

The Hutchins Lake Herald

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

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common

Edition #33

Winter 2017

Join the HLIA! With your support our Hutchins Lake always will be a beautiful, fun, and a safe place to live. The annual membership drive starts on January 1st. Invest in the pleasure and welfare of Hutchins Lake.

2016 POLKER RUN

A full house is a mighty hand in poker, and the Annual Poker Run on Hutchins Lake on May 28th took the pot as the highlight of the Memorial Day weekend. A record breaking turnout--54 boats with 67 participants--nearly doubled the size of last year's previous best showing on the lake.

An ominous weather forecast and cloud filled afternoon skies would yield to a sun filled early evening of water splashing prowess, as rowing enthusiasts of all ages took to the water on a nine-stop journey around the lake in what would be the largest course navigated in recent memory.

A spectrum of colors dotted the lake with boats as diverse as the families and friends in them....kayaks, canoes, and even two paddle boards filled the field of rowers that were out to collect their respective cards at each stop around the lake, vying for the best poker hand of the night.



POKER RUN REGISTRATION

Courtesy of Scott Clark - District 7



POKER RUN HOT DOGS

Courtesy of Scott Clark - District 7

When the final boat landed at the finish line and the hands were tallied, the winners came forward for their respective prizes, which were provided by scores of area businesses who supported this event.

Steve Fries won the Adult Single Class with Four 10's. **Karlie Vogelzang** took top honors in the Youth Single Class with an Ace High Full House. **Cory** and **Aleigh Highfield** paired up to win the Adult-Youth Team Class with a King High Full House.

It was a full house, indeed, as participants and other lake dwellers gathered for a post race party after the competition, cooking hot dogs over an open fire, enjoying refreshments, and accepting an abundance of raffle prizes from our local businesses that were handed out as the sun began its descent off Sunset Drive.

All in all, the 2016 Poker Run on Hutchins Lake hit the jackpot!

By Scott Clark - District 7

RED, WHITE & BOOM

Independence Day weekend had three perfect days of sunshine, calm winds, clear water and warm temperatures on Hutchins Lake. American flags, patriotic bunting, banners and balloons decorated lawns, cottages and boats all around the lake. The lake was a buzz of activity as residents enjoyed hours of boating, fishing, water and jet skiing, tubing, kayaking, paddle boarding and reclining on various inflatable toys and floats. "Landlubbers" wiled away the afternoons and evenings barbequing and grilling; playing corn hole, badminton, soccer and catch; and gathering around bonfires waiting for the fireworks show to start. Those folks who splurged on fireworks treated all lake residents and guests to three nights of spectacular pyrotechnics that began at dusk and continued until 11 pm each night. There were seven major locations around the lake that had terrific displays, so regardless of where spectators were sitting, there wasn't a bad viewing spot anywhere on the lake.

Even though July 4th fell on a weekday, the turnout for the voluntary annual boat parade was excellent. A total of 38 pontoon boats, speed boats and kayaks left their respective docks at 7:30 pm and proudly circled the lake for an hour. Those on board the decorated vessels cheered, waved, danced and sang to neighbors sitting on the shore. All in all, it was a great weekend to celebrate America's 240th birthday.

By Kay Zuris - District 7

Check out the **HLIA website** at **www.hlia.org** for the most recent Water Quality Report. Also, check the cool water depth map of the lake.

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 maintained by volunteers.

KEEP HUTCHINS LAKE GREAT

Hutchins Lake dwellers, no matter whether living in Ganges Township or Clyde Township, focus their lives around the lake. First impressions of Hutchins Lake are how clear the water is and how beautiful the vegetation and trees are that surround it. As time passes it is important not to become complacent and take the lake for granted. We need to be vigilant and do our part to keep the lake as pristine as possible.

The water quality in Hutchins Lake is considered good compared to other similar lakes according to Kieser and Associates. The lake achieved this rating because since the 1970's the HLIA has monitored water quality each year. This activity has been performed by lake residents who volunteer their time and by the HLIA Board who oversees and purchases equipment necessary to conduct these tests. In addition, the HLIA Board sends a volunteer representative to the Lake Board which continues to be responsible for weed control and recently is working with the HLIA to include water quality testing and to control other invasive species weeds.

