

The Hutchins Lake Herald

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

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #26/Summer 2013

What's Happening This Summer?

Annual Meeting

The HLIA annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 29th at 10 a.m. at the Fennville Public Library.

A representative of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department will speak on marine safety issues and updated Michigan laws that impact boating on Hutchins Lake. John Lerg will address the ongoing issue of mute swans on Hutchins Lake. (See next page.)

Association members will have the opportunity to submit any questions they have on zoning issues. The questions will be forwarded to Tasha Smalley of Michigan Township Services. Ms. Smalley will respond directly to the members submitting the questions.

An open discussion session will follow the presentations.

Refreshments will be served.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

Join the Fourth of July boat parade! Decorate your craft in any theme and join the parade at 7:30 p.m. on the Fourth.

Boater Safety Class

The Allegan County Sheriff's Department will conduct a boater safety class at the Fennville Public Library July 8th and 10th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This six hour class is open to everyone twelve years of age and older. Participants will receive a boating safety certificate at the conclusion of the class.

The boating safety class is free. To register, go to allegancounty.org/sheriff and click on "Boater's Safety Classes" under "Quick Links."

Adults who supervise youth on the water must obtain a boating safety certificate.

All persons operating a personal watercraft (PWC) must have a boating safety certificate.

Persons age 12-15 who operate a motor boat must have a boating safety certificate.

Mute Swans on Hutchins Lake

In Spring 2012, at the recommendation of the US Department of Agriculture, the HLIA Board obtained a permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to destroy mute swans on Hutchins Lake.

The DNR had recently launched a program to reduce the number of mute swans throughout the state. The DNR program was in response to the growing overpopulation of the species throughout Michigan.

The HLIA Board obtained the DNR permit. The Department of Agriculture carried out the mute swan destruction activities on Hutchins Lake.

At the 2012 HLIA annual meeting, a temporary moratorium on mute swan destruction on the lake was passed. The purpose of the moratorium was to allow time for all lake property owners to be surveyed for their opinion of mute swan destruction.

Such a survey was included in the Winter 2013 edition of the HLIA newsletter. The survey and newsletter were sent to all property owners around Hutchins Lake.

The survey asked the following: “Do you approve of the HLIA Board of Directors continuing to cooperate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to destroy mute swans on Hutchins Lake?”

The results of the survey were:

102 responses returned

Yes, approve 56, or 54.9%

No, not approve 26, or 25.5%

No opinion 10, or 9.8%

Did not vote 10, or 9.8%

Although the DNR recommended some mute swan destruction activity this spring, your HLIA Board did not think such action was necessary, and did not pursue it. The HLIA Board will continue to work with the DNR to monitor mute swans on Hutchins Lake. Any on-going information about this situation will be posted on hlia.org.

Please note that the goal of the DNR program is **not** the total eradication of mute swans in Michigan or on Hutchins Lake. Rather, the goal is controlling the overpopulation of this aggressive and invasive species.

For background information about mute swans on the lake, please visit hlia.org.

Thanks to everyone who responded to the swan survey.

Minimum Ages for Operating PWCs

The minimum age for operating a personal watercraft (PWC) solo is 16. The minimum age for operating a PWC with an adult on board is 14.

Membership in HLIA

To those of you who have already joined HLIA for 2013, thanks for continuing to be a part of your lake association. Those of you who have not yet had a chance to join will find a membership form included with your newsletter. We hope you too will become a part of HLIA for 2013.

HLIA Board Meetings

Your HLIA Board of Directors meets quarterly in fall, winter, and spring, usually in September, January, and April. The annual meeting in late June functions as the summer quarter board meeting.

The agenda for each board meeting will be posted on the HLIA website, hlia.org, prior to the meeting. The minutes resulting from the meetings will also be posted on hlia.org.

Please contact your HLIA area director or an HLIA officer with questions or comments about these quarterly meetings. Contact information is available in your *Hutchins Lake Association Membership Directory*.

Memorial Day Poker Run

More than 40 people in 15 boats enjoyed the annual HLIA poker run. Cash prizes were awarded and participants enjoyed hot dogs and s'mores to top off the evening. Thanks to Ralph McMahan for once more providing his lakefront property for the event.

Boating Laws for Hutchins Lake

You can find a list of boating laws that apply to Hutchins Lake by visiting hlia.org. You can find this same list of boating laws at the back of your *Hutchins Lake Improvement Association Membership Directory*. Please, take time to review these laws and share them with family and guests.

Report any boating violations you see to the Allegan County Sheriff's Department at 269-673-0500.

Notice of Weed Control

All HLIA riparians should have received a notice regarding treatment of weeds and algae in the lake during Summer 2013. This notice lists specific herbicides that may be applied to the lake periodically throughout the summer, as well as associated use restrictions.

The notice further states that on days of treatment, signs will be posted along the shoreline within 100 feet of treatment areas indicating what products were used and specific water use restrictions that apply.

Please visit our website, hlia.org, to review a complete copy of this notice.

The channel is a wake-free zone, in order to protect its fragile shoreline. Thanks for your cooperation.

Discovery Day Camp 2013

The HLIA-sponsored Discovery Day Camp will be held July 17th and 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The camp will begin and end at Ralph McMahon's lakefront property, 2178 58th St. (Watch for HLIA sign.) The camp is open to kids ages 6 and above.

The camp theme for this year is "Birds". Campers will build a purple martin gourd birdhouse and create a guide book of ten area birds.

Participants also will take a pontoon ride of the lake (weather permitting!) and learn about measuring water quality.

The two-day camp will conclude with swimming and a picnic. Hot dogs and s'mores will be provided. Campers' families are invited to join these end-of-camp festivities at 1:00 p.m. on July 18th. Bring a dish to pass and make it a pot luck picnic!

To register for Discovery Day Camp, email camp director El Clough at elclough@gmail.com.

The camp is free, but space is limited. Be sure to sign up soon!

Please note: Each camper's responsible adult will be expected to sign a release of liability form before the camper participates in camp activities.

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

Bob Renzema, President

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<p>Plan to attend the HLIA annual meeting on June 29th. See first page of the newsletter for information.</p>
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