



Hamilton Lake Association

2025 Newsletter

HLA
P.O. Box 515
Hamilton, IN 46742



In early May, the lake was hit with a bumper crop of aquatic vegetation. Treatment did not have the expected results, and an update was shared with homeowners, as well as the DNR. The week prior to Memorial Day, the treatment began to take effect. On May 18, the HLA sponsored a DNR Boating Safety class. Later in the month, the Buoy Boys placed the buoys around the lake.

In May and June, board members delivered HLA flags to all contributing members of the lake association. The flags were designed to celebrate the association's 50th anniversary. Also

during that time, the HLA began meeting with a few of the other lake representatives to discuss issues we all share, including a police presence on the lake. There were additional meetings throughout the year involving law enforcement and city officials. Action steps that will hopefully improve funding will begin in 2025.

The HLA annual meeting took place on June 15. Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancements, Karen DeForest of the Steuben County Lake Council, and Sargent Frederick of the Hamilton Police Department were speakers and fielded questions from the audience. Changes to the HLA constitution were made, including additions to board responsibilities and the creation of a 6th district. Officers were elected. We would like to thank Peggy Hayden for serving as Vice President and President, and Jan Miller for serving as Secretary over the last several years, as well as their continuing participation on the HLA Board.

On June 27, we held the annual goose round-up. A new trailer was purchased and retrofitted for future round-ups. Approximately 120 geese were removed from the lake, the largest number ever captured during this annual event. The city celebrated the July 4th holiday with a parade and fireworks. Later in the month on July 27, we had the annual HLA Poker Run. There were over 1,400 participants with over \$27,000 raised! In the 13 years this event has been held, over \$300,000 has been raised!

August was another busy month. The HLA was awarded a \$40,000 LARE grant for a comprehensive lake study. On August 18, the 101 Lakes Trust brought Reflections to Hamilton Lake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hamilton Lake Association. Guests took complimentary boat rides while hearing about the history of our lake. They then were able to experience a Taste of Hamilton, featuring delicious dishes from eight local eateries. During the tour, there was a slight interruption due to the weather, which supplied a beautiful rainbow for all to enjoy. On August 19, Insights 21 Alive aired an hour-long program featuring the city of Hamilton, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and the HLA. On August 24, we participated in Summerfest with events for children, shoppers, runners, and music lovers.

In September, volunteers pulled the buoys from the lake. A new motor for the HLA pontoon had to be purchased prior to this event.

On November 30, we participated in the Holiday parade. This marked the end of a very eventful year, which was made possible thanks to the HLA Board members and all the volunteers who donated their time and energy to make our 50th year so successful!

Facebook: Hamilton Lake Association (Hamilton, IN)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/523956149991607>

www.HamiltonLake.org

Become a proud Hamilton Lake Association Member! Scan or click on the QR code to be taken to the 2025 Lake Enhancement Membership Form.





2024 Boater Safety Course

The 2024 Hamilton Lake Boater Safety Course, an annual event sponsored by the Hamilton Lake Association and the Indiana DNR, was conducted on May 18, 2024, at the Hamilton Town Hall. A special thanks to our Indiana DNR officers for sharing their knowledge with the 40 participants, whose ages ranged from teens to senior citizens.

During the course, the officers addressed interesting and informative topics such as safety on the water, drowning and heat exhaustion prevention, and boating etiquette - which included being able to identify port from starboard and bow from stern.

Participants 15 years and older were issued boater operation permits, which enables them to legally operate a speed boat or jet ski.

Please plan to join us for this informative and educational event in 2025 on Saturday, May 17! Be on the lookout on the Hamilton Lake Facebook page this spring for additional details on how to sign up.

You can visit the below Indiana DNR link to find Boating Education & Safety information.

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/law-enforcement/education/boating-education-and-safety/>



Town of Hamilton

www.hamiltonindiana.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonIndiana>

Hamilton Lake Association

www.HamiltonLake.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/523956149991607>

Hamilton Lake

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/32474847151/>



Brought to you by:
the Hamilton Lake Association

Navigation Rules

There are two terms that help explain these rules.

- ◆ **Stand-on vessel:** The vessel that should maintain its course and speed
- ◆ **Give-way vessel:** The vessel that must take early and substantial action to avoid collision by stopping, slowing down, or changing course



Power vs. Power

Meeting Head-On

Power vs. Power: Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel. Both vessels should keep to the starboard (right).

Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. Sail



Power vs. Power

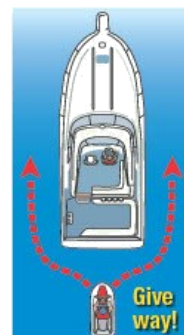
Crossing Situations

Power vs. Power: The vessel on the operator's port (left) side is the give-way vessel. The vessel on the operator's starboard (right) side is the stand-on vessel.

Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. Sail

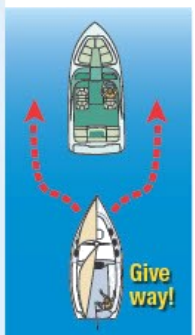


Power vs. Power

Overtaking

Power vs. Power: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.

Power vs. Sail: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.



Power vs. Sail

2024 Hamilton Lake Boat Poker Run

The 13th annual Hamilton Lake Boat Poker Run took place on Saturday, July 27, 2024!

It was a beautiful day to be on the lake for the boats filled with lake supporters participating in and celebrating the event!

Thanks to incredible support from our three local marinas and The Party Store, an impressive 1,438 tickets were sold! We had 39 area businesses generously sponsor the event t-shirts for participants.

Making our event a one-of-a-kind experience were the 11 themed pier stops that donated their time, energy, creativity and treats to the day.

Participants enjoyed closing events at Costa Luna Restauranté Mexicano, always a tremendous host and supporter of the event!

The event profited \$27,850 for the day, making the grand total raised over the past 13 years \$301,004!

Thank you to everyone who participated and made the event such a success! We look forward to seeing you at our next event on Saturday, July 26, 2025!



2024

Goose Round-Up



Each summer in June, the HLA conducts a round-up of an over-abundance of Canada geese. The purpose of this is to reduce the burgeoning population of geese that inhabit our lake. Canada geese are natural and welcome inhabitants of our lake, however they can become a nuisance to residents and home owners when they become over populated.

Every June, the geese begin their annual molting process. During this time, they lose and then regrow all their flight feathers, but at this time are unable to fly. Volunteers from the HLA and many other lake residents conduct the round-up on Island Park. A large temporary fence is put in place and forms a corral of sorts, which narrows down to a loading chute that ends in a capture trailer. The geese are guided from the lake onto the land by our volunteers in boats and jet skis. Once on land and with a little human encouragement, the trapped geese safely enter the trailer and are transported to one of the state wildlife areas designated by the IDNR, where they are released.

The question is always asked; "won't they just fly back to Hamilton Lake?" According to wildlife biologists, some of the adult birds may return to Hamilton Lake after their young can fly and survive on their own. However, geese will most often return to the lake where they learned to fly, thus the first-year goslings (which is the majority of those we capture) will remain where or close to the drop off area.

The HLA has been conducting this round-up for the past 5 or 6 years and in 2024 we removed approximately 120 geese off the lake, which is the most we have ever captured. The HLA would like to encourage our residents to come over to Island Park to witness the capture and/or get your boat and help us move them across the lake. Be sure to bring the kids and grandkids as it is a great learning & educational experience.

You can find notices and the specific date sometime in June on the Hamilton Lake Facebook page and the Hamilton Lake Association Facebook page, or ask your HLA Board Representative. You can usually expect the goose round-up to take place around the 26th of June.

Janet Albright

Jan Biddle

Bill Chew

Valerie Feters

Peggy Hayden

Toni Justice

Gary Luechauer

Skip Markland

Jan & Bill Miller

Mark Miner

Mike Pool

Stephen Schaaf

Cheryl Silverhart

Mike Strzelecki

Andrew Wappes

Jayma Watkins

Board of Directors

Important 2025 Dates!

DNR Boater Safety Class: Saturday, May 17

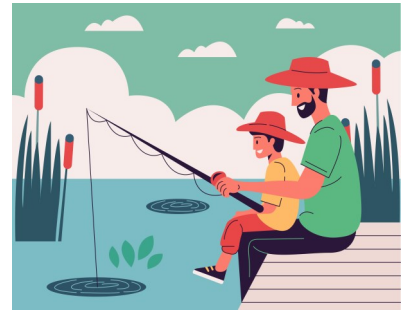
Annual HLA Meeting: Saturday, June 21

Poker Run: Saturday, July 26

HLA Monthly meetings: every 2nd Tuesday,
March thru October



Supporting Hamilton Lake



The mission of the Hamilton Lake Association is to protect and enhance the quality of the water, the aquatic environment, vegetation control, wildlife, and the surrounding watershed. We are committed to preserving the health of our lake for present and future generations. The Hamilton Lake Association Board is made up of a great group of volunteers, each providing unique yet collaborative contributions. There are also incredible non-board volunteers, who contribute their time and energy and support the association throughout the season. Volunteers, however, can only do so much. In this newsletter you will find a Lake Enhancement Membership Invoice, which allows you to become a voting member of the HLA by paying dues or become a non-voting supporting member by making a tax-deductible donation. Donations are welcomed and appreciated either separately or in tandem with dues. Please see the attached form for more details. Please continue reading to understand other HLA supporting opportunities and to see the multiple ways your tax-deductible donations are spent.

