



Harper Lake Association

P.O. Box 53, Irons, MI 49644

MAY 2012

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 26,... SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
9:00 AM IRONS UNION CHURCH
JULY 7,...POKER RUN 2:00pm CHECK IN

JULY 21,... HARPER LAKE PICNIC
AUGUST 18,...FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In God We Trust

Spring Meeting

Mark your calendar for May 26, 2012. Our Spring Membership Meeting will be held at the Irons Union Church at 9:00. Come a little early and share a cup of coffee with your neighbors.

SPRING UPDATE

This winter will be recalled by some as good, short and not much snow. Others will say we had a bad winter,..... no snow. Whatever side you are on, it is over and now we look forward to a great summer. We have even had a few days in the 80's to practice.

Water levels have risen. We are not back to the past levels, but hopefully the current level will remain throughout the summer.

Professional Lake Management Corp. is scheduled to be on our lake the second week of June (as weather permits) to evaluate the lake for any milfoil pockets and, with our approval, will treat specific locations as needed.

Randy Heemstra has investigated the DNR's responsibility to our lake including fish planting, and management of the boat launch site. Upon review of the registered deed he found no restriction or requirements for the State. The land was sold to the State of Michigan in 1950 for \$1,800 with no terms, conditions, or stipulations regarding future activities. Fish planting on our lake in previous years by the state was just a part of the State's past fish management program. The State was not obligated to stock our lake in return for the title to this property.

Hopefully, this clears up the on going questions concerning the boat launch site management by the State of Michigan.

In closing please remember to fill in your calendars with our HLA activities dates that are listed in this letter. We are all looking forward to a safe, fun and sunny summer, get in your boats and enjoy our lake. If you see boats rafted together on a hot day, join in.

Richard Blumenstein

BY LAW AMENDMENT

The following By Law amendment will be presented to the membership for a vote at the May 26, 2012 General membership meeting.

Delete: ARTICLE X – INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Replace with: ARTICLE X – INSURANCE

The Board of Directors shall review and secure for the benefit of the Association Members, General Liability insurance and Directors and Officers / Errors and Omission Insurance as an expense of the Association.

HARPER LAKE FIRSTS FOR 2012

ICE OUT

Howie Mullen won the Ice Out pool with being the closest to guess when the lake thawed. The official thaw was 6:20pm on March 15, 2012.

FIRST IN THE LAKE

Bob and Nancy Randall's nephews, Josh and Jake, were almost the first when they jumped in the lake March 16th.

According to witnesses, it took less time to get out of the frigid water than it took to jump in.

It was later reported that Joe Kozak may have been the first one in this year when he jumped in to save his dog. All made it to safety and are now over their colds.

HARPER LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES

MAKE SURE YOU SENT IN YOUR 2012 ASSOCIATION

DUES OF \$55.

THANKS TOM ELENBAAS

Tom Elenbaas has served our community as fireman, medic and first responder to local disasters for many years. In May 2008, Tom took on the role of Fire Chief for our Sauble, Elk, Eden Fire Department..

On July 1, 2012, Tom will step down as Chief and spend a little more time cruising the lake and hitting golf balls.

The community is invited to attend a retirement send-off for Tom starting just before 4:00 PM on July 8th at NaTahKa Tavern, so mark your calendars.

Thank you Tom for your years of service.

POKER RUN

The 2012 Poker Run is scheduled for **July 7th**. Howie Mullen and Jim Abbott are heading up the event this year. We still need volunteers, and dock captains. More details will be provided at the Membership Meeting.

HARPER LAKE ANNUAL PICNIC

Bob and Nancy Randall have graciously agreed to host this years Annual Picnic. Mark your calendar now for **July 21**

LAKE RAKE

We purchased a 48" heavy- duty lake rake with an extra long handle. This is a great rake for leaves and weeds by your shore. To sign it out, call David Kott at 231 266 6034.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Harper Lake Association has committed to pick up the trash along Granger Road. This year, it has been done at least twice. Everyone is urged to get involved. Recruit the kids and grandkids and make them Stewards of the Forest. Grab a trash bag, take a walk, and pick up what trash might be left. This is our community. The only ones to keep it clean will be us!

