

The Hutchins Lake Herald

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

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #30
Summer 2015



ANNUAL MEETING

The HLIA Annual Meeting will be held Sat, June 27th at 10 am in the Fennville Public Schools Board of Education room at 515 N Maple Street **behind the Community Athletic Center.**

Topics: AC Sheriff presentation, elections, & proposed By-Law changes.

NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

VOTING GUIDELINES AT THE HLIA 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

At the Saturday, June 27th HLIA Annual meeting the election for Vice-President and Treasurer will be held. A riparian or a legal access property owner who has paid the 2015 dues has one vote. **Only those in attendance** at the Annual meeting will be eligible to vote for a candidate who may be nominated from the floor.

Ways a voting member may vote:

- by attending the Annual meeting,
- by emailing your vote to Jim Baird,
- by proxy,
- by mailing your vote to Jim Baird, if voting by mail, **print your name** and '**HLIA ELECTIONS**' on the envelope, or
- by absentee ballot which may be downloaded from the **hlia.org website** or by emailing, writing to, or calling **Gary Holton** to request a ballot.

Gary Holton, Election Committee
2219 Blue Goose Dr.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-568-6838
gholton1941@gmail.com

ALL ABSENTEE OR PROXY VOTES MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF Jim Baird BY THE OPENING OF NOMINATIONS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Jim Baird, Nominations
Committee
2228 Sunset Drive
Fennville MI 49408
616-901-2483
baird1@frontier.com

The Board nominated candidates will be posted on the **hlia.org website** or ask any District Director or Executive Committee member for the slate of candidates.

PLEASE VOTE - YOUR VOTE DOES MATTER !

Summer Activities for 2015

Poker Run 5/23 @ 7:15pm
Boat Safety Class 7/1 & 7/2 @ 6-9pm
Annual Meeting 6/27 @ 10am
Boat Parade 7/4 @ 7:30pm
Discovery Day Camp 7/28 & 30 @ 9-noon

****LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN****

Proposed By-Law Changes

Changes regarding voting privileges at future annual HLIA meetings are to be voted on by the membership at the next meeting to be held on Saturday, June 27 at the Fennville Board of Education room behind the Community Athletic Center. **Note the location change!**

Chair of the By-Laws Committee, John Lindahl, presented the changes to the Board of Directors for approval. A 2/3 vote of the **voting members present** at the Annual meeting is required for change. The proposed changes are included as an insert page in this newsletter or can be reviewed on the **hlia.org website** prior to the Annual meeting.

Memorial Day Poker Run

Meet at the Sunset Drive access lot on Sat. May 23rd @ 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, 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 the Sunset Drive access lot. 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)

Additional raffle prizes for all participants.

Register at the Sunset Drive access lot or call (616-901-2483) **Jim Baird**.

Avoid Swimmer's Itch

You are more likely to get swimmers itch during the early part of the swimming season.

Try to avoid it by swimming in deep water rather than shallow.

Leave the water immediately & hose off. Rub visible skin vigorously with a towel.

Boater Safety Class

An AC Sheriff will conduct a 6 hr class on boater safety certification. The class will be on two nights Wed 7/1 & Thu 7/2 from 6pm to 9pm in the Fennville Board of Ed room behind the Community Athletic Center. To inquire about this class & sign up either call 269-673-5000 ext. 4234 or go to the sheriff's office on the (allegancounty.org) website to the 'boater safety' link.

Boat Launch Parking

The Allegan County Road Commission, on request of the Sheriff's office, posted two signs at the 59th Street boat launch to reserve the east side for emergency vehicles parking. The west side of the road is for the public to park their boat trailers.

Boating Laws

Hutchins Lake Boating Laws and Regulations can be found on the back page of the current HLIA Directory.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

Join the 'Do It Yourself' annual boat parade! Decorate your craft in any theme. Leave your dock promptly at 7:30 pm on the 4th and travel in a counter clockwise direction. Enjoy the cheers coming from the shore from your lake friends and neighbors.

HLIA Executive Board

President:

Loren Barnes

Vice President & Newsletter

Editor:

Anne Irwin

Secretary:

Randy Vogelzang

Treasurer:

Denise Grimaldi

District Directors:

1 - John Lindahl 269-650-5900

2 - Jill O'Connor 269-561-2110

3a - Bill Busscher 269-561-2981

3b -Maureen Sytsma 269-561-2437

4 - John Lerg 616-550-9812

5a & 5b - Jim Baird 616-901-2483

6a - Todd Moore 616-836-2989

Discovery Day Camp

This year's two-day camp will take place Tue 7/28 & Thu 7/30 from 9 am until noon. Campers are expected to attend both days. McMahon's lakefront property, as in the past, will become our studio, recreation, 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. Snacks and water during class will be provided.

Art related activities will be created using the lake surroundings as inspiration. Activities will include a tour of the lake to scout wildlife via pontoon, learn about water clarity and how it is measured, & reviewing boating rules. Water safety will be reviewed. **A life preserver is required.**

The Camp experience will conclude at noon on the 2nd day with a pot luck picnic & Art exhibit. Hot dogs and Smores will be provided. All are welcome to attend the camp &/or picnic.

Great Blue Heron

On any summer day while walking along the south side of Hutchins Lake, a great blue heron will be seen fishing for small fish, frogs, turtles, or aquatic insects along the shoreline or in the spill-off stream. This is the largest North American heron with a wingspan of 5-6^{1/2} feet and a height of about 4 feet.

The female lays her eggs in a bulky stick nest located high in a tree. Predators of eggs and nestlings include bald eagles, hawks, crows, and raccoons.

The call of a great blue heron is a harsh croak. Paired herons often communicate using a loud bill snap.

Water Quality Testing

The HLIA has been collecting water quality measurements through professional (Kieser & Associates Environmental Science and Engineering) and volunteer monitoring for a number of years. Recently the Lake Board has agreed to reimburse the HLIA for the cost incurred for the annual testing.

The Lake Board has also agreed to reimburse for additional recommended water quality & sediment monitoring, Purple Loosetrife assessment and recommendations, and a presentation of the data at a HLIA meeting. The cost of the 2015 services of Kieser & Associates is not to exceed a total of \$4,770.

Hutchins Lake Improvement
Association
Loren Barnes, President
2290 Elm Street
Farmville, MI 49408

Phosphorus

Phosphorus is an element that is essential for plants in converting sunlight into usable energy. Phosphorus occurs in our lake as phosphates. These phosphates either remain in the water or attach to soil particles. Both forms are available to aquatic plants.

While phosphorus occurs naturally in our soils, more comes to our lake from agricultural runoff, poorly maintained septic fields, and inappropriate fertilizing of lakefront lawns. Once in our lake, phosphorus is recirculated as plants die and decay and other plants take up this nutrient.

A little phosphorus goes a long way. One pound of phosphorus can support 500 pounds of algae. Because phosphorus is also a limiting element for plants, they can proliferate with excess phosphorus and choke the near-shore waters of our lake. This plant excess interferes with boating, skiing, swimming, and other recreation!

Please do your part to limit phosphorus headed to our lake.