

The Hutchins Lake Herald

A publication of
Hutchins Lake Improvement Association
www.hlia.org

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #31

Winter 2016



HLIA Membership Dues

To renew your HLIA membership for 2016, or to join for the first time, please:

- Write a check for **\$30.00** payable to HLIA.
- Complete the enclosed payment form.
- Send the completed payment form and check to:

**Denise Grimaldi, Treasurer, HLIA
6045 122nd Avenue
Fennville, MI 49408**

With your membership in HLIA, you will receive:

- Subscription to *The Riparian* magazine, if desired
- One vote at the HLIA Annual meeting

Your dues help cover the expenses of:

- A free summer Discovery Day Camp
- HLIA membership in the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association
- Testing the lake and monitoring water quality

CLMP Report

HLIA has participated in the Cooperative Lakes Management Program taking Secchi disc readings weekly throughout the summer for over 30 years. A Secchi disc is a device used to measure the transparency of water by lowering the disc on the end of a line into the water. A transparency measurement is the length of line in the water when the disc disappears.

This measurement is one way to observe nutrient levels in the water. Typically the water is very clear in the spring and at the beginning of summer when the aquatic plants are sucking in these nutrients.

Other sampling is done by taking water samples from the lake, once in the spring and again in late summer and having them analyzed for phosphorus content. High levels of phosphorus act like a fertilizer for the aquatic plants.

In both cases Hutchins Lake has tested very well for the years we have been conducting these tests. John Lindahl has been collecting the samples for many years and recently informed the HLIA Board that he is retiring from conducting these tests.

If you are interested in taking over the water testing and thus continuing this important contribution to our lake management, contact John Lindahl or Loren Barnes for more information.

By John Lindahl, HLIA District 1 Director.

Summer Activities for 2016

Poker Run	5/28 @ 7:15pm
Annual Meeting	6/25 @ 10am
Boat Parade	7/4 @ 7:30pm
Discovery Day Camp	TBA
Boat Safety Class	TBA

Hutchins Lake Board Report

In 2004, the Hutchins Lake Board was formed to oversee the spending of a special tax assessment that lake homeowners pay to Allegan County to be used primarily for weed control on Hutchins Lake. Action from the August 27th Hutchins Lake Board meeting included:

1) All three Kieser & Associate's proposals for 2016 (water quality monitoring, sediment sampling, and purple loosestrife assessment) were approved with the Purple Loosestrife proposal being moved to the summer of 2015 rather than waiting until 2016.

2) The weed control tax assessment will be suspended during 2015 with the present fund balance of \$48,547.91 being utilized for lake management during 2016. The tax bill reflecting \$0 weed control assessment was sent in November 2015.

3) Based on the HLIA annual meeting directive, there will be the required public hearing for current riparian and legal access property owners, who are part of the Hutchins Lake assessment district, concerning continuation of the entire lake management program beyond 2016.

4) Open bidding for the next lake management contract, which Progressive AE has held for the past ten years, will be conducted, if the management program is to continue.

By John Burmeister, Clyde Township representative to the Hutchins Lake Board & HLIA District 8 Director.

HLIA Executive Board

President:

Loren Barnes 616-836-9015

Vice President & Newsletter Editor:

Anne Irwin 941-447-5691

Secretary:

Randy Vogelzang 817-456-3543

Treasurer:

Denise Grimaldi 269-561-5789

District Directors

1 - John Lindahl 269-650-5900

2 - Jill O'Connor 269-561-2110

3a - Vikki Barnes 269-722-3230

3b -Maureen Sytsma 269-561-2437

4 - John Lerg 616-550-9812

5a & 5b - Jim Baird 616-901-2483

6a - Todd Moore 616-836-2989

6b - Martha Kautz 630-649-9211

7 - Scott Clark 646-739-3534

8 - John Burmeister 616-886-8732

9a - Denise Grimaldi 269-561-5789

9b - Janice Rowland 269-561-2520

10 - Gary Holton 269-568-6838

2016 HLIA Board Meeting dates are January 21, April 28, September 22, & December 1.

All meetings are open to the public and are held at 6:30 pm in the FPS Board of Education room located behind the Community Athletics building off N Maple Street.

2015 Annual Meeting election results: the HLIA members re-elected **Anne Irwin** vice-president and **Denise Grimaldi** treasurer.

