

The Hutchins Lake Herald

A publication of

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

www.hlia.org

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #32
Summer 2016



ANNUAL MEETING

The HLIA Annual Meeting will be held Sat, June 25th at 10 am in the Fennville Public Schools Board of Education room at 515 N Maple Street **behind the Community Athletic Center.**

Topics: Elections for President and Secretary - See page 4.

WHAT A HEALTHY HUTCHINS LAKE MEANS TO YOU

Weeds

If you have lived on Hutchins Lake for more than ten years, you will remember the days while enjoying a pontoon boat ride frequently having to reverse the motor to remove the weeds wound around the prop. Water skiers and personal water crafters had to dodge big weed patches. Swimming areas were overgrown with weeds.

Before 2006, the HLIA relied on voluntary donations from home owners to manage the weed control, but funds were inadequate to properly control the weeds.

For the last 10 years weed growth has been professionally managed by Progressive AE and funded by a weed control assessment as part of winter property taxes.

Public hearings will be held this summer and a vote will be taken of all lake front and back lot owners to determine whether to continue to assess via taxing all owners for weed control. The meetings will be conducted by the current management company Progressive AE. Come to the HLIA

Annual meeting on June 25th at 10am for discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

on Tuesday, July 19th at 6:30 pm in the Clyde Township Hall regarding the weed control tax assessment:

Part 1: Practicability of the project & cost
Part 2: Assessment Roll

Conducted by Hutchins Lake Board. All lake residents will be mailed a formal notification.

Water Quality Testing

Hutchins Lake currently has the second highest water quality rating possible. Since the 1970's there has been very little change in our water quality. Hutchins Lake water is in great shape. See full report at www.hlia.org.

An overabundant growth of plants can negatively affect fish populations and thus impact fishing and other recreational activities. Managing weed growth and testing water quality costs money and the tax assessment of owners should continue.

Hutchins Lake Boating Laws (Updated May 2016)

Please post these boating laws and regulations in your lake home. Take time to discuss them with your family, guests, and renters. Report violations to the Allegan County Marine Patrol 269-673-0438. In an emergency dial 911.

- Non-motorized craft, i.e. sailboats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks, etc. have the right of way over powered watercraft (boats & PWC). Skiers must also yield right of way to non-motorized craft.
- Operating powered watercraft, including personal watercraft (PWC) such as Jet Skis, Ski-Doos, Wave Runners, etc. at speeds which create a wake is restricted to the hours of 11:00 am to 7:30 pm daily.
- Personal watercraft (PWC) may not cross a wake within 150 feet of another vessel.
- All powered watercraft must stay 100 feet, and preferably more, from fishing boats, sailing boats, swimming areas, docks, boat floats, buoys, rafts, and inhabited shores.
- All powered watercraft, including those pulling skiers, must travel in a **counter-clockwise direction around** the lake.
- No powered watercraft may be operated in a reckless manner which endangers life, limb, or property.
- All powered watercraft (boats and PWC) must have a legal operator and at least one competent observer (no dogs or children) to tow or pull water skiers, tubes, rafts, etc.
- **Persons less than 14 years of age may not** legally operate a personal watercraft (PWC).
- **Persons 14 and 15 years of age** may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a boating safety certificate **and ...**
 - He or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian **or ...**
 - He or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.
- **Persons at least 16 years of age** and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a boating safety certificate.
- Those born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.
- **Persons less than 12 years of age** may operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- **Persons less than 12 years of age** may operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally **only if** they:
 - Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat **and ...**
 - Are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- **Persons less than 12 years of age** may **not** operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.
- **Persons born on or after July 1, 1996**, may operate a boat legally **only if** they have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat.
- Person born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally without restrictions.
- **A vessel operator who is required to have passed a boating safety course should carry this certificate on board.**

These laws are listed in the Marine Safety Act. All boating laws and regulations will be enforced by the Marine Patrol of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department. There will be frequent patrols. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Swans Are To Be Left Alone

All waterfowl on Hutchins Lake are to be left unmolested. Already this season a pontoon boat and several PWC operators have been observed harassing groups of swans. **Please avoid ...**

- travelling through a group of them
- chasing them
- getting close to them
- bothering their nesting areas
- separating babies from their parents

Please obey all boating laws on Hutchins Lake for the safety of the people and waterfowl that enjoy this beautiful lake. Please inform your guests/renters what acceptable and lawful behavior is on Hutchins Lake.

HLIA Executive Board

President:

Loren Barnes
616-255-5038

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

Avoid Swimmer's Itch

Swimmer's itch may bother some bathers this summer. Here are a few tips:

You are more likely to get swimmer's itch during the beginning of the season.

Try to avoid it by swimming in deep water rather than shallow.

Leave the water immediately & hose off.
Rub visible skin vigorously with a towel.

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

Memorial Day Poker Run

Meet on the east side of the lake at the Sunset Drive access lot on Sat. May 28th @ 7:15pm for an evening of fun on the lake. Everyone on the lake is invited. The Run starts at 7:30 pm.

This event is open only to non-motorized craft (row boats, kayaks, canoes, sailboats, tubes, paddleboats, water walkers, surfboards, swimmers, etc). Spectators are encouraged to cheer and come to the post party.

The objective is to get to seven different spots on the lake where you collect a playing card that is part of a poker hand. Best hand wins a prize! Final destination is back at the Sunset Drive access lot.

Prizes will be awarded for those who participate and refreshments (hot dogs & pop/beer) will be served at the award ceremony for all who attend.

Best Adult Single-handed
Best Adult Team
Best Adult-Youth Team
Best Youth Team (age 12-16)

Additional raffle prizes for all so join the fun of this rapidly growing event. There is plenty of parking off Sunset Drive. This event is not just for paddlers. It's a summer kick off get together for everyone!

Register for the Run at the Sunset Drive access lot or call (616-901-2483) **Jim Baird**.

****LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN****
YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN A PRIZE!!

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

Renew/Get Your HLIA Membership

The current year membership drive started on January 1st. It is not too late to renew/get membership prior to the HLIA Annual meeting where current voting members vote for officers.

A membership form and directions are on the www.hlia.org website or contact the Treasurer.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

Join the 'Do It Yourself' annual boat parade! Decorate your craft in any theme. Leave your dock promptly at 7:30 pm on the 4th and travel in a counter clockwise direction. Enjoy the cheers coming from the shore from your lake friends and neighbors.

HLIA Elections

At the Saturday, June 25th HLIA Annual meeting the election for President and Secretary will be held. A riparian or a legal access property owner who has paid the 2016 dues has one vote.

ALL ABSENTEE OR PROXY VOTES MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF Jim Baird BY THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Only those current voting members in attendance at the Annual meeting will be eligible to vote for a candidate who may be nominated from the floor.