

# THE HUTCHINS LAKE HERALD

a publication of the  
Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

*Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.*

Edition #19  
Spring/Summer 2010



## Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars

**Memorial Day Weekend Poker Run**  
May 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. McMahan Beach

**HLIA Annual Meeting**  
June 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. Fennville Public  
Library  
*See page 2.*

**Do-It-Yourself Boat Parade**  
July 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. Hutchins Lake  
*See page 3.*

**Boating Safety Class**  
July 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. Fennville Public Library  
*See page 2.*

**Discovery Day Camp**  
July 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. McMahan Beach  
*See page 3.*

## Poker Run

### Memorial Day Weekend An evening of fun on the lake!

Meet at McMahan Beach Saturday,  
May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the Memorial  
Day weekend poker run.

The event is open to all non-motorized  
craft—rowboats, kayaks, canoes,  
sailboats, paddleboats, water-walkers,  
tubes, etc. **Life jackets must be worn.**

Contestants will boat to seven different  
places on the lake and collect a playing  
card at each place. Then, they will return  
to McMahan Beach.

Prizes will be awarded for the best  
poker hands collected by contestants in  
each of the following categories:

- Adult solo boater (All contestants  
must be at least 16 years old.)
- Adult team
- Adult-youth team
- Youth team (No solo youth  
contestants under the age of 16)

Prizes will be awarded and  
refreshments served at McMahan Beach.

This event is FREE, and sponsored by  
HLIA. Register on-site at McMahan  
Beach. For more information, call:  
John Lindahl @ 269.561.4121  
Ralph McMahan @ 269.561.2447

## HLIA Annual Meeting

*When: June 26th, 10 a.m.*

*Where: Fennville Public Library*

Plan to attend the HLIA Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. at the Fennville Public Library.

Cary Hunt from the Marine Patrol of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department will speak on boater safety and boater safety laws.

Elections for HLIA Vice President and Secretary will be held at the meeting.

What questions do you have about HLIA and its activities? What suggestions do you have for caring for our lake? Use the annual meeting as an opportunity to share your concerns and information with your lake association.

## Michigan Waterfront Alliance

HLIA is now a member of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance. MWA is a nonprofit corporation formed to protect, serve, and promote wise use of Michigan's inland waters.

MWA is involved in such specific issues as environmental law, riparian doctrine, water rights, and marine safety.

Visit [www.mwai.org](http://www.mwai.org) to learn more about the Michigan Waterfront Alliance.



## Boating Safety Class

*When: July 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.*

*Where: Fennville Public Library*

The Allegan County Sheriff's Department will present this six hour class on boating safety that is open to everyone 12 years of age or older. Adults who supervise youth on the water must complete this class. Boating safety certificates will be presented at the conclusion of the class.

The boating safety class is free. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be provided by HLIA.

And remember, **it's the law:**

All persons born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a personal watercraft on Hutchins Lake unless they obtain a boating safety certificate.

## HLIA Annual Dues

There is still time to pay your 2010 HLIA membership dues. Please:

- Write a check for \$20.00 payable to HLIA.
- Complete the membership application form on the last page of the newsletter.
- Send the completed application form and check to:

Gerry Howard, Treasurer, HLIA  
5981 Eagle Point Drive  
Fennville, MI 49408

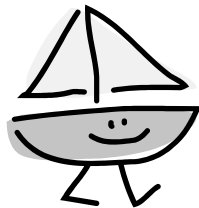
## Do-It-Yourself Boat Parade

*When: July 4<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 p.m.*  
*Where: Hutchins Lake*

How does a do-it-yourself boat parade work?

- Decorate your craft in *any* theme you desire. After all, this is a do-it-yourself event!
- Leave your own dock at 7:30 p.m. and begin a loop around the lake in a counter-clockwise direction.
- There may be do-it-yourself judges on the water looking for creativity and ingenuity of decorations.
- There may be certificates of participation handed out.
- There **WILL** be **fireworks** on the lake at dusk. Best viewing will be from your boat.

See you at the HLIA 4<sup>th</sup> of July do-it-yourself boat parade



### Protect Our Kids and Grandkids

Obey the speed limits on Hutchins Lake and on our roads.

## Discovery Day Camp Summer 2010

Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for Discovery Day Camp 2010. The theme of this year's day camp is **Birds of Hutchins Lake and Its Wetlands**.

Discovery Day Camp 2010 begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. Participants should arrive at, and be picked up from, Ralph McMahon's property.

Teachers for the camp are Jill O'Connor and Suzanne Holton. Ralph McMahon is host for the camp. To register, call Suzanne Holton at 269-561-2054.

## Invading Plants

**Purple loosestrife** and **garlic mustard** are extremely invasive plants and they are invading the Hutchins Lake area.

These plants are a **serious threat** to our lake habitat. If we do not get rid of them, they will take over native plants.

To learn how to identify these plants, go to the Web. Search for "garlic mustard images" and "purple loosestrife images."

When you identify garlic mustard or purple loosestrife plants on your property, do the following:

1. Pull up the plants.
2. Put them in large bags to dry.
3. Burn the dried plants

Do your part. Pull them out!

