

The Hutchins Lake Herald

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

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #24

Spring/Summer 2012



HLIA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! **Saturday, June 30th is the date for the 2012 HLIA annual meeting.**

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. at the Fennville Public Library and is open to all HLIA members.

Corey Hunt of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department will talk about the **new personal watercraft law** and provide answers to any specific questions from the group. John Lerg will address the **swan situation on Hutchins Lake**. Concerns about **well and septic system safety** will also be addressed.

An open Q and A session will give members the opportunity to discuss any other issues of particular interest or concern.

And, of course, delicious snacks will be available.

Poker Run Saturday, May 26th

Meet at Ralph and Mary Ann McMahon's lakefront property (2184 58th Street) Saturday, May 26th at 7 p.m. to register for HLIA's 2012 poker run.

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

Contestants will boat to seven different places on the lake and collect a playing card at each place. Playing cards will be available from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Contestants will then return to McMahon's beach to collect prizes. Prizes will be awarded for the best poker hand collected by contestants in each of the following categories:

- Adult solo boater—age 16 and over
- Adult team
- Adult-youth team
- Youth team (no solo contestants under age 16)

Hot dogs, beer, pop, and s'mores will be available at McMahons!

This free event is sponsored by HLIA. Our thanks to the McMahons for hosting.

HLIA Discovery Day Camp Summer 2012

Wednesday, July 11th and Thursday, July 12th are the dates for HLIA's 2012 Discovery Day Camp. The camp will be held at Ralph and Mary Ann McMahon's lakefront property at 2184 58th Street.

Discovery Day Camp is free and is open to all children ages 6 to 12 and their families.

From 9:30 to 12:30 each day, campers will explore the theme of sculpture and how it might relate to our lake.

Campers will create sculptures that could potentially float! They also will create wearable art.

In addition to the sculpture theme, campers will learn about water safety and how to test the water clarity of the lake during a pontoon boat ride. There will be a nature walk and time in the water.

Campers and their families are invited to celebrate the camping experience with a potluck picnic at the McMahon's, 1:00 p.m., Thursday, July 12th.

HLIA representatives Eleanor Clough and Suzanne Holton will be the Discovery Day Camp leaders. **Please call Suzanne at 269-561-2054 to register and for more information about the potluck picnic.**

Visit your association's website at
www.hlia.org.

Thanks to Joe Bianco for creating and maintaining this great resource.

New Michigan Law for Personal Watercraft

A new Michigan law raises the ages for operating personal watercraft (PWC). According to John Lindahl, HLIA secretary, the new law **raises the minimum age for operating a PWC solo to 16, and raises the minimum age for operating a PWC with an adult supervisor on board to 14.**

Boater Safety Classes

There will be no boater safety class at the Fennville Public Library this summer. There will be boater safety classes at the following locations.

- Allegan Township Hall May 19th
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pre-register at www.minerlake.org
- Sandy Pines June 9th 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pre-register at recreation@sandypines.com
- Saugatuck Yacht Club June 20th and 21st
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and July 11th and 12th
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Call Kari at
269 -673-0500, ext. 4234 to register.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

Decorate your craft in any theme, and join HLIA's Fourth of July "Do-It-Yourself" Boat Parade.

Leave your dock at 7:30 p.m. on July 4th, and begin a loop around the lake in a counter-clockwise direction to join the fun.

See you at the boat parade!

HLIA Membership Dues There's Still Time!

There's still time to pay your 2012 HLIA membership dues. To renew your HLIA membership for 2012, or to join for the first time, please:

- Write a check for \$20.00 payable to HLIA.
- Complete the enclosed payment form.
- Send the completed payment form and check to:

Gary Holton, Treasurer, HLIA
2219 Blue Goose Drive
Fennville, MI 49408

HLIA would like to thank all association members for their past support. We would like to welcome new members also.

Help Protect Our Lake

HLIA is here to help you protect Hutchins Lake. If you notice any activities that could threaten the safety or quality of Hutchins Lake, please get in touch with your HLIA area representative or an HLIA officer. Representative and officer contact information is listed in the HLIA Membership Directory.

No Fertilizer Buffer Zone

Leave a minimum of ten feet between the lake and where you begin to fertilize your lawn to prevent the fertilizer from washing into the lake. A 25-foot buffer is ideal!

HLIA Membership Directory 2012

Early this summer, all paid-up 2012 HLIA members will receive the 2012 updated version of HLIA's Membership Directory.

This printed directory includes the names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of HLIA members. The directory also lists HLIA officers and area representatives.

<p>In order to protect its fragile shoreline, the channel is a wake-free zone. Thank you for your cooperation.</p>

Hutchins Lake Aerial Photograph

Several copies of the beautiful aerial photograph of Hutchins Lake are still available. To order your copy, contact Gary Holton at 269-561-2054 or sknapp@i2k.com. The cost of the 20" x 24" photo is \$63.00.

Septic System Maintenance

Keeping your septic system in good working order is one of the best things you can do to help maintain the quality of our lake water. Have your septic tank pumped out by a licensed operator every two or three years. For answers to septic system concerns, contact the Allegan County Health Department at 269-673-5415.

Landscaping at the Lake's Edge

Growing plants such as shrubs and wildflowers at the water's edge helps keep the water cool, pure, and clean, according to the Macatawa Watershed Project. The plants also filter pollutants, prevent erosion, and reduce sedimentation.

Grass along the water's edge offers little protection. The comparatively shallow roots of grass are less effective at infiltrating runoff and preventing erosion.

Michigan Waterfront Alliance

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

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

Visit www.mwai.org to learn more.

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

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