



January 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 membership/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.

HLA Board of Directors

DNR Boating Safety Class

Saturday, May 2nd, 2020. All ages are welcome! More details will be posted. To register:

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

HLA Annual Meeting

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

Annual meeting Sat, June 21st at 9AM the Town Hall. All are welcome

Hamilton Lake Happenings

Aquatic Vegetation (Weeds) Recap 2019/2020

Last year many were upset by the amount of aquatic vegetation (weeds) in our lake, especially around the docks & in our propellers. Fluridone herbicide has been used at Hamilton Lake for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, two non-native invasive aquatic plant species that frequently cause problems for lake users. It was effectively used in 2003, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2017.

To maintain management effectiveness, the HLA proposed the use of fluridone herbicide in 2019, but it was denied by IDNR. The annual meeting with the IDNR was held in October of 2019 with Scott Banfield, and representatives from the Hamilton Lake Association, the newly hired IDNR permit biologist, and the IDNR Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) biologist. Fluridone herbicide was proposed again for 2020 but we learned at the October meeting that it would be denied

again. By issuing, denying, or providing restrictions on the state-issued treatment permit, IDNR ultimately determines which aquatic plant management strategies may be carried out at Hamilton Lake. While the HLA has expressed the desire to maintain a more aggressive and proactive management of invasive plants at Hamilton Lake, IDNR has maintained that they want a cautious and conservative approach for now, without the use of fluridone.

Fluridone treatment, is very expensive in maintaining control of the invasive plants at Hamilton Lake; but using other products is also quite expensive, in some cases it can even be more expensive than the fluridone option due to the additional applications needed. Moving forward, a persistent community effort will be needed. Please continue paying your lake dues

by sending in your membership form found in the newsletter or can be found on-line at www.hamiltonlake.org.

The HLA has invited the chemist to the annual meeting at Townhall, June 20th doors open at 8:30 meeting begins at 9AM. Please mark your calendars & plan to attend.

Reminder: You may remove the weeds around your dock & beach area, **but it is illegal to dump them back in the lake!** The DNR can fine you for littering. Please take your weeds to The Town of Hamilton compost site located at The Town Garage at 3540 Railroad St Hamilton, IN. April—November M-F 7A-3:30P & S 8A-12P



2019: 9th Annual Boat Poker Run Success

The Poker Run was a success! Thanks to Cold Springs Resort; the home of last years Poker Run. 1610 tickets were sold last year! We raised \$33,270.00. Your commitment makes this event increasingly enjoyable; the monies made continue to help keep our lake clean and healthy. We are truly grateful to Tonya Peters, Linda Calvin & Jan Biddle for all their hard work and dedication! They work tire-

lessly to 1) find locations for the registrations and boat stops; 2) solicit donations from businesses and individuals; and 3) **sign-up 100's of volunteers**. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know! Thanks to all who donated, volunteered, and participated! We are looking forward to reach-

ing a new goal in 2020. So mark your calendar for the **10th Annual Poker Run on Saturday, July 25, 2020 (always the last Saturday in July).**





Hamilton Lake Association

P.O. Box 515
Hamilton, IN 4742
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Hamilton Lake 2019 Board Members

Janet Albright
Jan Biddle
Ginny DeBrunner
Valerie Fetters
Peggy Hayden
Richard (Toni) Justice
Skip Markland
Jan Miller
Clint Nester
Tonya Peters
Linda Skelly
Cheryl Silverhart
Cathy Wagenknecht
Jim Wagenknecht
Jama Watkins

(see website for contact information)

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 in which the board is made of volunteers from many of the 101 lakes in Steuben County. Their motto is "Protecting Our Lakes Today, for Tomorrow". It is active in local and state-wide issues to maintain, protect, and improve the lakes' environment in Steuben County. We invite you to join us at our monthly board meetings. They are held on the first Saturday each month at 8:30 am at the First Congressional United Church of Christ, 314 West Maumee, Angola.

Water quality testing and environmental activities are paid for by the SCLC through lake property owners; **such as you**, joining & paying \$35 per family. The SCLC conducts extensive water quality testing on several lakes to detect any changes in our waters. If changes occur, contacts to the proper authorities can then be made and solutions can be planned. During this past summer, 60+ sites around the county were sampled – many of the lakes were sampled three times. The results of the analyses are studied and made available to the public on the council's webpage. <https://lakescouncil.org/> In addition, lake associations and partnering agencies also contribute. We invite you to become more involved. In becoming a giving member you will receive 2 newsletters annually. Please consider becoming an annual member of the Steuben County Lakes Council by going on-line at office@lakescouncil.org and completing the registration form. The lakes and streams of Steuben County would appreciate your support.

Providing education about water quality and environmental issues is also a major goal of the Lakes Council. The Council supports educational programs for elementary and middle school students in the county. Displays have been presented at Earth Fest, and in cooperation with SECD, literature has been published and distributed to schools for Stewardship Weeks and Youth Conservation Field Days. The Council continues to provide an office to relay information to the public and call attention to local area invasive weeds.

As an example of the Council's commitment to lake water quality: annually, The Steuben County Lakes Council grants a scholarship to a college student pursuing the area of environmental field. Again, please consider being a member today by going on line at office@lakescouncil.org and completing the registration form.

MARINE PATROL

A marine patrol boat used by members of the United States Military has been added to the fleet of vehicles for the Hamilton Police Department. Conservation Officer Jim Price will be conducting training to all HPD officers on boating laws, safety requirements etc.

The HPD will be able to issue tickets, warnings and make Operating While Intoxicated, commonly called **OWI** arrests if it is warranted.

Both the DNR and Sheriff's Marine Patrol were rarely seen on our lake the past few years and this will allow them to interact on a personal level with all boaters and their families. The Hamilton Police Department wants everyone to be able to enjoy the beautiful lake.

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. The DNR's definition of shoreline means the point where the water level meets the land when the lake is at its legally established level. 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.

Any walls constructed more than 10' landward of the shoreline are not in DNR's jurisdiction. You may, however, need authorization through the local floodplain administrator's office. 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.

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

