be reimbursed. The Lake Board will discuss this at the October meeting.

Sue Young collected door prizes for a raffle at the conclusion of the meeting.

Ball Cap winners were:

Murray Young
Randy Nasutti
Ann McLaughlin
George McLain

Margo Dees won a T-Shirt
Dave Sommers won a yard sprayer

Weed Control Update

At the October 2014 Hardwood Lake Board meeting there was strong input from residents wanting something done about algae. It was suggested treatments in 2015 should be done before Memorial Day, July 4th, early August and before Labor Day. Our engineer, Paul Hausler of Progressive said it could be done. We were also scheduled to treat non-native invasive Eurasian Milfoil with the chemical Fluridone at the cost of \$19,048. It was last done in 2008.

After an early season inspection of the lake by Hausler (by boat), the lake was treated May 4 with Fluridone along with an algae treatment. Algae blooms had already begun. There was another heavy algae bloom about a week later and a second algae treatment on May 18. This helped knock down the algae. On May 29 there was a Fluridone "bump up"

and a third algae treatment. Fluridone has to be maintained at 6 Parts Per Billion over the summer to have an effect on the milfoil. Early treatment hits young milfoil plants when they are just starting to grow and most susceptible to the herbicide.

There was a fourth algae treatment July 2.

We were expecting to have adequate funding in the Lake Board account to have two more algae treatments and pay management fees to Progressive.

After July 4th Sommers sent Lake Board Chair, Bill Cliff an update on the lake treatment. This included the treatments, both completed and anticipated, for the year along with expenditures. Cliff reviewed the Lake Board account and discovered a significant fund shortfall.

To clarify a few points that confuses many, Hardwood Lake lies in the townships of Logan and Richland. Each township is governed by

Continued on page 3

Green Contracting Inc.

Your Wetland Specialists
3rd Generation Excavator

Ponds • Wetlands • Beaches

650 E. Ogemaw Center Rd.
West Branch, MI 48661

Matt Miller
989-685-2110
989-329-3684



- Avalon Pontoons
- Aqua Cycle Paddle Boats
- Roll in Docks
- Inside & Outside Storage
- Hobie Kayaks
- Yamaha Motors
- Certified Mechanics
- Shrink Wrap Available

3009 Rifle River Trail
West Branch, MI 48661

Dave & Anita Kepley
Owners

local elected officials.

There are two different lake organizations. The Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association is made up of lake residents. It was established in October, 1975 in part, to help maintain and improve lake conditions. Residents may either choose to belong or not. Membership fee is \$15 annually. The Association publishes this newsletter for the members. Non members receive the newsletter as a courtesy. About 50% of the property owners belong to the Association.

The Hardwood Lake Improvement Board is a governmental body made up of elected officials and a representative of Hardwood Lake Association. The

funds of the Lake Board are handled by Richland Township. The Lake Board was formed in 1995. It established a special assessment district and sets tax rates. The money generated is used for the lake weed control project. Fees are on the winter tax bill and all property owners in the special assessment district pay.

Spending of tax revenues for the 2015 weed control project was budgeted based on figures supplied by the Richland Township Treasurer. She supplied a balance in March of this year that was inflated by several thousand dollars, giving the impression there was more money in the account than was actually there. In this case the Treasurer reported as of March 31, 2015 there being \$36,975 in the account then

reported there was \$28,479 on April 1, 2015. There was no explanation for the \$8,496 difference. It is being looked into

After consultation with the Lake Board, Progressive was instructed to halt all lake treatment until funding was figured out. Sommers met with Richland Township Clerk, Deborah Burton and Cliff (who is also a Richland Township Trustee). After reviewing the account, there was about \$604 left as opposed to the \$4,750 that had been forecast. As there was still about \$2,100 obligated for management and other fees, this created an issue.

In early August, during a lake inspection,

Hausler found a large amount of Starry Stonewort in areas of the

Lake Board Annual Meeting

7:00 P.M. Monday, October 12, 2015

Logan Township Hall - 4507 E. M-55

lake not seen before. He highly recommended treating the Stonewort in lieu of algae, which he felt was under control, if there was funding available. The Lake Association Board were notified and all felt treatment of the Stonewort was in the best interest of the lake and suggested a loan to the Lake Board for \$1,150. There was still a short fall of about \$1,700. The Lake Association agreed to loan an additional \$1,700 to the Lake Board. Both loans were to be repaid by March 31, 2016 once sufficient taxes have been collected. Because of the way the special assessment district is set up, tax rates can't be adjusted until public hearings in July 2016.