TREATING LAKE VEGETATION

In 2024, lake vegetation became an issue prior to Memorial Day. The spring treatment used the last several years took a couple of additional weeks to have its normal impact. It was therefore decided to take a different and more expensive approach, switching to an alternate treatment strategy that has shown promising results at other lakes. This year, the cost of the new treatment could reach \$128,000 compared to \$48,840 spent last year. The DNR has approved treatment for up to 250 of the 805 acres that make up Hamilton Lake. The actual number of acres and the specific locations will be determined during a survey of the lake by Aquatic Enhancement in Angola, IN. Aquatic Enhancement will be working with the DNR to perform extra plant surveys and track the effectiveness of this new strategy. Along their own frontages, homeowners can generally treat up to 625 square feet without a permit. Check state regulations for details. Last year the HLA also spent \$36,000 on the control of algae and other vegetation which will also take place in 2025.

STUDY OF LAKE TRIBUTARIES

A Lake Study to identify issues in some of our tributaries that could be impacting the health of our lake began the first week of February. The cost of the study is \$50,000. We were able to obtain a LARE grant that will reduce our cost to \$10,000. The cost to fix these issues could easily reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. Even if the HLA receives the maximum grant, each individual project could cost \$20,000.

SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT

The Board has also applied for a LARE grant to assist in paying for a shoreline stabilization project for the channel going into Crystal Bay/Crystal Cove. Cost to correct the issues are estimated to be \$90,000 to \$100,000. If a grant is awarded, the cost to the HLA is estimated to be around \$20,000.

LAKE SAFETY

Your donations also help pay for a DNR Boating Safety class, buoys, and buoy anchors. The buoys identify those areas in the lake where boats are to be at idle or no wake speed. There is also the expense of the trailer used for the goose round up and the Lake Association pontoon used to place the buoys in the spring and remove them in the fall.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED SO THIS WORK MAY CONTINUE

We need your support to continue the projects we are starting this year. We ask that lake homeowners contribute **\$2.40** for each linear foot of lake front property. We are requesting a flat fee of \$60 if you have deeded lake access. If you would like to be a member of the Board, please attend a Lake Association meeting, which takes place on the second Tuesday of every month, March to October. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM at the Hamilton Town Hall, and reminders and agenda topics will be posted on the Hamilton Lake Association Facebook page ahead of each meeting.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT TO HELP KEEP OUR LAKE BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY AND SAFE FOR EVERYONE!





2025

Hamilton Lake Association

Lake Enhancement Membership Invoice

PLEASE PAY BY APRIL 15, 2025

Pay via **venmo**

Scan this
QR code or
click it to
be taken to
Venmo



Please include your ADDRESS & type of
MEMBER in the What's this for? section in
Venmo

OR

Pay via this invoice

If not paying via Venmo, please return
this completed invoice with payment to:

Hamilton Lake Association
P.O. Box 515
Hamilton, IN 46742

Name(s) _____

Hamilton Lake Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

If you own more than one Hamilton Lake lot and/or home, list addresses _____

Email Address _____

VOTING MEMBER

One who pays for lake enhancement for Hamilton Lake; *includes membership dues & flag:*

Lakefront Footage _____ x **\$2.40** per lakefront ft. = \$ _____

OR

Deeded Lake Access \$60 (flat fee) \$ _____ **DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED!**
\$ _____

SUPPORTING MEMBER

(Non-voting) one who pays \$15 ea to support Hamilton Lake; *includes a Hamilton Lake decal:*

Supporting Member @ **\$15.00** ea \$ _____

DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED! \$ _____

Thank you for your support in keeping our lake beautiful, healthy, and safe! TOTAL \$ _____

If you already paid Lake Enhancement through an Association (i.e. *condominium, mobile home park or other*), or you received this invoice in error (i.e. *no longer own the property*), please call and/or email the HLA so we can update our records: **Cheryl Silverhart 419-340-7800 Email: csilverhart@gmail.com**

The Hamilton Lake Association is a 501.C3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. Please see the newsletter and our website to learn more about the important programs your donations support!

www.HamiltonLake.org

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