

Hamilton Lake Association Hamilton Lake Happenings

Volume 3, Issue 1

Future Plans

To improve communication:
Fix the webcam & regularly
update the website. Thanks
for noticing!
Create a HLA Facebook page

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 weed spray dues which makes you a "full member" with voting privileges. The other option is become a "supporting member" in which you can receive a sticker (see invoice enclosed for more details). Membership in HLA and weed spray donations are not technically mandatory. However, any person who enjoys, uses, lives on the lake or in Hamilton benefits from the lake and should feel responsible for doing their part. Thank you for your support, The Hamilton Lake Association Board of Directors

Inside this issue:

January 2017

HLA Annual Report for 2016

The Hamilton Lake Association's directors are volunteers who work hard to keep the lake in the best condition for residents, visitors, boaters, swimmers, fishermen, - all who live on and/or near the lake and enjoy the benefits and beauty of lake life.

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Besides weed spray, we have been doing water testing of the tributaries that flow into the lake and spot testing areas to make sure the water is safe for us and the

6th Annual Boat Poker Run Success



Each year's poker run continues to be more successful than the previous year's. This year's goal was to sell 1000 tickets; we met and exceeded our goal!

We are grateful that Tonya Peters and Stan Atha brought this idea to the Hamilton Lake Association This is an awesome way to use the lake for the benefit of the lake!

We need to all do our part. Tonya, and her volunteers, Linda Calvin and Jan Biddle, continued to raise additional

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2015Recap / 2016 Outlook Clint Nester

Following the whole lake treatment in 2014, we saw very minimal Eurasian watermilfoil populations in Hamilton Lake during the 2015 season. The only Eurasian watermilfoil colonies found during Spring surveys were found in Crystal Bay totaled .75 acres and was treated on 6/10/15. In August, another 1 acre area was found in Crystal Cove and was treated on 8/11/15. Near the end of the season, milfoil was spotted in this location again, so the 4.5 acre bay was treated to ensure it was eradicated from the area. It appears that groundwater entering the lake in Crystal Bay/Crystal Cove may have been diluting the herbicide allowing for milfoil to grow in these areas.

We did have some extensive populations of Curly-leaf pondweed which inhibited recreational opportunities on Hamilton Lake. Surveys found Curly-leaf pondweed in the entire littoral zone (the area where sunlight penetrates to the lake bottom), totaling 315.5 acres. Treatments totaling 61.85 acres were treated on 6/15/15 and 6/23/15. These treatments were directed towards the most critical and trouble areas of the lake. During the hot summer months following the treatments, Hamilton Lake experienced a bloom of blue-green algae that gave the lake a pea-soup color for a short period. Algae blooms may be triggered as a result of decaying plants providing excess nutrients, sunlight, warm water temperatures and minimal rainfall.

Looking ahead to 2016, the HLA would like to begin to take a proactive approach to managing the aquatic weeds in Hamilton Lake. In the past, HLA has managed Eurasian watermilfoil with periodic (roughly every 3-5 years) fluridone whole lake treatments which have been pretty effective. However, Curly-leaf continues to be a nuisance year in and year out. HLA would like to work towards reducing the turion (seed) bank present in the lake, which serves as the seed for the yearly curly-leaf population. Currently, HLA is working with our contractor, Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc. as well as the DNR to develop a plan to control these plants. A three year low dose fluridone treatment has been proposed. The proposed plan would control Curly-leaf plants in the early Spring before they drop their turion (seed), while being at a concentration low enough not to affect the native plant community. The down side this proposed plan is that there is a high cost, as well as some risk in its effectiveness as this is a new and untested treatment method. More discussion with aquatic weed and lake experts is still needed before HLA will consider this treatment option.

Like all Hamilton Lake users, the HLA is hopeful for a beautiful summer with low weed pressure on the lake. However, each year is different and always offers up a few challenges. HLA will continue to diligently monitor the lake and treat the invasive weeds as our budget allows. Please do your part by keeping nutrients out of the lake. Grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizers that enter the lake all contribute to aquatic vegetation growth in Hamilton Lake. Lastly, we need to continue to be diligent in our fund raising. Please support the annual Poker Run, HLA sticker campaign, raffles, and if you have not paid for weed spray, please consider doing so this year and in future years.

In closing, *did you know that only 50% of the HLA contributes towards weed treatment?* In order to keep our lake beautiful and keep our town strong, we need to increase this participation rate with a goal of attaining 100% participation. While the lake looks great, the weeds never rest and neither should our fundraising efforts!

If you are not a HLA member and would like to become one, please visit www.hamiltonlake.org; navigate to the Membership tab. HLA is also always looking for volunteers. Please contact a board member or attend a meeting if you would like to participate. The HLA meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Town Hall.

Get out and enjoy Hamilton Lake! We hope to see you out there! If you see someone who does not have a flag flying proudly, ask them why they have not paid, and do your best to convince them that we ALL play a part in keeping Hamilton Lake beautiful!

Hamilton Lake
Association

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Hamilton, IN
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Hamilton Lake Board Members

Ron Abraham
Janet Albright
Jan Biddle
David Castor
Ginny DeBrunner
Valerie Fetters
Dennis Germann
Peggy Hayden
Pat Morello
Clint Nester
Tonya Peters
Linda Skelly
Ralph Traycoff
Jim Wagenknecht

(see website below
for contact
information)



Check us out on our Website:
www.hamiltonlake.org
