

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



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Spring 2025

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



A small portion of the lake can be treated for algae, per state regulations, which is the narrow band along the populated areas of the lake

The special assessment for lake weed control ends this year. On June 28, 2025 there will be two public hearings, as has been done in the past. The first will be a hearing of practicality, basically do we continue the treatments. The second will determine the amount of special assessment. It will be for a five year period from 2026 through 2030. Everyone is encouraged to attend the public meeting - 9 am at the Logan Township Hall on M-55. All tax payers will receive a mailing notifying them of the meeting.

Following the two meetings the association

will hold the annual meeting. The positions of President and four trustees are up for election. The meetings have been moved up one week due to scheduling conflicts. They are usually the week of July 4th.

Lake environmental scientist, Rick Buteyn, our consultant from Progressive will be on hand to answer questions.

Rick said lake treatment will most likely proceed as in past years. Rick does monthly inspections of the lake and based on his professional experience makes recommendations on the necessary weed control treat-

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EASY FUN
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Lake Association continued

ments. In general the lake is treated shortly before the three summer holidays plus another in late July / early August. Following the June 18, 2024 inspection Rick said he didn't see anything to treat, though algae did pop up towards the end of the month necessitating the July 1 treatment.

At the October 2024 Lake Board meeting Vice President Clay Dees asked if it was worthwhile to do inspections more frequently than monthly. Rick was not at the meeting and replied by email later:

"Short answer is "no". The reason for this is as follows: Hardwood Lake hosts a few different exotic species that are treated with herbicides most years. Because herbicide treatments for rooted plants take a couple of weeks to truly show treatment efficacy, surveying the lake to inspect that treatment too early would be ineffective. Monthly surveys allow current herbicide treatments to take effect and allow us to find any new areas that pop up throughout the summer.

When it comes to algae, the density of algae fluctuates significantly, booming for a few days to a week (or more) and then dissipating on its own eventually. Trying to schedule multiple surveys a month to hit these blooms would still be hit or miss and would get costly (our current contract line item for 4 surveys a year is \$7,000, so each additional survey would cost \$1,750)."

Clay also asked what's the most you can treat a lake and are the results worth it. Rick replied *"I'm assuming he is talking about treating algae. Algae treatments may take place every 14 days. Per the EGLE permit, 22.5 acres of Hardwood Lake may be treated with algaecides. As this is only around 12%*

of the total acreage of Hardwood Lake, lake wide impact is not observed after treatment. Even if you treated the permitted areas every 14 days, the planktonic algae growth in the open waters of Hardwood Lake would persist. Because algae treatments only impact areas where the herbicide is applied (with some drifting of product due to environmental conditions), it would not be fiscally responsible to treat every 14 days as the impacts to the open waters of Hardwood Lake would be minimal. It is possible to ask for a permit amendment to treat offshore, but ELGE would likely not allow it and results from the treatment would still only last a few days if there are good conditions for algae growth."

"Inactivating phosphorus, the root of the cause of algae, could be an option but can get quite costly. These products typically cost in the \$600-\$1,000/acre range."

Hardwood Lake is listed as about 185 acres so that would come to \$111,000 to \$185,000. Our current special assessment does not collect enough funds to cover this. We could do another special assessment to cover this if residents desire it. It can be discussed at the June special assessment meeting.

In the beginning of the lake weed treatment 26 years ago Eurasian milfoil was the primary invasive species. It was spot treated with an expensive whole lake treatment done about every four years. Rick commented *"We have limited our prescriptions of whole-lake treatments with Sonar (fluridone) in the last few years. We have noticed statewide that the longevity of those treatments can be lessened with repeated applications. We can accomplish what is necessary on Hardwood Lake with spot treatments this coming year. I will*

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HLPO 50th anniversary is

2025. We were established in October 1975. It would be interesting for families that have been on the lake since or before 1975 to share memories. We will collect and publish them in the Fall 2025 newsletter. They don't need to be long, just a few paragraphs. Please send your memories to edithsommers@charter.net by the end of August 2025.

continue to monitor milfoil growth and if necessary, we would go with another whole-lake treatment in the future.”

The lake was originally described at the onset of treatment, 26 years ago, by the DNR as an eutrophic lake (a lake or body of water rich in nutrients and so supporting dense plant population, the decomposition of which kills animal life by depriving it of oxygen).