## Lost and Found

### Kayak

In early fall 2009, residents found a kayak floating on the south side of Hutchins Lake. Call the Barnes at 269-561-2120 to identify and claim your lost kayak.

### Part of a floating dock

A portion of a floating dock was found drifting on the south side of the lake. To identify and claim, please call Tom Tucker at 269-561- 2397.

## HLIA Membership Directory

HLIA hopes to have a directory of all HLIA members available at the June annual meeting. The directory will contain names, email addresses, and cell phone numbers for HLIA members.

## Anti-Phosphorous Ordinance

Allegan County bans the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous on lawns. The purpose of the ordinance is to prevent phosphorous from leaking into county lakes and streams.

This ban applies only to lawns. It does not apply to newly established lawns during their first season or to flowerbeds and shrubbery.

Fines for ignoring the ordinance range from \$50.00 to \$300.00.

Stores in the area carry phosphorus-free fertilizers.

## New HLIA Website

HLIA is getting a new website. [www.HLIA.org](http://www.HLIA.org) is scheduled to be up and running by about June 1.

The new site will include a calendar of events, online version of the newsletter, suggestion box and other features. Watch for [www.HLIA.org](http://www.HLIA.org).

*If you see Joe Bianco, thank him for creating and managing the new HLIA website!*

## Permits Needed

Reminder that permits are needed for the following:

**Outdoor burning**  
Call 269-686-5222

**Putting in a permanent dock**  
Call 517-373-9244

**Adding soil to, or removing soil from, the lake**  
Call 269-673-5411

**Constructing a seawall**  
Call 517-373-9244

**All building/construction**  
Call Tasha Smalley  
800-626-5964

## Wake-free Zone

Please remember that **the channel is a wake-free zone** to protect its fragile shoreline. Thanks for your cooperation.

## HLIA and YOU

HLIA is here to help you protect our lake. If you notice any activities that could threaten the safety or quality of Hutchins Lake, PLEASE contact your HLIA Area Director or an HLIA officer.

Do you have specific ideas for maintaining the quality of our lake? Share them with your neighbors or your HLIA Area Director

### HLIA Officers

President – Bob Renzema  
269-561-5375

Vice President – Ralph McMahon  
269-561-2447

Secretary – John Lindahl  
269-561-4121

Treasurer – Gerry Howard  
269-561-2858

### HLIA Area Directors

Your Area Director represents you on the HLIA Board of Directors. Area Directors are:

Bill Busscher  
Atkins Road  
[busscher@verizon.net](mailto:busscher@verizon.net)  
269-561-2981

Larry DenUyl  
Wells Homestead Plat  
[ldnuyl@accn.org](mailto:ldnuyl@accn.org)  
269-561-2840

Gary Holton  
Dykas Subd. 122<sup>nd</sup>  
[sknapp@i2k.com](mailto:sknapp@i2k.com)  
269-561-2054

Suzanne Holton  
Recreation Devel. Subd.  
(Channel)  
[sknapp@i2k.com](mailto:sknapp@i2k.com)  
269-561-2054

John Lerg  
Jarik Subdivision  
[john\\_lerg@yahoo.com](mailto:john_lerg@yahoo.com)  
616-550-9812

Dan Lepo  
Wells Homestead  
[dlepo@i2k.com](mailto:dlepo@i2k.com)  
269-561-5185

John Lindahl  
60<sup>th</sup> Street  
[jlindahl lcd@yahoo.com](mailto:jlindahl lcd@yahoo.com)  
269-561-4121

Ralph McMahon  
Eagle Subdivision and  
Edgewood  
269-561-2447

Bob Renzema  
Eagle Point and Estates  
[rdren@i2k.com](mailto:rdren@i2k.com)  
269-561-5375

Lou Sytsma  
Woodland Shores and Addition  
[msytsma@accn.org](mailto:msytsma@accn.org)  
269-561-2437

Tom Tucker  
Foster Lakeside Subdivision  
[dottomtucker@yahoo.com](mailto:dottomtucker@yahoo.com)  
269-561-2397

**The position of Area Director for Recreation Drive is open. If you are interested in filling this position, please contact President Bob Renzema at 269-561-5375.**

# Hutchins Lake Boating Laws and Regulations

**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.**

- Operating powered watercraft, including personal watercraft such as Jet Skis, Ski-Doo's, Wave Runners, etc. at speeds which create a wake is restricted to the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily.
- Personal watercraft 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.
- Persons under the age of 12 may not operate powered watercraft.
- Persons between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate powered watercraft only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate or are accompanied by someone over the age of 16.
- No powered watercraft may be operated in a reckless manner which endangers life, limb, or property.
- All ski boats must have an operator and at least one competent observer.
- Personal watercraft with only one person are not permitted to pull water skiers.
- Sailboats, rowboats, canoes, and kayaks have the right of way over powered watercraft. Skiers must also yield right-of-way to non-motorized craft.

**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.**

## **Additional Recommendation**

Speedboats, skiers, and personal watercraft should stay 300 feet (100 yards) from uninhabited shores to avoid damage to spawning areas.