

# The Hutchins Lake Herald

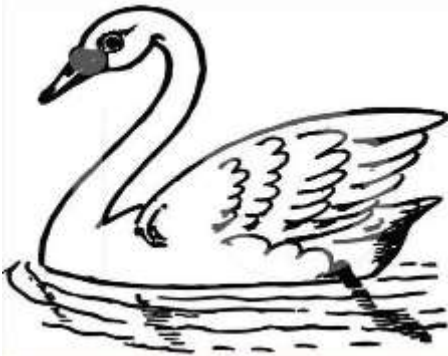
A publication of

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

[www.hlia.org](http://www.hlia.org)

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

Edition #28  
Summer 2014



Do you know it's illegal to harass waterfowl including swans on Hutchins Lake?

## Summer Activities for 2014

Poker Run	5/24 @ 7:15pm
Boat Safety Class	6/17 & 18 @ 9-noon
Annual Meeting	6/28 @ 10am
Boat Parade	7/4 @ 7:30pm
Discovery Day Camp	7/9 & 10 @ 9-noon
Boat Safety Class	7/16 & 17 @ 9-noon
'Healthy Lakes' Workshop	July/TBA

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The HLIA Annual Meeting will be held Sat, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the basement of the Fennville Public Library.

The election of two HLIA Executive Board officers, President and Secretary, will be held. At the time of printing, only two residents have indicated they are running: Scott Clark, District #7, for President and Randy Vogelzang, District #4, for Secretary. Additional nominations may be presented at the meeting. There will be a speaker presenting a program pertaining to our lake. Refreshments will be provided.

## **2014 Mute Swan Final Report On Hutchins Lake**

The Board will be giving up the DNR permit which it currently holds to take mute swans from Hutchins Lake and stands ready in the future to secure a nuisance control permit through the DNR Management and Control Program to take an aggressive mute swan from Hutchins Lake should the need occur.

In February, 2014, a mail survey was sent to Hutchins Lake residents asking which of two options best describes their opinion. The options were:

**Option 1:** Manage both aggressive and non-aggressive mute swans.

**Option 2:** Manage only aggressive mute swans.

A total of 234 survey letters were mailed to Hutchins Lake residents; 153 to Clyde Township residents and 81 to Ganges Township residents. Surveys sent to two lake residents were undeliverable. Survey response postcards were returned to either the Clyde or Ganges Township offices to assure security of the responses.

A total of 166 survey responses were received (a 72% response rate); 107 from Clyde Township residents and 59 from Ganges Township residents. Option 1 received 67 votes (40% of respondents); 44 from Clyde Township residents and 23 from Ganges Township residents. Option 2 received 99 votes (60% of respondents); 63 from Clyde Township residents and 36 from Ganges Township residents.

The HLIA Board would like to thank Hutchins Lake residents for their continued interest in Hutchins Lake and for their participation in the mute swan survey.

### Common Loon on Hutchins Lake

Common loons appear on our lake every year. Even so, they are sometimes hard to see as they swim over deeper parts of the lake. Often, loons are heard before they are actually seen. Their yodeling or tremolo call is loud and distinctive, and calls often prompt other loons to respond.

Loons nest further north in Michigan and in Canada. Several stop-over on Hutchins Lake in spring and fall. In addition, immature non-nesting loons sometimes visit our lake in the summer.

Hutchins Lake is attractive to loons for its clear water and abundant fish populations. Loons are fish eaters and dive under water and chase fish by sight in order to feed. They will sometimes stick their head underwater to look for fish as they swim on the surface. Once they spot a fish, they dive in pursuit of their meal.

Loons can be curious at times and will swim toward a boat. If you simply observe and do not disturb the bird, we will have loons visiting our lake for all of us to enjoy. Share the water!

### Fourth of July Boat Parade

Join the 'Do It Yourself' annual boat parade! Decorate your craft in any theme and join the parade promptly at 7:30 pm by leaving your dock and travel in a counter clockwise direction. Enjoy the cheers coming from the shore from your lake friends and neighbors.

### Healthy Lakes Workshop

A workshop will be offered free to Hutchins Lake residents by Keiser and Associates to share with us information about the quality of our lake, its water and environment.

The workshop will be conducted in July. Details will be sent via email and posted on hlia.org and will be announced at the annual meeting on 6/28 at 10am in the Fennville Public Library basement. The only requirement is to sign-up in advance with a minimum of 15 adults.

### Who May Operate a Motor Boat

#### -Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally **only if** they:
  - Have been issued a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) and have it on board the boat **and...**
  - Are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

#### -Those 12 to 15 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp legally **only if** they:
  - Have passed a BSC approved by the DNR and have on board their BSC **or...**
  - Are accompanied on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

-Those 16 years of age and born on or after July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally only if they have been issued a BSC and have it on board the boat.

-Those born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally without restrictions.

