

HLA Newsletter 2021

Aquatic Vegetation (Weeds) Recap 2020



Notes from the Board:

"Fly the flag proudly on your boat or dock to show your support for Hamilton Lake."

The only way to receive a flag is to pay your Lake Enhancement dues which makes you a "full member" with annual meeting voting privileges. The other option is become a "supporting member" in which you receive a sticker (see invoice enclosed for more details). Membership in HLA and lake enhancement donations are not mandatory. The HLA would appreciate any support from those that enjoy the benefits of the Hamilton Lake community. **Thank you for your support.**

HLA Board of Directors

DNR Boating Safety Class

**Saturday, May 1st, 2021.
All ages are welcome! To register:**

<https://register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

The HLA meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Town Hall at 7PM April - October. All are welcome!

HLA Annual Meeting Sat. June 19th, at 9AM the Town Hall. All are welcome.

Greetings Hamilton Lakers,

I hope this finds you all well on this wintry day. I'd like to provide an overview of some of the more recent happenings regarding aquatic plant management at Hamilton Lake. Knowing your concerns and frustrations, we have addressed these issues through various communication venues with the IDNR (Indiana Dept of Natural Resources).

To help narrow this gap of what the IDNR is allowing the HLA to use for treatment, we initiated an ongoing dialogue with the IDNR permit biologist and others. We scheduled Debbie King, permit biologist, to speak at our annual meeting, but this was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. We sent a letter to officials at the IDNR requesting a meeting. This was held in a video ZOOM meeting between the HLA board and the IDNR permit biologist and several concerned lake residents on September 15, 2020. All aspects of concerns and frustrations were discussed.

In recent years the HLA has largely gained control over the invasive and native plants, guided by our Aquatic Expert, who proposes a management strategy which has to be approved by the IDNR Biologist. The chemicals and acreage is only what the IDNR allows, often not what we had wanted or expected.

In the past, Fluridone (Sonar) treatment has been used approximately every three years. The cost of this treatment to the HLA was approximately \$180,000. Based on history 2020 should have been the year that the Sonar was to be applied. It was denied by the IDNR, based on their concerns from how Lake Webster was managed in 2010.

The Webster Lake residents, with advice from their Aquatic Management got aggressive with weed killing chemicals to make the lake more boater-friendly. The chemical Fluridone (Sonar), one of the most effective chemicals for treating aquatic vegetation, was applied in 2010. The plan was to knock out non-native milfoil plants to allow native vegetation to grow. It killed everything. Except for a few small areas, the lake was void of plant life and the water turned turbid. Decaying plants (from the weed kill) enhanced turbidity and there weren't enough lively plants to filter the sediment.

For more information, you can Google "A Lesson Learned at Webster Lake". **This has not happened at Hamilton Lake when Sonar was applied but the IDNR Biologist, who is new for our area has been much more conservative.

This being said, our Aquatic Expert has proposed a weed control strategy for 2021 to the IDNR and we will be notified this spring as to what we are allowed to do. We have tentatively scheduled our Annual meeting for June 19, 2021 and Debbie King will be present to listen to your concerns!

The cost of weed control is very expensive, in excess of \$100,000 in 2020. Please continue to support Hamilton Lake by paying your Lake Enhancement dues. The HLA is doing everything in its power to work with the IDNR to keep our lake as healthy as possible, which includes having a healthy balance of native weeds (aquatic vegetation). **Thank you for your continued support!**

Thanks to all the Lake homeowners for their participation in keeping Hamilton Lake the BEST!



Hamilton Lake Association

P.O. Box 515
Hamilton, IN 46742

Hamilton Lake 2021 Board Members:

Janet Albright
Jan Biddle
Valerie Fetters
Gina Freer
Peggy Hayden
Richard (Toni) Justice
Gary Luechauer
Skip Markland
Jan (Bill) Miller
Karen Piekarski
Dave Price
Linda Skelly
Cheryl Silverhart
Cathy Wagenknecht
Jama Watkins

See website for contact info:
www.hamiltonlake.org

See us on Facebook @
Hamilton Lake, Indiana :)

Steuben County Lakes Council (SCLC)

The Steuben County Lakes Council (SCLC) is a nonprofit organization. The board is comprised of volunteers from many of the 101 lakes in Steuben County. Their motto is "Protecting Our Lakes Today, for Tomorrow".

The 2020 year saw a continuation of the water quality program. SCLC conducted three tests on over fifty sites in and around Steuben County. The primary test parameters that are measured are phosphate and Ecoli. Phosphate is a limiting micro nutrient in the growth of aquatic plants and is also responsible for algae blooms. Ecoli is a contaminant that can affect both humans and animals.

These tests have been conducted for more than 10 years. Each test costs \$65. During this time there have been high Ecoli readings at several of our test sites. Over the years, we considered the sources of the high readings to be from wild life, domestic animals or humans but not knowing for sure.

Last year a new testing technology became available that could identify the source of the Ecoli. It could differentiate humans vs animals. And it could go one step further and identify specific animals (such as pig, water fowl, cattle, etc).

Hamilton Lake is one of the lakes that was part of a test program. The results were encouraging. Due to the high cost of each \$200.00 test, the SCLC has asked to partner with the lakes that are willing to continue with this eDNA testing, and split the cost of the tests. Hamilton Lake has agreed to partner with SCLC and fund up to six sites. To become a member and help support this cause, or the read water quality test results, please visit the SCLC web-site <https://www.lakescouncil.org>

House numbers are a MUST!

When delivering flags and decals to lake residences, the HLA often has difficulty locating the correct house because it lacks a visible house number. Not only is it important to HLA, but it is crucial in emergency situations when police or fireman are trying to locate your house and come to your aid. HLA is encouraging everyone who does not have their house number displayed to please go to the Hamilton Town Hall or call them at 260-488-3607, ext 1002 to place your order.

** Mark Your Calendar **

#1 DNR Boating Class, May 1st, 2021 To register: <https://register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>

#2 Annual HLA Meeting June 19th at the Townhall. Doors open 8:30AM; Meeting starts 9AM. Speaker Debbie King (IDNR)

#3 10th Annual Poker Run, July 31, 2021

DNR Requirements for Construction of Seawalls

The DNR Division of Water has jurisdiction over construction along the shoreline of the lake and lakeward of the shoreline. This means that any seawall construction – whether a new seawall, a seawall reface, or repair to an existing seawall – requires prior approval from the DNR if the seawall is along the shoreline. A link to the permit application form and other permit application resources can be found on the Division of Water website at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/2455.htm>. If you have questions about projects that need a permit or the permit process, you can contact the DNR Division of Water at 317-232-4160 or water_inquiry@dnr.IN.gov.

Contact the local floodplain administrator, Brent Shull, for any construction in a mapped floodplain. Mr. Shull can be reached at 260-488-3607 or bshull@townofhamilton.org.

10th Annual Poker Run

The 10th Annual Poker Run will be held on July 31, 2021.
Hopefully we will continue the tradition in a healthy 2021.