

# Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

[www.hardwoodlake.org](http://www.hardwoodlake.org)



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## Fall 2023

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



A perfect summer evening for the 2023 association picnic. Both Schafer families hosted the event on their properties on the point at the northeast end of the lake.

## Lake Association update

There were a lot of activities on the lake this summer.

Memorial Day weekend saw the first ATV/golf cart parade. The parade started at the east end of Hardwood Heights. About 25 residents decked out their machines and headed west along with a riding mower or two.

June 24 was the date for the picnic hosted by the Schafer families. It was a nice summer evening with about 70 residents attending. A new attraction was Blackbird Ice Cream which is

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# Lake Association continued

a local business.

The following weekend was the 4th of July weekend. July 1 was the lake association annual meeting. About 23 members attended. Elections were held for president and directors. All five members retained their positions.

Secretary/Treasurer Sandy Schafer proposed that the association look into electronic payment of dues using Venmo and is looking into it. A big concern among the members is keeping the membership list current.

Lake Board representative Dave Sommers discussed the ongoing lake weed control project. See his report on page 3.

Association members felt keeping the picnic every-other-year was best. No plans were made for 2025 yet.

The 3rd annual kids fun run was held July 2nd with about 40 youngsters participating. Later in the day was the annual boat parade with about 25 taking part. They are becoming popular events.

There was a fish die off around June 3rd. See more information on page 5.

The popular Halloween Hoot will be held Saturday, October 7 starting at 4 PM. The Golden's will host the event again at their cabin 3141 Hardwood Heights. Food donations go to the Hale Area Fish food bank. Updated details can be found on the Hardwood Lake Facebook site.

With new property owners and an increase in rental occupancies along the lake, residents are reminded to use caution when parking so as to avoid hazardous conditions along the roads for both drivers and walkers. Also please watch your speed, both driving and on ATV's and in boats. The extra minute you save by

speeding is not worth the safety risks.

The annual Lake Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9, 2023 - 7 PM at the Logan Township Hall. The 2024 Lake Association meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 6.



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## Weed control treatment

The lake received four treatments for weeds and algae over the summer on May 23, June 29, July 25 and August 22. Treatment maps are posted on Facebook and on the website under "Late Breaking News"

When algae is treated it is limited to 22.5 acres. This area is along the populated areas. It extends to 100 feet from shore or a maximum depth of 5 feet - the maximum allowed under state laws.

The lake looked good this summer. The biggest complaint in the past is planktonic algae. This shows up as green scum and in the general turbidity of the water - it held off until mid-July this year. It manifests itself with calm nights and a slight southern wind which pushes the surface scum to the north shore where most of the population lives. The cloudy water condition in the later part of summer is caused by planktonic algae in the entire water column.

We spoke with lake engineer, Rick Buteyn of Progressive Engineering before one of his monthly inspections and discussed the potential return of green scum. Some of his thoughts were that we had a very dry spring and early summer with almost no rain. The water in the lake comes from about 4,000 acres of watershed. With no rain there was no drainage into the lake. With the heavy rains in late July and early August there was a lot of runoff, which carries nutrients, including lawn fertilizers, into the lake, and contributes to planktonic algae bloom.

Algae treatment is limited by state regulations. As Rick pointed out, we can only treat 22.5 acres which is about 12% of the total lake surface. Even with a treatment, which is limited to at most every two weeks, most of the lake can't be treated so will continue to get algae that can move around the lake with the wind.

While it is discouraging to see the algae we have had a good year on the lake.

**Lake Board annual meeting - Monday, October 9, 2023 7:00 P.M.**  
**Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55**



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**Michelle McMorris**



The first ATV/golf cart parade heads down Hardwood Heights Memorial Day weekend.



Paul Shanahan, above, grills brats for the picnic as guests look on. Sandy Schafer, above right, catches a water filled balloon from a young guest during game time after the picnic. At right is one of many flag festooned boats in the parade on the 4th.



## Fish die off

On the weekend of June 3rd there were reports of numerous dead fish, mainly crappies, in Hardwood lake.

Several residents with over 50 years at the lake don't remember seeing anything like this.

There were several speculations about the die-off posted on the lake Facebook site.

Lake Board representative Dave Sommers contacted a biologist at the Bay City DNR office. His best guess on what caused this die-off was the very warm weather over the last two weeks in May which stressed the crappie. In addition the fish had just finished spawning, another major stressor.

On May 23, the lake received a treatment for algae, using chelated copper. This chemical has been used for many years at the relatively same time before Memorial Day with no adverse fish issues. There was a fairly long timeframe from the treatment until the die off. The biologist felt the algae treatment was not a cause of the die off. Treatment on Hardwood Lake is managed by Progressive Engineering under a state permit. The chemical applicators also have a state permit. A few years ago the HLPOA overwhelmingly wanted lake treatment before the three major holidays so the lake would be as good as possible to enjoy water related activities.

A very informative article by the State DNR [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/fisheries/disease/information-about-fish-kills?fbclid=IwAR0\\_ys4101vWKdekkF5EUAnsCSDWwh3JFk2-mY-WpbEblGCewkPBFobuGu-s](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/fisheries/disease/information-about-fish-kills?fbclid=IwAR0_ys4101vWKdekkF5EUAnsCSDWwh3JFk2-mY-WpbEblGCewkPBFobuGu-s)

A portion of the report is below which reflects the same information from the DNR biologist.

*Spring kill occurs in lakes and rivers when fish survive the winter but die as the water warms rapidly in May and June. It rarely claims many fish and is usually over in a couple of weeks. Spring kill is almost always due to natural causes beyond our influence. The usual victims are large bluegills and crappies, and other fish which spawn in the spring such as perch, bass, pike and suckers.*

*A combination of stresses is usually responsible. Fish come through the winter in a weakened condition because they've been eating at a reduced rate. As the water warms, their metabolism increases and they divert much energy to strenuous spawning activities. In lakes, additional stress may be added during "turnover", which is when wave action stirs up bottom water low in oxygen and high in noxious gases. Diseases and parasites also become more active and on a few occasions have been implicated in fish kills. An example is the spring salmon mortality in Lake Michigan caused by bacteria kidney disease (BKD).*

(Editors note: The above article was posted on the lake association Facebook page in early June to reach as many residents as possible.)



A great start to the July 4th boat parade.

## Upcoming events

### 2023

- Halloween Hoot, Saturday, October 7, 4pm 3141 Hardwood Heights
- Lake Board meeting, Monday, October 9, 7 PM Logan Township hall

### 2024

- Golf Cart Parade, Saturday May 25, 11 am
- Corn Hole Tourney / ice cream, Saturday, June 22, 2 pm
- Kids Fun Run, Thursday, July 4, 10 am
- Boat Parade, Thursday, July 4, 2 pm
- Association Meeting, Saturday, July 6, 9 am
- Ice Cream Social, Saturday, August 17, 7:30 pm

## Lake and lawn care

It's good when residents rake weeds from the lake in front of their property but please remove those weeds from the water and dispose of them. If you leave them to float away they eventually end up on a beach for someone else to pick up.

Grass trimmings blown into the lake also create a nuisance for neighbors.

Use lawn fertilizer sparingly. It washes into the lake fertilizing the weeds we are paying to control.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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