



# Hamilton Lake Association Hamilton Lake Happenings

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2016

## Notes from the Board:

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

Last year, HLA eliminated the sticker for membership and instead, offered a yellow 12"x18" flag (see above) for \$10 - but only to members who made a weed spray contribution. After some confusion and discussion, we decided to provide a sticker to "supporting members" and the flag to "full members" who pay weed spray. See the invoice enclosed for more details. Thank you for your support, The Hamilton Lake Association Board of Directors

## Inside this issue:

## HLA Annual Report for 2015

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, near and/or enjoy the lake.

Our weed spray efforts chaired by Clint Nester were very successful (see article on the back page).

The Annual Boat Poker Run (see article below) brought in a record amount to pay for our continued efforts to control the invasive

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, near and/or enjoy the lake.

Our weed spray efforts chaired by Clint Nester were very successful (see article on the back page).

The Annual Boat Poker Run (see article below) brought in a record amount to pay for our continued efforts to control the invasive

The Hamilton Lake Association's directors



Our weed spray efforts chaired by Clint Nester were very successful (see article on the back page).

The Annual Boat Poker Run (see article below) brought in a record amount to pay for our continued efforts to control the invasive

## 5th Annual Boat Poker Run Success

tunds through: 1) the  
standing  
; a boatful of  
d just good  
top of the fun,  
ed a record,  
\$20,385.

Tonya Peters and Stan Atha brought this idea to the HLA. A great way to use the lake for the benefit of the lake, this fund raiser has raised a total of \$68,183 in five years.

mostly by Ron Calvin at the Annual Hamilton Summer Fest; and, 4) continue to work tirelessly to:

This year's outstanding fundraiser was a boatful of enjoyment and just good family fun. On top of the fun, the event raised a record, \$20,385.

Tonya Peters and Stan Atha brought this idea to the HLA. A great way to use the lake for the benefit of the lake, this fund raiser has raised a total of \$68,183 in five years.

This year's outstanding fundraiser was a boatful of enjoyment and just good family fun. On top of the fun, the event raised a record, \$20,385.

Tonya Peters and Stan Atha brought this idea to the HLA. A great way to use the lake for the benefit of the lake, this fund raiser has raised a total of \$68,183 in five years.

# 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](http://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

P.O. Box 515  
Hamilton, IN  
46742

## Hamilton Lake Board Members

**Ron Abraham**  
**Janet Albright**  
**Ron Calvin**  
**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](http://www.hamiltonlake.org)

---