



# HLA Newsletter 2023

Hamilton Lake Association

PO Box 515  
Hamilton, IN 46742

## 2023 Board of Directors

Janet Albright  
Jan Biddle  
Valerie Fetters  
Gina Freer  
Peggy Hayden  
Toni Justice  
Gary Luechauer  
Skip Markland  
Jan Miller  
Mike Pool  
Dave Price  
Cheryl Silverhart  
Cathy Wagenknecht

Hello to all from the HLA, to those who love Lake Living. 2022 was a very healthy year for Hamilton Lake. The water was very clear and as many fishermen told me, it was the right mixture of aquatic vegetation & water temperatures were great for fishing. We want to thank the Water Quality Committee for their tireless work with the IDNR & Scott Banfield & his team from Aquatic Enhancement for a wonderful lake season.

*A reminder to mark your calendars for Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, our Annual HLA Meeting.* Doors open at 8:30AM; the meeting starts at 9AM. We will be meeting at the Hamilton School auditorium. Please plan on coming to hear the plans for our Lake in 2023. Guest speakers will include Nathan Cooper, IDNR and Scott Banfield from Aquatic Management. Our Water Quality Committee will also give a report on an upcoming project.

You can now pay your Lake Enhancement dues via Venmo. At the bottom left hand side of this newsletter is a QR code that is clearly marked. Hover your camera on your phone over the QR code & follow the directions. In the Venmo comment section please include the payment detail information from the Lake Enhancement form along with your lake address. The other QR code takes you to the HLA website.

Our Wildlife Committee has obtained the proper permits for our Annual Goose Roundup in June. Last year we relocated almost 100 geese to the Pigeon River Reserve. Where the young geese learn to fly is where they will return every year.

The HLA has a Welcome Packet for all new residents. If you know of a new resident or if you are one please contact a HLA Board Member with your address & a Welcome Packet will be delivered. See list of board members on our website at [www.hamiltonlake.org](http://www.hamiltonlake.org) or click on the QR code.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the welfare of our lake or perhaps joining the HLA board, we invite all to attend the HLA meetings held the second Tuesday of the month at 7PM at Town hall, April thru October.



## DNR Boating Safety Class

Saturday, May 20, 2023  
Hamilton Town Hall Free for all

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

## Annual HLA Meeting

Saturday, June 17, 2023  
9:00 a.m.  
Doors open @ 8:30 a.m.  
Hamilton High School  
Gymnasium

**HLA Annual Poker Run**  
Saturday, July 29, 2023

## Take a Hike!

If you enjoy getting out in nature, Hamilton offers several beautiful trails. Fish Creek is a 1.2 mile flat trail between Hamilton Lake and Ball Lake. The trail was a fourteen year project that was completed after a diesel fuel spill in 1993 contaminated several miles of the creek. The project goals were to restore and protect the stream corridor, reduce erosion, recover mussel habitat, restore wetlands (Happy World Wetlands Day Feb. 2) and provide educational opportunities. Fish Creek is a watershed for Hamilton Lake and is the third largest of four watersheds that comprise the Upper St. Joseph River Watershed that flows to Lake Erie via the Maumee River. To learn more about Fish Creek, you can read the interpretive signs placed along the trail. You will likely be accompanied by the resident heron.

*"How much better to 'saunter' along the trail of life, to measure it in terms of beauty and love and friendship".*

John Muir  
"Father of the National Parks"

Another hidden gem is Robb Hidden Canyon at Ball Lake, a 1.6 mile trail along a steep-sided ravine with a clear stream running through it. Robb Hidden Canyon is one of the many preserves owned and protected by ACRES Land trust ([acres@acreslandtrust.org](mailto:acres@acreslandtrust.org)). It is peaceful and beautiful there and sometimes you get a wonderful surprise like a Barred Owl.

Let's all do our part to conserve and protect our Natural Resources for future generations. Happy sauntering.



## Marina / Lift Contacts

### Marinas

AMC Marine	260.488.2900
Clarks Landing Marina	260.488.2169
Hamilton Lake Marina	260.488.2369



Lift Setter /Nick Nagel	260.488.6445
Stan Atha	260.316.3321

### Boat Lifts

### Water Quality

Phosphorus in lawn fertilizer feeds the weeds in the lake as well as your grass. If you must fertilize, use a phosphorus free fertilizer; likewise, if you use a lawn service. Make sure the granules stay on the grass!

When shopping for fertilizer, it is important to understand the nutrient composition of the product, usually listed as "N-P-K". The "P" indicates the phosphate content. A zero indicates a phosphate free product.

Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, animal waste, and eroded soil are all sources of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the lake, street or storm drain, they end up in your local lake or river. Properly dispose of yard waste and lake weeds at the Hamilton compost site:

**3540 Railroad St. (M-F 7 am-3:30pm & S 8am - 12pm)**

### DNR Boating Safety Class

The Hamilton Lake Association hosted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for their Boater Safety Class. The all-day session was held on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hamilton Town Hall taught by three seasoned IDNR officers. 30 students of all ages attended the class. They learned many interesting water safety facts including knowledge of boats, speed limits on the lake and how to prevent drownings. Students 15 years and older were issued a boaters operating permit enabling them to legally drive a speed boat or jet ski. Plan to add this meaningful educational event to your calendar for 2023 on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration information will be on the HLA Facebook site this spring or register @ <https://register-ed.com/programs/indiana/104-indiana-boater-education/agency:25>.

## 2022 Poker Run

The 11th Annual - 2022 HLA Boat Poker Run was a tremendous success. A total of 1377 tickets were sold yielding profits for the lake of \$26,446. Thanks to the Party Store, Hamilton Marine and Clarks Landing for facilitating the tickets sales. Our awesome volunteers made the check in and shirt distribution at Fish Creek a smooth process. Eleven enthusiastic pier stops around the lake welcomed the boats and participants. A big thank you goes to Acapulco Mexican Grill for hosting the closing ceremonies and prize distribution. What a fantastic location to celebrate our annual event.

Mark your calendars – **last Saturday in July** – July 29, 2023 for the 12<sup>th</sup> HLA boat poker run!!!!

### PROPOSED WATER QUALITY

During the last meeting of 2022, the Hamilton Lake Association Board voted to move forward with a request for state funds (LARE grant) which would assist in paying for a lake water quality study. The purpose of the study is to identify the sources of sediment and pollution.

Primary focus would be Black Creek and three drainages currently flowing into the lake. A total of 18.6 miles will be studied to identify the causes of current water quality issues.

If the state funds are approved, the study will be completed in 2023 and presented to the Board. The Board will then request state funds for 2024 to begin correcting the issues identified in the study.



For your dining pleasure:



Acapulco Mexican Grill	260.488-3886
Captain Pete's Dairy Dock	260.488-2212
Spring-Fall	
Cold Springs Restaurant	260.488-2920
Spring-Fall	
Green Bean Coffee & Sweet Shop	260.488-5024
Four Corners Phillips 66	260.488-2246
Howie's on Hamilton	260.488-3344
Lakers Landing	260.488-4348
Marathon Deli Pizza	260.488-2508
Rogers Harvest House	260.488-2364
Rose Bros	260.488-3534
Upper Crust	260.488-2005