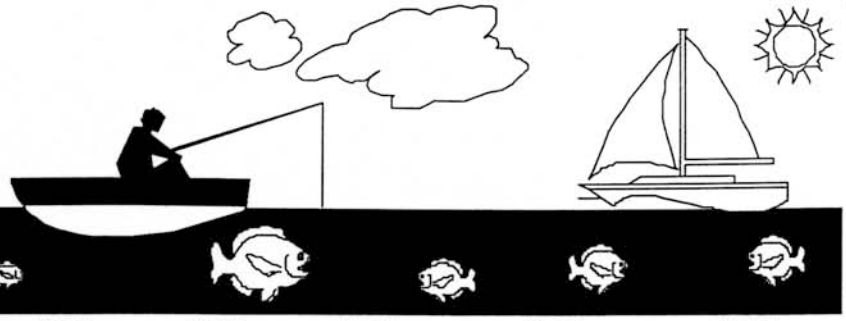
Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association



Lake Board update

There's light at the end of the tunnel for fighting the green goop on Hardwood Lake.

The Richland Township Board of Directors has put the issue of forming a lake board for Hardwood Lake on the agenda for their October meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall in Prescott. This is the same building where the Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association holds their annual meeting.

The formation of a lake board is the first step in improving the quality of our lake.

At a public meeting in West Branch September 4, Anthony F. Groves, Lake Management Director for Progressive Engineering in Grand Rapids talked about lake quality and methods for improving a lake.

Lake improvement plans are developed by conducting an evaluation of a lake and its watershed to define problems and corrective strategies. A lake evaluation will generally include a water quality sampling program, a determination of the physical and biological characteristics of the lake, an analysis of the watershed to determine surface drainage and land-use characteristics, and an evaluation of the feasibility and cost of lake improvement alternatives.

We can not do anything without funds. A lake board will enable us to generate the necessary funds to help clean up the lake.

After the lake board is formed we will need to retain a professional engineer to provide the evaluation of the lake.

Please keep in mind that this is a long term project. If we were to start today it would be 1995 before we could start treatment of the lake and this project will most likely extend to 2000 and beyond.

As a group we can start on the road to improving the quality of our lake. Your support is needed. Please see the attached letter to fill out and return or, better yet, come to the Township meeting to offer your support.

Lawn care tip

Lakefront property owners should only fertilize lawns and shrubs when absolutely necessary. When fertilizer is required, only fertilizers specially formulated for lakeside use should be used, since excess fertilizer can wash into the lake and stimulate unwanted aquatic plant growth. Nutrients commonly found in commercial fertilizers are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash.

In most cases, phosphorus is the nutrient that stimulates plant and algae growth in lakes.

The relative contents in lawn fertilizer can be determined by examining the packaging label. For example, a fertilizer that contains 30 parts nitrogen, 0 parts phosphorus and 15 parts potash would be labeled 30-0-15.

In most cases, phosphorus is the nutrient that stimulates plant and algae growth in lakes. Generally, most soils contain sufficient phosphorus to maintain a good grass cover. Additional phosphorus added as fertilizer simply washes into the lake. Once in the lake, phosphorus can generate a tremendous amount of plant growth.

In light of these considerations, lake residents should not use fertilizer containing phosphorus unless a soil test specifically indicates a need for this nutrient. Many fertilizer suppliers carry phosphorus-free fertilizer which are specially formulated to be "lake safe."

Generally a non-phosphorus fertilizer such as 25-0-4 or 16-0-8 will contain sufficient nutrients to maintain a healthy lawn without polluting the lake.

We will look into the possibility of buying a quantity of fertilizer for resale to association members.