In a report on the lake by EGLE, Hardwood Lake is currently listed as impaired (i.e., not meeting criteria) for Mercury in Fish Tissue. Mercury is a problem throughout much of the state because pollutants in the atmosphere are a significant source of mercury that falls into water. Information on mercury can be found at Michigan's Statewide Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/tmdls/statewide-mercury-tmdl> This is also a helpful resource for the public: Eat Safe Fish Guides. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/environmental-health/topics/eatsafefish/guides>

The lake is also described as hypereutrophic which is defined as lakes that are very nutrient-rich lakes characterized by frequent and severe nuisance algal blooms and low

transparency. Hypereutrophic lakes have a visibility depth of less than 3 feet. This information was provided by Jeff Varricchione Aquatic Biologist Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

Fishing Tourney?

The Lake Association Board is considering holding a children's fishing contest on the morning of June 21, 2025. We are looking for a couple of residents to step forward to help run this event. If you can help contact President Kevin Ohlrogge. If we do not get a lead or co-lead the event will be cancelled.

E-mail newsletter potential

We are revisiting a discussion from last summer about sending newsletters by email. Currently, they are printed and mailed. The cost is approximately \$1.50 per copy. The newsletter is posted on Facebook a few days after it's mailed, along with being posted on the Hardwood Lake Website. If you'd like to help reduce the cost of the newsletter by receiving ONLY an emailed version, please send an email to Sandy Schafer, the Association Secretary, at brsakala@gmail.com. Feel free to Include emails of other family members, friends, that you would like to receive an emailed version. Remember, if you choose this option, you will not get the printed issue.



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Upcoming events

2025

- Golf Cart Parade, Saturday, May 24, noon
- Kids Fishing Contest (possible) June 21, 2025
- Lake Picnic June 21, 2025 5 pm
- Lake Public Hearings June 28, 2025 9 am
- Lake Association Meeting June 28, 2025 following public hearings
- Kids Fun Run July 4, 2025 Register beginning 9 am - Run at 10 am
- Boat Parade July 4, 2025 2 pm
- Ice Cream Social August 9, 2025 7:30 pm
- Gather at Sunset August 31, 2025 7:30 pm
- Halloween Hoot October 11, 2025 4 pm

Mark your calendars for the biennial potluck picnic Saturday, June 21, 2025. Brian, Sandy, Barry & Ari Schafer are hosting the picnic at their homes, 3400 Hardwood Heights, starting at 5:00 pm. The association will take care of meat and soft drinks. Please bring a dish to pass. RSVP to Sandy at brsakala@gmail.com by June 14, 2025. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

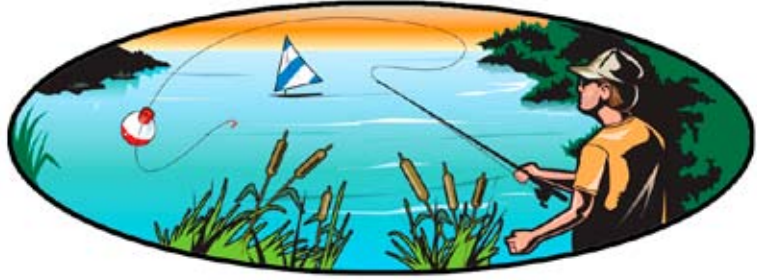
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Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association
Edith M. Sommers
3664 N. River Road
Freeland, MI 48623

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



Dues Notice

The 2025-2026 Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association dues of \$20 are due. Fiscal year for the lake association is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

Some advantages of belonging to the association include newsletters, picnic and other events. Visit the web site at www.hardwoodlake.org. In the past, the lake association was instrumental in starting the lake weed control project, road dust control along with the boat parade, ATV parade, kids fun run, Halloween Hoot and other activities.

The newsletter is posted online in color.

Please send payment to:

Sandra Schafer, Secretary / Treasurer

Make checks payable to:

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

3400 Hardwood Heights

Prescott, MI 48756

**ANNUAL
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venmo

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@hardwoodlake48756

If your contact information has changed from previous years please update the information and return to Sandra.

If paying by check fill out the form below.. If paying by Venmo send Sandra an email (brsakala@gmail.com) with your information.

If you have questions call Sandra at 989-274-9210 - email brsakala@gmail.com

or Association President, Kevin Ohlrogge at 248-202-8292 - email kevinohlrogge@aol.com

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