

Hidden Harbour Lake Association Fall Newsletter

November 1, 2013

At the end of another summer at Hidden Harbour, the Lake Association would like to thank all those residents who help keep the lake a beautiful place to live. Picking up trash on your walks and boat rides, observing the lake rules and regulations and in general being good neighbors and stewards of the lake, all contribute to the beauty of Hidden Harbour. THANK YOU!

Weeds, weeds, weeds, weeds, weeds!

Our main challenge this summer (once again) was controlling the various lake weeds. We were somewhat successful by following the 4 point approach we discussed at the Spring meeting:

1. Asking residents to reduce or eliminate lawn fertilization. The committee would like to hear feedback from those residents who reduced their fertilization and whether or not it had a noticeable impact on your lawns. We believe it had a positive impact on the lake at NO COST.
2. Manually pulling weeds – residents were observed pulling weeds along their shore line – this is also a no cost action that helped control weeds.
3. Weevils – the weevils we placed in the lake attack the milfoil – the amount of milfoil was down noticeably this year.
4. Chemical application – we did 1 chemical application (in 2 visits) this summer to control all the “non-milfoil” weeds. This also seemed to have a positive impact – although costly. At this time, we don’t have plans to apply chemicals again next year, but do not rule it out for the future.

We are asking for resident’s help again this year, so we can continue with this effective approach:

- a. The Lake Committee will provide FREE mesh bags for you to build “weevil hotels.” Many of you did this last year, and although it’s not possible to measure the exact impact it had – it can’t hurt! Email Siotkowski@sbcglobal.net or call 419-868-5847 if you want one or more bags. You simply fill the bags with leaf matter, etc. and secure along the shore. The weevils will climb out of the water and make their winter home there (and return to the lake next Spring.)
- b. Nutrients (aka lawn fertilizer) are the biggest contributor to feeding the lake weeds. Our sandy soil plus the tendency for lawn service companies to over-fertilize are the major source of excessive nutrients in the lake. There are two ways you can help:
 - Issue standing order to lawn service companies to cut fertilizer application rate by 50%. Reminders are often necessary, since the applicators sometimes miss the notes.
 - Confirm that there is 0 phosphorus content in the fertilized used. Phosphorus use is prohibited in Hidden Harbor.

Your cooperation reduces the cost of weed control as well as providing a more eco-friendly solution. Please help---our lake is essential to the beauty, recreation, and property value attributes of Hidden Harbour.

Comments and ideas are always welcome at Siotkowski@sbcglobal.net.