

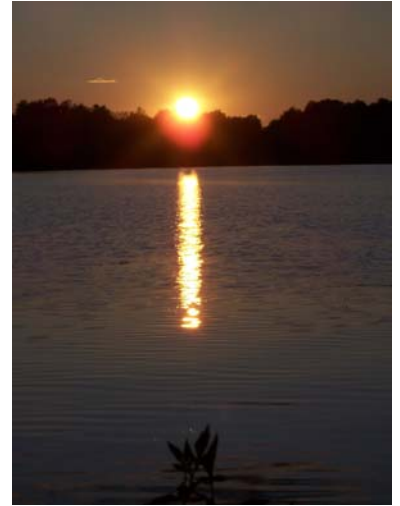
Hicks Lake Weed Watchers Update

09-Jan-2008

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New Hicks Lake Weed Site: www.hickslake.org



Hicks Lake at Sunset

- A new website created to help distribute information about the lake and water quality and weed issues.
- This website will not be intentionally given to any search engines so we can still keep our beautiful Hicks Lake a secret (as much as possible.)
- Anyone can contribute. Send info, questions, comments, feedback, etc. to webmaster@hickslake.org We will do our best to get it posted quickly.
- We will also post any interesting or entertaining pictures you may have about Hicks Lake that you would like to share. Please include captions/information about the pictures.
- Current web site content includes information about all the water quality and weeds in Hicks Lake, and articles collected by residents over the years about various control methods.
- Also there is work a cross-reference of the weeds of Hicks Lake along with a description of the weeds, and links to other sites that offer even more information.
- This is a work in progress so please check back often to see how it "grows."
- This periodical letter will be posted to the site.
- This letter can also be emailed directly to you if you would like. To get this service, please email webmaster@hickslake.org requesting this service and your email address will be added to the recipient list.



Eurasian Milfoil

Voluntary Lake Information Fee of \$10.00 /year

- To print, post, and mail these newsletters is costly.
- Lake residents Nancy and Larry Beckwith have done this over the past several years at their own expense.
- The letter you are reading right now was paid for by donations taken at the Memorial Day Weekend meeting (see Recap below.)
- It would be much less expensive and easier to distribute information about Hicks Lake via electronic methods (email, internet, etc.) rather by postal service.
- The ultimate goal, from a cost savings standpoint, is to distribute this information via electronic methods only. However, not everyone has access to the internet.
- If you don't have email or access to the internet you can still receive this publication in the mail for \$10.00 annually.
- The funds will only be used for materials and postage. The compilation of information, organization of the letter, and typing will still be done on a voluntary basis. If anyone is interested in doing one of these periodicals, please let us know via email, or attach a note with your check.
- The plan is to have at least 3 mailings per year.
- If you would like to continue receiving this information through the postal system, please send a check for \$10.00 to:

Mike Ritzer 5166 Beech Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49006 269-370-4497 (Cell)
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Recap of Weed Meeting Memorial Day Weekend, May 26, 2007

- Approximately 38 residents met at Hartwick Township Hall for about 2 hours
- Thanks to Larry and Nancy Beckwith for organizing the Hall and for the coffee and donuts.
- Marty Hilovsky from EnviroScience (Stow, Ohio) discussed the Middfoil Weevil and its effect on Eurasian Milfoil.
 - The Middfoil Weevil is a long term treatment for Eurasian Milfoil.
 - Much discussion about the treatment ensued after Marty's presentation.
 - In short the weevil uses the Eurasian Milfoil as a host for its young who feed on the vascular system of the plant which weakens and eventually kills the plant.
 - The Weevil will propagate until its food source (the Milfoil) is diminished at which time its population will diminish.
 - The Weevil is about the size of a sesame seed and is native.
 - Marty's company helps speed up the populating process by adding more Weevils to the Milfoil beds.

- For more information see: www.environscienceinc.com or call 800-840-4025

- Jennifer Jones of ASI Environmental Technologies, Inc. (Ludington, MI) gave a presentation on water quality and weeds and various controls



Jennifer Jones (ASI Environmental) inspects some plant material removed from Hicks Lake

- Chemical –vs- Harvesting.
- Various example lakes in Michigan and how different problems were solved in each.
- Art Robell (Rose Lake, MI) suggested that those in attendance take up a collection to cover the cost (\$200) of a weed survey by Jennifer. \$265 dollars was collected which covered the cost of the study and the cost of this letter. Thanks to all who contributed. There were too many enthusiastic and generous residents to mention all of them here.
- Jennifer also mentioned the benefits of organizing some sort of resident group (ie. an association.) She said that an organized group may have more influence at the township and county level than a handful of residents. Much discussion regarding this issue ensued but no decision was made. The topic was tabled for another time due to the time constraints of this meeting.
- With the help of Hick Residents Nancy Beckwith and Wayne Winslow, Jennifer was taken on a tour of the lake where she took notes and samples.
- Results of Jennifer’s study of the lake are included with this letter.

- Wayne Winslow (Hicks Lake Resident) gave a brief presentation about the state of Hicks Lake
 - Wayne is a degreed Biologist (Central Michigan University) and long time resident of Hicks Lake.
 - He mentioned that Hicks Lake is in its mesotrophic stage which is one of the middle phases in a lake’s life.
 - This is a normal progression in a lake’s life and it is a process that takes many years to complete.
 - The lake becomes warmer, fills in with sediment, and becomes weedier.
 - Humans help speed along the process with chemicals, septic systems, and the introduction of invasive exotic (non-native) species (ie. Eurasian Milfoil)
- Art Robell (Rose Lake Resident) spoke on their use of weed control on Rose Lake
 - They used the Milfoil Weevil with some success.
 - They also used some chemicals.
 - Unfortunately due to time constraints, Art had to end his presentation prematurely.
 - The idea to have him come back another time was agreed upon by all who were still there.

What's Next?

- Tentative plans are being made for a May 3 meeting
 - The agenda for the meeting is still being planned and is open for suggestions.
 - Contact webmaster@hickslake.org or Mike Ritzer (269-370-4497) if you have any suggestions for topics.
 - Tentative topics for the agenda:
 - Pursue the possibility of a plan of action in dealing with the Eurasian Milfoil and/or the need for harvesting or other action.
 - Presentation on Clean Boats / Clean Waters (how to protect Hick Lake from other invasive species.)
 - Presentation on “Rain Water Gardens” which are ways to protect Hicks Lake from nutrient introduction during runoff.
 - Please pencil in this date on your calendar.
- Keep checking the web site, or this publication for more information:
www.hickslake.org

Remember:

- This letter can be emailed directly to you if you would like. To get this service, please email webmaster@hickslake.org requesting this service and your email address will be added to the recipient list.



Jennifer shows off her prized weed-pike!