

The Hutchins Lake Herald

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

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #27

Winter 2014



2013 Mute Swan Status Report

On Hutchins Lake

The following events and actions occurred in 2013 regarding mute swans on Hutchins Lake:

- In January, a survey was conducted of Hutchins Lake property owners regarding their opinions on mute swan eradication on Hutchins Lake.
- In June, the survey results were published in the 2013 Summer edition of *The Hutchins Lake Herald*.

(Please see 2013 Mute Swan Status Report, cont'd on next page.)

HLIA Membership Dues

Thanks to all HLIA members for your support in 2013. **To renew your HLIA membership for 2014, or to join for the first time, please:**

- Write a check for \$20.00 payable to HLIA. (Dues are now tax deductible.)
- Complete the enclosed payment form.
- Send the completed payment form and check to:

Denise Grimaldi, Treasurer, HLIA
2219 Blue Goose Drive
Fennville, MI 49408

With your membership in HLIA, you will receive:

- Twice-yearly newsletter
- Subscription to *The Riparian* magazine if desired.
- Opportunity to vote at the HLIA annual meeting

Your membership helps HLIA sponsor:

- A free summer discovery day camp for kids
- Summer social activities
- Boater safety classes and certification
- HLIA membership in the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association.

2013 Mute Swan Status Report cont'd.

- In Spring the DNR recommended continuing mute swan destruction on Hutchins Lake. The HLIA Board determined this action was not necessary as only 4 adult mute swans were regularly using the lake.
- At the June Annual Meeting, Anne Irwin noted that there were several flaws in the survey that indicated the results to be unreliable.
- In June, Ganges Township Board rescinded their resolution to allow mute swans to be destroyed on the Ganges side of Hutchins Lake.
- In August, Clyde Township Board encouraged lake residents to work with the HLIA Board to determine what actions may be taken in the future.
- In September, the HLIA Board voted to conduct a second survey to determine what action the majority of the lake residents wish to pursue regarding mute swan management on our lake.

The second survey will be mailed to all lake residents this winter. ***The HLIA Board urges everyone to complete and return this postage paid survey.***

Annual Meeting Business

1. Dave Van'tHof, of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department reviewed the new Michigan Law for operating Personal Water Craft (PWC). *The minimum age for operating a PWC solo has been raised to 16, and the minimum age for operating a PWC with an adult supervisor on board has been raised to 14.*
2. The secchi disc and phosphorus testing done on Hutchins Lake annually was explained by John Lindahl. A proposal from Kieser & Associates for an annual extensive test of the waters was presented by John Lerg. The proposal passed.
3. Anne Irwin and Denise Grimaldi were elected to two-year terms as vice-president and treasurer of HLIA. On behalf of all of the HLIA members, the HLIA Board wishes to thank both Gary Holten and Ralph McMahon for all of their dedicated years of service as treasurer and vice-president, respectively. Gary will continue on the Board as District #10 Representative. Ralph has retired from the Board to enjoy the lake and all that it offers.

HLIA Activities for 2014

- **Winter Board Meeting (1/28)**
- **Memorial Day Poker Run**
- **Boating Safety Class**
- **Annual Meeting
(6/28 @ 10am tentative)**
- **Fourth of July Boat Parade**
- **Discovery Day Camp (?)**

Watch for specific information about these activities in the Spring/Summer HLIA newsletter and on hlia.org

Personal Watercraft Law

The 2013 Michigan Law for operating Personal Water Craft (PWC) raised *the minimum age for operating a PWC solo to 16*, and raised *the minimum age for operating a PWC with an adult supervisor on board to 14*.

If You Have A Seawall

What Can You Do...

...to help maintain the water quality of Hutchins Lake?

An important part of any lake environment is its shoreline. Hutchins Lake is similar to many lakes in Michigan where many shorelines are protected with seawalls that do not have the environmental diversity that fish & invertebrates love. Seawall diversity can be enhanced through bioengineering.

'How to' information can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/mishorelinepartnership/>

Remember that bioengineering projects require a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (269-567-3500).

The HLIA Board retained a new company to test water on Hutchins Lake in 2013. This company continues to test for dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, phosphorus, and a number of other water chemistry measures that help us to understand the health of our lake. It continues to have good water quality that supports a diverse natural environment. Visit hlia.org to see the complete report.

2013 Discovery Day Camp

Discovery Day Camp was held on July 17 & 18 from 9:30-1:00. The camp focused on area birds. The campers completed a purple martin gourd bird house, took a pontoon ride focusing on habitat and water clarity, and created a small bird guide. Campers ranged in ages from 6 and up.

Thanks to Eleanor Clough and her helpers for running a top rate program. Thanks also extended to Ralph McMahan for use of his property and organizing the camp cookout and to John Lindahl for the use of his pontoon boat.

The Girard family commented "a big thank you for a great camp experience! Our four kids and parents had a great time each day and especially enjoyed making the bird houses! They have all found a special place for them. We all appreciate your time and energy!"

FRACKING is a new issue in our area. Landowners are encouraged to become informed. For more information:

<http://flowforwater.org/programs/fracking/>

http://dontfrackmichigan.com/?page_id=18

<http://foodandwaterwatch.org/water/fracking/>

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

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