Check out the **HLIA website** at www.hlia.org for the recent By-law changes. The **HLIA facebook page** at www.facebook.com/HutchinsLakeImprovementAssociation offers the latest news of the happenings on Hutchins Lake. Both places on the internet offer news and reports regarding the organization.

Full House at 2015 HLIA Poker Run

If you ask for them, they will come. And they did! In record numbers...in kayaks, canoes, and boats of every shape and size...they all rowed in on May 23rd for the 2015 HLIA Poker Run on Hutchins Lake. Event organizers called the 46 entries the most they had ever seen. A small number of pirate sightings were reported, but fair play prevailed on the cool calm waters..... Arrrrrrr.

The Mission: Row your favorite non-motorized vessel to seven different locations on the lake, collect a card at each stop, and show your hand at the finish line.

The best hand wins, and Lydia Nykamp did just that with Four Of A Kind to top the Adult Single Paddlers. A Pair of Aces from Herman and Kelsey Tammeling was good enough to win among the Adult Team Paddlers. Eliana Condotti's Four Of A Kind hand bested all Youth Paddlers, while Patrick and Caleb Turnock finished first in the Adult-Youth Team Division with Two Pairs.

Jim and Ann Baird thanked all of the local race sponsors in the Fennville area for their generosity in making this the most successful Poker Run ever.

By Scott Clark, HLIA District 7 Director.

Discovery Day Camp Report

The 2015 Discovery Day Camp was held on July 28th & 30th from 9 am to noon using the McMahon property as the base of operations.

Once again, the children who participated in Discovery Camp had an awesome time. At this two-day event, each child created a "treasure box" that he/she painted and decorated with mosaic pieces. With some help, each child also made a view finder to study the lake bottom.

Our scavenger hunt was a search for all things natural--leaves, moss, etc. After a pontoon boat ride, we enjoyed a pot-luck luncheon.

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A trooper from the Marine Division stopped by to review items needed on each boat to fulfill safety requirements. In order to legally drive a personal water craft you must pass the "Boater Safety Course".

Thanks to **El Clough**, the director, and her staff of helpers - **Janet Stappenbeck, Maureen Sytsma, Ralph McMahon, John Lindahl** for volunteering their time to offer this quality camp during the summer.

By Maureen Sytsma, HLIA District 3b Director.

Rockets' Red Glare, Bombs Bursting in Air

Summer finally arrived at Hutchins Lake just in time to commemorate America's 239th birthday with a perfect holiday weekend of warm temps, sunny skies and calm waters. After a great day of boating, tubing, water skiing, fishing, paddle boarding, kayaking and barbequing several families decorated their boats and joined together at 7:30 pm to parade around the lake.

Approximately 30 pontoon boats, motor boats and PWCs decorated with American flags, patriotic bunting and festoons, and red, white, and blue streamers and ballons circled Hutchins Lake. Boaters waved, sang, cheered and blew noise makers to spectators on the shore. Following the parade, folks prepared for the evening's fireworks.

At dusk sparklers, firecrackers and screamers could be seen and heard from several points around the lake, but the 'big guns' began about 10 pm. For the next 90 minutes the awesome fireworks displays lit up the nighttime sky. Several neighbors independently and collectively set off a wide variety of pyrotechs that rivaled many city-sponsored displays.

We're not sure who won boasting rights for the best special effects but all lake residents, families and friends thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated their voluntary work and effort. Hutchins Lake folks clearly know how to party and celebrate the stars and stripes holiday.

By Kay Zuris, District 7 resident.

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association
Loren Barnes, President
2290 Elm Street
Fennville, MI 49408

Clear Water; Green Water

So, what causes the clear water of our lake in spring to have a greenish hue by summer. The answer is largely because of plankton. These are actually a variety of tiny organisms that float about in the water column. They cannot move laterally and thus are subject to waves and current. They can fill air bladders and rise to the surface for sun only to descend again by night.

The single-celled green algae make up most of the plankton in our lake. They are very efficient at soaking up sun and converting the nitrogen and phosphorus in the water column into plant matter. These short-lived organisms only survive a couple of days before settling to the bottom where they become food for other organisms.

However while they are alive, they photosynthesize and contribute much of the available dissolved oxygen in our lake water. (Fish like that!)

Plankton are the beginning of the food chain that supports our lake. They are the food that invertebrates eat which in turn supports small fish. These fish are in turn eaten by larger fish and birds. So when a large pike goes swimming by, you are looking at a whole lot of Plankton! Gotta love that green water.

By John Lerg, HLIA District 4 Director.