

THE HUTCHINS LAKE HERALD

a publication of the
Hutchins Lake Improvement Association

Hutchins Lake is what we all have in common.

Edition #20
Winter 2011



HLIA Annual Dues

It's time for payment of your 2011
HLIA membership dues. Please:

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

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

If you want to receive the *Riparian*, the publication of the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, as part of your HLIA membership, we must receive your check **no later than April 10th**.

Visit www.hlia.org

HLIA and You

With your membership in HLIA you will receive:

- Twice yearly newsletter
- A subscription to the *Riparian* magazine, if requested
- The HLIA Membership Directory, if you have not already received one
- Opportunity to vote at the HLIA annual meeting

In addition, your membership helps HLIA sponsor:

- A free summer discovery day camp for kids
- Summer social activities
- Boater safety classes and certification

Long-time Hutchins Lake residents Ron Hale and Tom Tucker died in December. Both Ron and Tom were very active in HLIA and in the local community.

HLIA extends its most sincere sympathy to the Hale and Tucker families on the loss of their loved ones.

HLIA Annual Meeting

HLIA held its 2010 annual meeting June 26th in the Fennville Public Library.

Marine Deputy Tim Morton of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol informed members that a new 2011 boating law will **require personal watercraft operators to be at least 16 years old.**

Morton also said that the Marine Patrol does not have the authority to make or change boating laws. He advised members to petition their townships for desired changes.

Tony Groves, consultant to the Hutchins Lake Board also spoke. The Hutchins Lake Board is the entity responsible for overseeing the treatment of Eurasian milfoil and other exotic species in Hutchins Lake.

Groves reported that plant control treatment has been extremely successful. He said that most of the Board's emphasis in the past couple of years has been on treatment in the channel. Groves proposed a five year extension of the Invasive Weed Treatment and Tax Assessment District to continue funding the Hutchins Lake Board activities.

Question and answer sessions followed each speaker's presentations. An open Q and A session on a variety of topics concluded the meeting.

For complete minutes of the 2010 HLIA annual meeting, please visit www.hlia.org Click on *Annual Meeting June 2010* under *HLIA Meeting Minutes*.

Special Tax Assessment to Continue

The Hutchins Lake Board has extended the life of a special tax assessment district for another five years. The purposes for the tax assessment are continuing treatment of milfoil and other invasive plant species in Hutchins Lake and monitoring the lake's water quality.

The Lake Board made this decision on August 30th, after hearing public input that was overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the treatment program.

The tax assessment district includes property owners in Clyde and Ganges Townships with property directly on Hutchins Lake, as well as property owners with deeded access to the lake.

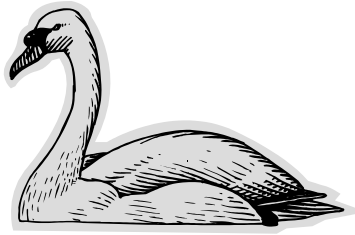
Affected property owners will see a decline from their 2006-2010 special assessments. The Lake Board has a balance of \$41,857 from the previous five-year assessment period, which it will apply to the coming five years.

Tony Groves of Progressive AE, a Grand Rapids Company, will continue to assist the Lake Board in implementing the lake management plan. Groves' tasks include sampling vegetation, preparing bidding documents for applicators or harvesters, coordinating and evaluating contract work, and interpreting technical data.

For Progressive AE articles on inland lake water quality, plant control, and lake management issues, visit www.hlia.org. Select *Links* from the left-hand menu, then select *Michigan Lake Info*. (Article continues on page 6.)

Discovery Day Camp 2010

Nine kids ages 7 to 12 enjoyed learning about *Birds of Hutchins Lake and Wetlands* at last summer's HLIA-sponsored Discovery Day Camp. The new and returning campers saw birds from the shores of Hutchins Lake and nearby wetlands. In addition to bird watching, campers created information notebooks and nature boards about the birds.



Campers also visited Bernie Van Kampen's workshop, where he carves and paints small wooden birds and turns them into pins. Each camper selected a pin to keep.

For the fourth year, Jill O'Connor and Suzanne Holton donated their time to plan the program and serve as instructors for the camp. John Lindahl once again took campers for a pontoon ride on the lake and demonstrated how to test for water clarity using a Secchi Disk. And once again, Ralph McMahon hosted the campers at his spacious water front property, where they roasted hot dogs and marshmallows as part of their camping experience.

A hearty thanks to all these HLIA members for making Discovery Day Camp 2010 a special time of learning and fellowship.

Discovery Day Camp Needs Help

Discovery Day Camp needs volunteers to act as program planners and instructors for the summer 2011 camp. Suzanne Holton and Jill O'Connor will not be able to serve as planners and instructors in 2011, but will be happy to offer assistance to the new volunteers.

If you are interested in program planning and teaching at Discovery Day Camp for summer 2011, please email HLIA president Bob Renzema at rdren@i2k.com or phone him at 269-561-5375. THANKS!

