

Harper Lake Association Newsletter

December 2017

2018 DATES TO REMEMBER. Make sure to put the following dates on your calendar.

Harper Lake Association General Membership meeting
May 26, 2018, 9 am @ Skinner Park Pavilion

Harper Lake Day
July 7, 2018, 7 am – 5 pm

Harper Lake Association General Membership meeting
September 1, 2018, 9 am @ Skinner Park Pavilion

CHANGES TO HARPER LAKE ASSN BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
There are two new faces on the Harper Lake Association Board for the 2017-19 term:

Annette McCormack and her husband Phil have been coming to Harper lake for about 8 years to see family members and finally purchased their own home on the lake in January 2013. They enjoy spending time at the lake with their two married sons, three grandchildren and three grand dogs. They currently reside in Grand Rapids while spending as much time at the lake as possible.

Also joining the board this year is Larry Noble. Larry is a long-time resident of Harper Lake who served on several years ago and returns to serve again for another term.

Officers for 2018 are President Jim Brown, Vice President Karen Brower, Secretary Dawn May and Treasurer Jeff Toy.

Members continuing their service on the board are Bill Mullaly and Kevin Storberg.

The Harper Lake Association would like to extend a special thank you to Susan Badalucco and Lisa Mullen who recently retired from the HLA Board after six years of service. Susan just finished her 2nd year as President of the association, while Lisa served as its Treasurer for the last several years. Thank you ladies for your hard work and effort on behalf of the property owners of Harper Lake.

Contact information for all current board members is available on the website:

www.harperlakeassociation.org.

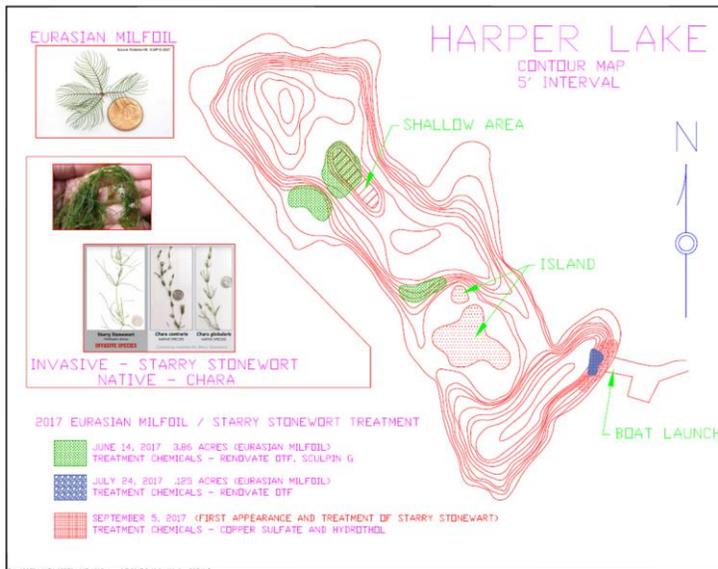
WEED CONTROL. Lake surveys, water quality testing and weed control for Harper Lake are contracted to PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation and managed by The Harper Lake Association board. We were able to stay within our budget for 2017 with the final billings from PLM coming in at \$3,656.64, and a budget number set at \$4,125.00.

The June survey turned up a substantial presence of Eurasian Watermilfoil and treatment was carried out at that time. The July survey and treatment was minimal, with only a small area around the boat launch being carried out. The unfortunate new for us came in early September when PLM discovered the presence of a new invasive plant species to contend with, Starry Stonewort and was discovered around the boat launch during the survey conducted by PLM in early September. Although the area was small and the treatment was done the next day, we will be contending with this plant forever. We will follow up with additional information on this as we move forward. A detailed lake map is included to show the exact treatment areas.

Samples for our water quality testing were taken on three separate occasions, early, mid and late summer. PLM had indicated that if there were any threatening issues discovered, they would alert us immediately, no threatening issues were discovered. The full results of the testing are not expected back until December, the results will be shared as soon as they are available.

Going back to the Starry Stonewort invasive plant. Obviously this plant was transferred to our lake via a boat or trailer that carried it directly from another body of water. It's been suggested that we purchase and install a larger and more informative sign at the launch and we are working to do just that. There is a sign there, but it's small and doesn't cover the issue very well. There are numerous invasive species that can be carried here and the issue will never go away. The hope is that the folks that are out there boating and moving from one lake or river to another will be cautious and clean their equipment to help limit the spread.

Jim Brown
HLA Board



You can view/download Weed Control map

FISH STOCKING AND WEED CONTROL UPDATE. Old news to some folks, but certainly worth mentioning the 2017 fish stocking was a great success. On June 8th we were able to plant 2,565 4"-6" Hybrid Bluegill. The truck was met around noon and the fish were loaded into multiple containers and distributed around the lake into some of the better cover areas. There were four hands on deck for the task including Bill Mullaly, Bob Randall and Kevin Storberg and myself. Although the fish were planted without any loss, we were pressed to get them into the water, due to the hot sun and some rising temperatures.

The association had budgeted \$1500.00 for fish planting, but another \$1460.00 had come in via donations. This goes to show just how much support we have for this activity. Along with some great Bluegill coming in at the fishing contest, I have heard many reports of growing success.

I will mention a growing number of folks that are asking why we can't plant a different species other than the Hybrid Bluegill. The one drawback to the Hybrid Bluegill is the fact that 95% of the stocking is male, allowing only a 5% female population for reproduction. However, I recently spoke with a DNR representative who suggested we stay with our current planting program.

I think we should all be proud of what we have and the growing interest in the stocking program.

Jim Brown
HLA Board

HARPER LAKE DAY. Thank you to the many people who organized events, hosted docks and donated prizes for the 2017 Harper Lake Day! We had over 50 boats taking part in the boat parade, over 80 kids participated in the scavenger hunt, and about 14 kids showed up early in the morning for the fishing contest. It was a fantastic day and we can't wait to do it again next year.

Save the date of Saturday, July 7, 2018 for next summer's Harper Lake Day! The fishing contest, scavenger hunt and float parade will all be back for another year. We will need people willing to help with hosting a dock, donating prizes and organizing the events. Contact Dawn May at 616.292.1224 to let us know how you'd like to get involved.

LAKE RAKE. Did you know the Harper Lake Association has two large lake rakes for use by property owners to rake out leaves and weeds from the water in front of your property? If you'd like to use one for a few days, contact Dave Kott at 231-852-6034 or Bill Mullaly at 810-650-3996 to make arrangements.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO FISH STOCKING. Last year we added a line to the dues forms for members to voluntarily contribute to the fish stocking program. The response was overwhelming! Members contributed an additional \$1,075 to increase the amount of fish stocked in Harper Lake. Added to the association's annual contribution of \$1,500, the HLA was able to stock Harper Lake with over \$2,500 in hybrid bluegill during the summer months.

Since this seems to have struck a chord with many of our property owners, we will continue to put this item on the dues form. Suggested donation is \$10 per property, but feel free to contribute any amount you wish.

2018 DUES FORM. The dues form is attached to this email. You can also download the form at www.harperlakeassociation.org (see the link right above the calendar dates). Your membership fees allow the Harper Lake Association to communicate with the members, stock fish each year and treat for invasive aquatic weeds. Thank you for joining our association.