

Harper Lake Association Newsletter

November 2021



2022 Dues – Just \$45

Please send in the enclosed form by March 1 so that your information is included in our annual directory. Yearly dues are used for summer events, fish stocking, supplies, mailing costs, website fees and insurance.

Harper Lake Day “Christmas in July” Report

We started the day with the Kids Fishing Contest, held in memory of lake resident Jeff Toy this year. Twenty kids got up early to vie for some great prizes. Thanks to Jim Brown and Craig Fazakerly for running the contest.

The Scavenger Hunt, hosted by the May family, brought out 41 participants to find and photograph various items and film fun challenges.

The afternoon Float Parade was filled with decorated boats and elves of all kinds in their Christmas finery gathering stamps to turn in for prizes. We had 286 cards turned in and 126 prizes handed out. New this year was a 50/50 drawing, organized by the Ritsema family, which raised over \$2,000 for the lucky winners and the HLA fish stocking and future Harper Lake Day events.

Special thanks to our eight dock host families for stepping up to help, to all those who donated prizes, to the Santo family for the sound system, and to diving board queen Dawn May for organizing the entire day.

We're looking for volunteers to organize next year's events, especially the Scavenger Hunt as Dawn would like to train someone to take over this fun portion of the day. Contact any board member to get involved.

July 2, 2022 is the next Harper Lake Day -- Luau theme!

Harper Lake Directory

Directories will be available in late spring with the information returned on the 2022 dues forms. If you've recently moved or know of new property owners on Harper Lake, email harperlakeassociation@gmail.com so that we can update our files.

Advertising in the directory starts at just \$25. Contact us at the email address above if you own a business and are interested in getting your ad in our directory.

Gypsy Moth Population

In March 2021, the HLA Board hired an Arborist visit the lake and evaluate the situation. Since the tree health was not in danger at that time, the Board did not pursue aerial spraying for 2021.

With the significant infestation seen last summer, the Board is now actively investigating aerial spraying in Spring 2022 to control the gypsy moths. You can help by sending your feedback and updated contact information to harperlakeassociation@gmail.com, and by checking our website and watching your mail/email for notices.

HLA Board Changes

Joining the board in August were Steve May and Rich Walker. Steve May has been coming to Harper Lake for 56 years, starting at his grandparents' home. Steve will be helping with fish stocking, buoys, and events. Rich Walker has been on the lake since Memorial Day of 2005. He resides in Clarkston and will be involved in the fish stocking, buoys, and weed control.

We extend our thanks to retiring board members for their many years of service to Harper Lake. Annette McCormack served 4 years and was instrumental in setting up the Special Assessment District. Kevin Storberg served 5 years helping with the fish stocking, township matters, and signage at the boat launch.

Wildlife Spotlight: Map Turtles

The northern map turtle gets its name from the markings on its shell which resemble contour lines on a map. Northern map turtles inhabit ponds, rivers, and lakes. They prefer large bodies of water and areas with fallen trees for basking in the sun. Map turtles are dormant Nov-April and spend the winter under water without surfacing to breathe because ice cover makes this impossible. Adults rest on the bottom or wedge under rocks or logs and often hibernate communally with other turtles. In the summer, they bask in groups and are diurnal, meaning they are active exclusively in daylight hours. Northern map turtles are also quite shy and difficult to approach; they usually slip into the water and hide at the first hint of danger.

Source: Wikipedia

Lake Health and Weed Control

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp has provided Harper Lake Association with a year-end lake evaluation report on detailing their visits to Harper Lake to perform treatment of invasive aquatic plants and to monitor the water quality and native vegetation. While both invasive species Eurasian watermilfoil and Starry stonewort are still present in Harper Lake, the areas have not expanded and have been treated with appropriate herbicides. Continued monitoring, treatment and water quality testing are recommended for 2022. You can read the full report at www.harperlakeassociation.org.

Fish Stocking Update

The Harper Lake Association conducted both a May and November fish stocking in 2021, planting 2,000 fingerling perch around the lake. There were several members present at the stocking event to assure that the perch were distributed around various locations on the lake. The perch that were provided looked to be in good health and well developed. Thanks to Kevin Storberg, Craig Fazakerly and the volunteers who helped distribute the fish.



2022 Dates

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| May 28 | HLA General Membership Meeting – 9 a.m. at Elk Township Hall, 8996 Bass Lake Rd. |
| July 2 | Harper Lake Day – Fishing Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Float Parade & Prizes (Luau theme) |
| Sep 3 | HLA General Membership Meeting – 9 a.m. at Elk Township Hall, 8996 Bass Lake Rd |
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Board of Directors

Karen Brower, President
Brian Ritsema, Vice President
Dawn May, Secretary
Ann Storberg, Treasurer
Heather Davis
Craig Fazakerly
Steve May
Rich Walker



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