HLIA Membership Directory

Have you received your HLIA Membership Directory? This hard-copy directory includes the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of HLIA members.

If you have not received the HLIA Membership Directory, please email HLIA president Bob Renzema at rdren@i2k.com or phone him at 269-561-5375.

Aerial Lake Photographs Now Available

Beautiful aerial photographs of Hutchins Lake are available once again. Please contact John Lindahl at 269-561-4121 or at jlindahl_lcd@yahoo.com for specifics and to order.

HLIA Area Directors

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

Bill Busscher, Area 3A
Woodland Shores (Atkins Dr)
busscher@verizon.net
269-561-2981

Larry DenUyl, Area 6A
Wells Homestead Plat
(Lake, Elm, 122nd)
Ldnuyl1@comcast.net
269-561-2840

Bob Holbrook, Area 9A
Recreation Development
and Hutchins Lake Dr
holbrook_brad@allergan.com
815-341-6205

Gary Holton, Area 8
Dykhovis Subd. (122nd)
sknapp@i2k.com
269-561-2054

Suzanne Holton, Area 10
Recreation Development
(Blue Goose, Mallard)
sknapp@i2k.com
269-561-2054

John Lerg, Area 4
Jarik Subdivision
(Lakeland and Tony)
john_lerg@yahoo.com
616-550-9812

Dan Lepo, Area 6B
Wells Homestead (122nd)
dlepo@i2k.com
269-561-5185

John Lindahl, Area 1
Hutchins Lake Plat
(Cedar Street)
jlindahl_lcd@yahoo.com
269-561-4121

Ralph McMahon, Areas 5A, 5B
Eagle Subdivision (Sunset Dr)
Edgewater
thedunedriver@yahoo.com
269-561-2447

Bob Renzema, Area 2
Imperial Eagle Point Estates
rdren@i2k.com
269-561-5375

Dick Schmidt, Area 9B
Recreation Development
rkschmidt@comcast.net
269-561-5604

Lou Sytsma, Area 3B
Woodland Shores
(Cedar and Elm)
msytsma@accn.org
269-561-2437

Peg Szweda, Area 7 (interim)
Foster Lakeside Subd. (122nd)
margmcmamara1@gmail.com

HLIA Officers

President – Bob Renzema
269-561-5375

Vice President – Ralph McMahon
269-561-2447

Secretary – John Lindahl
269-561-4121

Treasurer – Gary Holton
269-561-2054

If you notice any activities that could threaten the safety or quality of Hutchins Lake or its shoreline, PLEASE contact your HLIA Area Director.

How Clear is Hutchins Lake?

Summer 2010 was a time of extremes in lake clarity, according to John Lindahl, HLIA secretary. In early May, Hutchins Lake was clear to a depth of 17 feet, the highest clarity reading ever recorded, said Lindahl.

But, after heavy rains in mid-June, the lake was clear to a depth of only 4 feet, one of the lowest clarity readings on record.

By mid-September, clarity readings were about 8.5 feet, the normal depth of clarity for Hutchins Lake.

Lindahl also reported that 2010 and 2009 saw high water levels for the lake. Water flowed over the dam throughout both years. In contrast, in 2008 the lake measured 12.5 inches below the dam overflow.

Boater Safety Class

The Allegan County Sheriff's Department issued 50 boater safety certificates at their Summer 2010 Fennville boating safety class. According to HLIA Vice President Ralph McMahan, the Department says turnout for the class in Fennville is always excellent. This is good news for Hutchins Lake boaters!

McMahan also reports that boating safety rules for teenagers will probably change this year. Be sure to watch for changes that could affect the young boaters in your family.

New HLIA Website

Be sure to visit HLIA's new website at www.hlia.org. Our website includes information about conservation issues affecting HLIA members and a listing of helpful resources, among many other features. And be sure to check out the photos of beautiful Hutchins Lake!

Thanks again to Joe Bianco for our wonderful new website.

Poker Run 2011

The McMahons will once again host a Memorial Day Poker Run. The 2011 festivities will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 28th. Watch for complete details in the Spring/Summer 2011 newsletter.

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

Visit www.hlia.org

Special Tax Assessment

(Continued from page 2)

The Hutchins Lake Board is a body consisting of: one representative each from Clyde and Ganges Townships, the County Drain Commissioner, a representative from the County Commissioners, and a representative for lake property owners. These representatives are appointed by the Clyde and Ganges Township Boards.

The purposes of the Hutchins Lake Board are to (1) monitor the quality of the lake water, (2) control Eurasian milfoil and other exotic species in Hutchins Lake, and (3) disseminate information about the quality of the lake.

There is no official overlap between the Lake Board and HLIA.

Thanks to Suzanne Holton, lake property owners' representative on the Lake Board, for providing this information, and for representing property owners' interests on the Hutchins Lake Board.

Anti-Phosphorous Ordinance

Allegheny County bans the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous on lawns. The ordinance is aimed at preventing phosphorous from leaking into county lakes and streams.



Visit www.hlia.org