YELLOW BAGS & TRASH

Elk Township was frustrated with the trash bags left out after the weekend and being torn up by raccoons before Allied Waste could pick up the garbage. Our neighbor, Jim Abbott to the rescue! Jim supplied all the labor to build four trash bag containers for the township. These are only for use with the Yellow Trash Bags available at Ez Mart and Dublin Store. You will find two of these containers at 10 ½ Mile and Granger and the other in the old K & K parking lot.

Jim received a letter of appreciation from the Township

Thanks Jim for being a good example and giving back to the community!

TRASH DAY

Trash day for Elk Township will take place in July, but no date has been established. An announcement will be made in the local Bulletin Board News.

MISSION STORE

Good quality household goods, clothing, furniture and non perishable foods are welcomed at the Irons Union Church Mission Store, open on Friday and Saturday afternoon. These donations help the community. This is also a great place to find some new treasures. If you have questions, call Connie Helder at 266 2039.

FINANCES

Lisa Mullen has reported that we are ahead of last year in collecting Association Dues. A special thanks goes out to all those members for their unwavering support. All residents around Harper Lake who benefit from the efforts to preserve our home values, and quality of our lake by all our volunteers are urged to participate and join the Association.

Lisa will update the Treasurers Report at the Membership Meeting on May 26th.

COMMUNITY NEWS.....ORVS AND QUADS

Elk Township and Lake County have approved a new ORV Ordinance which opens the roads to ORV, Quad, ATV and Golf Cart use. Google the Lake County ORV Ordinance for 2012 for details or look for the new Trail Maps scheduled to be in local business establishments. Restrictions include but are not limited too:

25 mph or less speed
ORV stickers (\$16.25)
Seat belts and lights

Helmets or roll bars
Licensed drivers 18 years or older
Respect for others and property.

EVER WONDER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LEAVE IN THE FALL? THIS IS A COPY OF AN EMAIL SENT OUT FROM KAREN HUMFLEET BACK IN DECEMBER.

Karen Humfleet Humfleet@bigriverventures.com

12/21/11

<http://trumpeterswansociety.wordpress.com/2010/01/26/reporting-marked-or-banded-trumpeter-swans/#comment-1039>

Today (December 21, 2011) I spotted three Trumpeter Swans feeding by our dock and floating about in the open water. One had about a three inch green band on its neck with a large identifying mark (89E) After calling the DNR with no satisfying results other than they band on the legs(not the neck) I found the website above that asks you to report when you spot a band. They are following the migration patterns, origins, family history, etc. I did report via email and a note on the site. It is exciting to be part of this study in our little “neck of the woods”. Keep an eye out for more bands so we all can report “swans behaving badly” (or normally)

Karen received a Certificate Of Appreciation Awarded To: KAREN HUMFLEET (band#: 0619-33528) from U.S.G.S.

If you spot a banded Trumpeter Swan, you are encouraged to report it to:

U.S. Geological Survey
Canadian Wildlife Service

Please Report Bands at
www.reportband.gov or call 1-800-327-BAND

THE FISH ARE COMING

Lance Lamar has coordinated re-stocking Harper Lake again this year with 1,320 Hybrid Blue Gill and a gazillion flat head minnows. Tell the kids and grandkids to get the fishing poles ready!

SAYING GOODBYE.....MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sophia Furlong was on Harper Lake for nearly 20 years, but we lost Sophie this last June. She will be remembered by many.

Sophie left a wonderful legacy to her family. We would like to welcome her daughter and son-in-law Mary and Brian DeAngelis to Harper Lake who look forward to being here this Spring.