At the Richland Township Board meeting on

Continued on page 4



Cafe International
Since 1993
4761 Sage Lake Road
Prescott, MI 48756
(989) 873 6055
Restaurant and Catering

Mark & Suzanne Janowski
Chef/Manager/Owner
prescottrestaurant@hotmail.com
www.cafeprescott.com



SWANSON'S EXCAVATING, INC.

Fill Sand
Road Gravels
Stones
Top Soil

Backhoe
Cement Work
Demolition
Dozing
Dump Trucking
Septic Systems

Ed Swanson
Corey & Rick
swansonexc@frontier.com

2733 Greenwood Road Phone: (989) 873-4419
Prescott, MI 48756 Fax: (989) 873-8123

September 8, the Richand Township Board rejected the loan. The intention now is to delay payment until winter taxes are collected. Tax statements are scheduled to be mailed October 1.

The annual Lake Board meeting is 7 PM October 12 at the Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55

Paul plans to address the Lake Board to give more insight into potential causes of the large algae and other weed growths and po-

tential cures. As he said earlier, "Applying the herbicides is a band-aid approach. We need to find and deal with the underlying cause."

There are two public hearings planned for Saturday, July 2, 2016. Everyone in the special assessment district will be notified by first class mail. The first hearing will be to determine if the weed control project should continue. The second to establish tax rates. At this time it is expected the tax rate will need to increase.



The DNR replaced the high speed boating hours sign at the boat launch which was vandalized over the winter.

Please remember the time restrictions are for everyones enjoyment of the lake.



The Lake Association sign on Henderson Lake Road is starting to show some deterioration due to weather and age. A quote to replace it was over \$3,000. It has had some paint touch up in the past and it will be looked at again. Thanks to Sue Young and Edith Sommers for tending to the lovely flowers



Slow down on the roads.



Road dust control

Through a special assessment which began in 2006, residents on unpaved roads around Hardwood Lake are taxed \$10 annually for dust control (road brining). The fee was originally for three (3) treatments per year: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day and was paid from the special assessment.

Richland Township later decided to fund dust control twice a year township-wide from the Road Fund for all township residents. The third treatment for brining around Hardwood Lake is paid from the special assessment. One dust control treatment costs about \$450. We are generating enough funds to pay for three dust control treatments but actually only spending for one treatment. A surplus is being built up. There is a balance of about \$2,600 in the Hardwood Lake Dust Control account.

The Township Board didn't feel it was correct to charge residents in the Dust Control Special Assessment district for the first two treatments, that is take money from the Dust Control account, as they were already paying taxes and wouldn't be benefiting as other township residents.

The Richland Township Board is looking into the potential of reducing the assessment until the fund can be spent down

According to the Michigan Townships Association, special assessment funds can only be used for their original purpose and not transferred into other accounts, such as the Lake Board.



Shelly Golden photo

New lake resident Shelly Golden wanted to share her scenic photo of the lake. Their cottage is the former Bates house at 3141 Hardwood Heights.

Age 9 and beyond

Childhood memories take me up north
To summers at the cottage on Hardwood Lake
All day outdoors no restrictions put forth
For us kids and our friends, boy it was great.

All kinds of boats, sailing and tipping,
Motorboats running out of gas
Rowing and singing aloud our rounds,
Not realizing the whole lake could hear our
sounds.

We lived in our swimsuits
Lawn chairs on the dock
Slathered in baby oil who ever heard of sun block
Summer blond sprayed on our hair
Turning our chairs with the sun
Jumping into the water to cool off or just float
Why would we want to exercise or even run.

We became expert skiers hop-starting from shore
Thought we were pretty special slaloming galore
Til the neighbor boys would outdo us
By barefooting - showing off even more.

We were about 12 my twin sister and I
When a typical weekend up north went awry
Our pregnant beagle made a nest under the bed
The labor pains started, parents filled with dread
The sounds of puppies crying much to our joy
Meant a week alone at the cottage with 6 puppies
as our new toys.

As summer would end with school around the
corner
Down came the dock, pull in the boat and wonder
How it happened so fast, it didn't feel right
Another summer of fun ends
And geese take flight.

Edith Sommers

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association
Edith M. Sommers
3664 N. River Road
Freeland, MI 48623