



Harper Lake Association

P.O. Box 53, Irons, MI 49644

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 1, ANNUAL ASSOCIATION FEES \$55.00

**MAY 24, SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
9:00 AMELK TWP HALL**

JULY 5 POKER RUN 2:00 PM CHECK IN

AUGUST 30 FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

2013 – 2014 Winter Report

Here is what's been happening around Harper Lake and our "neck of the woods" during the fall fishing/hunting season and winter when we have snow, snow and more snow.

Sadly, during the fall hunt, the 6 point male white buck was shot and the other male was seen running with an arrow in his back. There were four at the beginning of the season, with at least two having been seen in March.



We are proud of the fact that we even have those deer in our neck of the woods, but unfortunately, they are legal to hunt and have become accustomed to people stopping and pointing cameras at them. That sets them up for hunters who are looking for great trophies and easy targets.

MAY 2014

The Salmon and Steelhead that were caught on the rivers (both Big and Little Manistee) have been large and plentiful.

I know one young lady who caught a 26 lb Salmon on the Big Manistee.... a monster that dwarfed her in the picture. The average Steelhead caught was between 10 and 14 lbs. Good eating and boasting!



Depending on who you talk to, we've had 180" or more of snow. At one point, we had close to 3 ½ ' of snow on the ground. This was a harsh winter even for the toughest of us.

The ice on the lake got to be over 24" thick, and the snowmobilers had a great time on the lake. This may have been the longest season in years for our winter enthusiasts.

The ice fishermen were out on the lake catching Pikes. The catch seemed smaller this year...8" to 12" size. We had one report of a 15" Crappie being caught. It may have been too cold to sit and fish a lot of the times.

The deer were plentiful this year, and extremely hungry. With the snow so deep, it was hard for them to find food. It was not unusual to see a dozen or so traversing the lake in the early mornings.

We full time Harper Lake residents have kept busy social calendars so we don't go stir crazy. We can't wait to see you on the lake this summer.

Contributing Editor Karen Humfleet

SPRING MEETING

Mark your calendar for May 24, 2014. Our Spring Membership Meeting will be held at 9:00 am at the ELK TOWNSHIP HALL south on Bass Lake Rd. Come a little early and visit with your neighbors.

MILFOIL AND WEED CONTROL:

Our recent weed survey designed to provide direction on how far we go with weed control produced some interesting results. Any changes will be discussed at the Spring Meeting.

2013 LAKE WATER TESTING

Fears of E.Coli and other water impurities were put to rest this last fall when the results of our 2013 water testing results were released. Professional Lake Management Corp (PLM) conducting an in-depth study of our lake water quality in various locations around Harper Lake.

Fecal bacteria (E.Coli) levels were very low Phosphorus levels were also low which helps with the undesirable plant growth.

The water conditions remain conducive for bass, pan fish and pike fish growth, but dissolved oxygen levels are too low to sustain other fish like trout in the deeper, cooler parts of the lake.

The overall water quality for recreation (very safe for swimming) was confirmed to be very GOOD throughout the summer months.

Residents are urged to maintain natural buffer zones between lawns and lakeshore to help control phosphorus in the lake. Use of any fertilizer should not include any phosphate and not be used anywhere near the lake.

More details will be provided at the Spring meeting by Richard Blumenstein.

Contributing Editor Richard Blumenstein

www.HarperLakeAssociation.org

POKER RUN:

The 2014 Poker Run is scheduled for **July 5th**. Jim & Kathy Abbott, Howie & Lisa Mullen, Roger & Kathy Zeh and are heading up the event this year.

Dock captains have as much fun, if not more, than all those who participate in the Poker Run. Dock Captains and details will be covered at the Spring Meeting!!

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. .

Lisa will update the Treasurers Report at the Membership Meeting on May 24th.

TIME TO SAY GOOD BYE



Gordie Schneider, long time, year-round resident of Harper Lake since the 60s, passed away March 1, 2014. Until recently, he spent his time fishing, feeding his cats and now will spend his time with his wife, Eunice. Bye Gordie.

HANDY MAN

Jim Oleksiak, who is staying with Bob and Nancy Randall on the lake, is available for Spring Yard work and other odd jobs. He is dependable and has local references. Call Jim at 231-729-3376

WINTER FISH KILL

Besides the pot holes, ice backups and frozen pipes from this last winter, we have been warned by the DNR to expect a higher than average Winter Fish Kill. Heavy ice and a lack of sunshine affect shallow lakes with murky bottoms and excessive aquatic vegetation.

With the lack of sunlight, living plants can't produce oxygen and the plants die. Fish actually suffocate from a lack of dissolved oxygen from decaying plants and other dead aquatic animals under the ice. Bacteria that decompose organic material on the bottom of the lake use the remaining oxygen in the water. While we might not want to see dead fish floating around this spring, the condition is not a health problem. The food cycle is once again replenished.

For more information visit www.michigan.gov/fishing.

Contributing Editor Linda Van Dolsen

BOSTON MARATHON

Harper Lake was represented at this year's BOSTON MARATHON. Property owner, ED BAES competed for the third time. Ed can be seen running around the lake most mornings throughout the summer.

His wife, Joanne, three sons and a daughter were at the finish line to welcome Ed and share in his accomplishment.

Great job Ed!

Contributing Editor Joe Landis

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Phone numbers and email addresses can be found in the Harper Lake directory or on.....

www.HarperLakeAssociation.org

INVASIVE WEEDS ISSUES AND CONTROL

We, as current Harper Lake property owners, have benefited from the years of Eurasian Water-Milfoil treatment by our Association. Other lakes around us have not maintained yearly control and are now paying for it financially. Portage, Bear, Big Bass, Loon and the Sauble lakes all have additional taxes on their property for Milfoil control. Their additional tax assessments are at least triple what we are paying.

This year's treatment date is scheduled for mid June but will be adjusted, as needed, for weather conditions. Remember, not only will Milfoil choke off navigation, but it makes swimming and fishing more difficult too. It has also been found to be an excellent breeding ground for Swimmers Itch.

This last month, I attended the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention and participated in the symposium for aquatic plant management, herbicide usage, and the importance of management in relation to sport fisheries. It was very informative and I will share further information with you at our spring membership meeting. On the positive side, we have been using the best system available to manage the spread of Milfoil. We have a proactive vs. reactive program in place, which requires no foreseeable changes in the future. As stated by the experts, "The worst thing that lake owners can do for invasive aquatic plants is nothing...they will kill your lake" See you at the Spring Meeting.

Contributing Editor Richard Blumenstein

SOMETHING FOR SALE????

If you have a boat or something else you would like to sell, this year, let us know. We'll be glad to post your ad on the HLA web site in CLASSIFIED.

Send your email to

davkott@goldcommcable.com

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