There are many ways you can help to keep our lake great. If volunteering is not an option, consider joining the HLIA. Your dues support planned lake activities, maintenance of water testing equipment and lake buoys, and allow you to vote for HLIA Board members and other matters affecting the lake. In addition, you receive communications from the HLIA Board via the **hlii.org** website, mailings, emails, ***The Hutchins Lake Herald*** newsletter and the quarterly magazine ***Riparian***. The dues are tax exempt.

Certain lawn practices can also ensure that harm does not come to our lake. Too much fertilizer can be bad for both water quality and lawns. Longer grass needs less fertilizer. Leave grass clippings on lawns to recycle those nutrients. Water lightly and frequently between noon and 4:00 pm when the grass is under the most stress.

Explore ways in which you can contribute to keeping our lake healthy and beautiful.

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 | - Jim Baird | 616-901-2483 |
| 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 |

2017 quarterly **HLIA Board** projected meeting dates are 1/26, 4/20, 9/21, & 12/7 at 6:30 pm. The **Annual Meeting** will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 24, 2017. Future **HLIA Board and Annual meetings** will be held in the Fennville Public Schools' Board of Ed room. All meetings are open to the public.

2016 Annual meeting election results:

The HLIA members reelected **Loren Barnes** president and **Randy Vogelzang** secretary for another two-year term each.

AMERICAN BALD EAGLE

On a sunny afternoon you might see one or more American Bald Eagles soaring over the lake ready to plunge into the water for a fish, or in



RUTH HOGAN SPOTS AMERICAN BALD EAGLE DINING ON HER LAWN
Courtesy of Ruth Hogan - District 6a

this case dining in **Ruth Hogan's** yard on a recently caught fish, or maybe sitting quietly on a high branch just watching and waiting.

The American Bald Eagles you see around the lake nest miles away. They have a large radius around their nest of various hunting and fishing spots. They like what is on the Hutchins Lake menu because our lake is healthy and fish are abundant. We are lucky to have them join us.

The **HLIA Board** seeks **bid proposals** from 1/1/17 to 3/1/17 for buoy placement on Hutchins Lake.

Proposals shall include:

- a lump sum quote for the installation, removal and storage of 14 lake buoys
- an hourly rate for time
- the cost of and materials needed to repair buoys

For more details contact **Loren Barnes @ 616-836-9015**

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association
PO Box 656
Fennville, MI 49408-0656

Water Chemistry

For many years, your **Hutchins Lake Improvement Association** has been testing Hutchins Lake waters to determine levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, dissolved oxygen and other water and lake basin parameters. (The most recent test report can be found at hlia.org) These yearly tests help us to understand how our lake may be changing over time and to consider solutions to changes that may be harmful.

On the whole, these tests continue to confirm that our lake is healthy. Water clarity remains good. Dissolved oxygen is adequate to support the fish in our lake. Water temperature summer extremes are still moderate enough to allow mayfly and dragonfly nymphs to survive...a sure sign of lake water quality.

However, phosphorus levels are creeping up with time. Phosphorus availability (followed by nitrogen availability) is the primary factor limiting aquatic plant growth. Aquatic plants have become more dense in the last decade, and the lake is now treated annually to deal with this over abundance. The appearance of the invasive Eurasian water milfoil plant has made managing this over abundance more challenging.

The amount of silt collecting at the bottom of our lake is increasing with the increasing amount of aquatic plants in our lake. This silt is a perfect home for microscopic parasites that burrow into our skin and cause swimmers itch. We know that rinsing with fresh water after swimming and toweling off immediately will remove these parasites. We need to be vigilant and make sure our children follow these precautions as well.

Your **Hutchins Lake Improvement Association** will continue annual testing and add tests as necessary to understand the coming changes to our lake. This will allow us to anticipate any actions we will need to consider in keeping our lake a place for us all to enjoy.

By John Lerg - District 4