

Harper Lake Association Newsletter

November 2020



Harper Lake Day

Another fantastic event was held July 4, 2020 thanks to our volunteer dock captains and board members! With recommended protocols in place, we were able to hold the event safely and still have a ton of fun.

The early morning fishing contest brought out 26 kids (11 new participants!) to test their skills. Prizes were awarded for the longest single bluegill and the total combined length of three bluegill. Special thanks to Jeff Toy and Jim Brown for organizing and hosting the tournament again this year.



The scavenger hunt brought out another great group of kids hunting for items, singing songs and making videos. As usual, Dawn May outdid herself with a super fun event that the kids look forward to each year.

The afternoon float parade saw about 350 people on 40-50 boats visiting docks to collect stickers to place on their prize entry cards. With nearly 120 prizes, it took a while to draw the names, but it was a gloriously sunny July day to enjoy floating while they waited for their names to be called.

Thanks to those who donated prizes and cash for the float parade, the dock captains for decorating and handing out stickers and goodies, and all those who came out to enjoy the day and support Harper Lake.

Mark your calendars for the next Harper Lake Day on Saturday, July 3, 2021. The theme will be "Christmas in July" so stock up on after Christmas sales this year for decorations and prizes!



2021 Dues Form

At the June 26, 2020 Membership meeting, those in attendance voted to reduce the annual dues to \$45 per year. Since the annual weed treatment is now paid for through a special assessment district on your township tax bill, the board recommended reducing the yearly membership dues to either \$35 or \$45 per year. After discussion, the members opted to set the annual dues at \$45 so that funds are available for association events and unforeseen circumstances.

The enclosed 2021 dues form reflects the new dues amount. Additional contributions for fish stocking and Harper Lake Day are also accepted on this form.

2020 Fish Stockings

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to secure a spring and a fall fish stocking this year. Board member Kevin Storberg worked with Stony Creek Fisheries in Grant to obtain a permit from the State to stock 1000 4-5" perch in early June.

When we reported this to the members at the September membership meeting, we found there was significant interest in procuring an additional shipment of fish in the fall. Additional donations were sought and a second stocking of 1000 perch was delivered in October.

Thanks to all who donated this year to add so many fish to Harper Lake!

Reminders for Renters & Guests

Please remind your guests and renters about the basic navigational rules of the lake (ie, counterclockwise travel, and no wake between 7:30 pm and 11 am, slow around buoys and through the channel) to avoid accidents and property damage.

Renters often also don't know what to do with trash and sometimes leave it outside where it attracts animals. Let them know how to dispose of trash properly.

Lake Monitoring Report

Professional Lake Management has issued it's end of season report for Harper Lake in September, including this excerpt:

"Harper Lake was surveyed in throughout 2020, by experienced PLM scientists. The goal of these surveys was to identify any exotic species and document native plant diversity. An AVAS Survey was performed in September, using EGLE approved survey techniques which broke the lake down into 32 segments to document all vegetation present by species and density. Out of the 32 sites surveyed, nine submersed native species were found as well as sparse Eurasian Water Milfoil. Overall, the growth in Harper Lake is low and Chara and Variable pondweed ere the most prevalent species found. Chara is a vital part of the lake ecosystem, providing sediment control and is a natural filter for the lake, while providing habitat for fish."

The treatment of invasive weeds and the annual lake survey and monitoring are funded by a special assessment district through Elk Township. Find the full report at www.harperlakeassociation.org.

2021 Dates

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| May 29 | HLA General Membership Meeting – 9 a.m. at Elk Township Hall, 8996 Bass Lake Rd. |
| July 3 | Harper Lake Day – Fishing Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Float Parade & Prizes (Christmas In July theme) |
| Sep 4 | HLA General Membership Meeting – 9 a.m. at Elk Township Hall, 8996 Bass Lake Rd |
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Board of Directors

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Kevin Storberg



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