### Who May Operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC)

-Those less than 14 years of age may not legally operate a PWC.

-Those 14 & 15 years of age may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a Boating Safety Certificate (BSC) **and...**

- S/He is accompanied on board by her/his parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian **or...**
- S/He is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from her/his parent *or* legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.

-Those at least 16 years of age and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally **only if** they have obtained a (BSC).

-Those born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

## HLIA Membership

Did you know that less than one-half of the property owners on Hutchins Lake foot the entire bill to keep our lake safe and healthy for all your friends and family to enjoy year round? It is not too late to join the HLIA today and have a voice in taking care of our beautiful lake. Without the continued support of our loyal members over the years, we might not have such a desirable place to call home.

Some of the advantages of joining the HLIA:

- **Annual testing and monitoring of the quality of our lake, the channel, and their watershed**
- **One vote and speaking privileges at the annual business meeting of the HLIA**
- **Summer activities sponsored by the HLIA.**
- **Bi-annual newsletter about lake matters**
- **A website ([hlia.org](http://hlia.org)) available for links to governmental agencies and contacts to the officers of the HLIA**
- **A published Directory of the HLIA members**
- **A subscription to the Riparian magazine (if your dues are received by the deadline)**
- **Dues are tax deductible**

More information about the HLIA can be found on the website at [hlia.org](http://hlia.org).

If you don't want to become a member, a yearly donation is always appreciated to help in the funding of the many projects and events that the HLIA sponsors.

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### **Hutchins Lake Improvement Association Membership Application Form Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2014**

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address:-

\_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone:-

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please join the HLIA for all of the reasons above and the satisfaction that you have supported efforts to monitor and care for our lake, the channel, and their watershed.

## What is Fracking?

Fracking is a term for hydraulic fracturing of rock by a pressurized liquid. The technique injects a mixture of water, sand, and chemicals at high pressure into a deep well. This pressurized liquid creates small fractures in the rock to release fluids such as gas which migrate from the fractures to the well.

In Allegan County, the MDNR is allowing oil companies to bid on leases of public land for the underground mineral rights. Once the land is leased, the MDNR has no say about drilling operations. The oil companies then request a gas or oil permit from the MDEQ to begin underground exploration. The MDEQ usually gives companies approval. If oil companies find minerals, fracking on public land begins without exploring the environmental impact to Allegan County.

Currently, the MLAWD (Michigan Land Air Water Defense) is challenging the MDNR in court to stop the MDNR from allowing the oil companies to bid on the leases without environmental impact studies.

If fracking begins in Allegan County, what happens to the quality of Hutchins Lake and the drinking water of the lake residents? As property owners should we be concerned?

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**Annual Membership Dues: \$20.00** (tax deductible)

**Make check payable to: HLIA**

**Mail this completed form and check to:**

Denise Grimaldi  
6045 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Fennville, MI 49408

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*The emails on file are used to reach out to members about timely news on the lake!

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please check one. My preferred mailing address for the HLIA newsletter is:

\_\_\_\_\_ lake address **or** \_\_\_\_\_ home address

## Discovery Day Camp

This year's two-day camp will take place July 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until noon. Mr. McMahon graciously provides his lakefront property as our studio, rec/swimming area, and picnic area.

Class is free, but limited in size due to passenger limitations on the pontoon boat, so register immediately via email to art instructor El Clough [elclough@gmail.com](mailto:elclough@gmail.com). Snacks and water during class will be provided.

The focus of our activities will be creating 2-D & 3-D art inspired by the surroundings of Hutchins Lake. Topics explored may include simple plein air painting techniques, floating sculptures, & nature prints. Activities may include a tour of the lake scouting wildlife via pontoon, learning about water clarity and how it is measured, & reviewing boating rules. **A life preserver is required.**

The camp will conclude with an art display and pot luck picnic lunch for everyone. Hot dogs and Smores will be provided.

Hutchins Lake Improvement Association  
Bob Renzema, President  
5988 Eagle Point Drive  
Fennville, MI 49408

## Memorial Day Poker Run

Meet at Condotti's, 2218 Sunset Drive on Sat. May 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15pm for an evening of fun on the lake. The Run starts at 7:30 pm.

This event is open only to non-motorized craft (row boats, kayaks, canoes, sailboats, tubes, paddleboats, water walkers, surfboards, swimmers, runners, etc).

The objective is to get to seven different spots on the lake where you will collect a playing card that is part of a poker hand. Best hand wins a prize! Final destination is back at Condotti's. Card collection spots on the lake are manned by HLIA personnel.

Prizes and refreshments will be served at the award ceremony.

Best Adult Single-handed  
Best Adult Team  
Best Adult-Youth Team  
Best Youth Team (age 12-16)

Register at Condotti's or call (616.901.2483) Jim Baird **\*\*LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN\*\***