



Spring is here! That means that summer is not far behind! The Hess Lake Improvement Association (HLIA) has a great list of activities and events planned for you this summer at Hess Lake.

HLIA MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues are still \$25, and a return envelope is enclosed for you to send in your dues. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your zone rep or any officer listed on the back page of this newsletter.

2009 HESS LAKE EVENTS

Saturday, May 2 - Roadside Clean-up around the lake. Meet at the public landing at 9:00 am. Gloves, bags and grabbers will be provided.



Friday, June 5/Saturday, June 6 - Hess Lake Yard Sales
Round up your stuff, set up your tables, and get ready to sell! Last year we had a great turnout!



Saturday, June 13 - Boater's Safety Class (held at 915 Hess Lake Dr.) Call Bob Hake for reservations (231)834-8219

Saturday, June 20 - Annual Summer Meeting at 10:00 AM at Brooks Township Hall (You must be an HLIA member to attend).



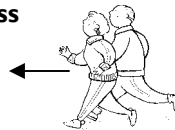
Fourth of July Events: July 4 - Ring of Fire at 10:00 PM (Flares can be purchased at the Hess Lake Party Store or at Bob Hake's cottage at 915 Hess Lake Dr.) Due to lack of interest there will be no activities this year. If you have any ideas for next year please contact your zone rep.



Sunday, July 5: Hess Lake Sailing Regatta begins at 3:00 pm. (meet in the middle of the lake). Contact Bob Hake with any questions at (231)834-8219. All sailboats are welcome to participate in the race.



Saturday, July 11: 4th Annual "Son of a Sailor" Hess Lake 10K Walk/Run (see article below)



HLIA LAKE ZONE BOUNDARIES

- Zone 1:** East 88th Street from 1605 to 1844 Catalpa Avenue from 9053 to 9593
- Zone 2:** Hess Lake Drive from 1751 to 1989 Kathleen Street
- Zone 3:** Hess Lake Drive from 1411 to 1644 Clearwater Street, Peninsula Drive
- Zone 4:** Hess Lake Drive from 941 to 1390
- Zone 5:** Hess Lake Drive from 615 to 925 Redwood Drive from 9016 to 9394
- Zone 6:** Redwood Drive from 8872 to 9011 East 88th Street from 745 to 1154
- Zone 6A:** 825 East 88th Street, South Old Elm Lane, East Old Maple Trail,
- Zone 7:** East 88th Street from 1166 to 1596, Graves Drive, Parkwood Drive, Lockwood Drive, Wellington Drive

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

There are 2 vacant positions on the HLIA:

- Zone 6 Alternate
- Zone 7 Alternate

Duties include attending the HLIA meetings when able and to be available to those in your zone if they have questions, concerns, etc. If interested call Jerry Swendrowski (HLIA president) at (231)834-0908 or email at swendog59@live.com.

Saturday, July, 11- 4th annual "Son Of A Sailor" Hess Lake 10K Walk/Run. Start time will be 8:30 a.m. on 88th street with the race proceeding counter clock-wise around the lake. The inside lane of the road (i.e. closest to the lake) will be for runners/walkers. Please be respectful of this community event and try to schedule road usage before 8:30 a.m. and after 10 a.m., or please drive counter clock-wise in the outside lane. Cost per entry is \$20.00 if received by July 5th (\$25.00 if received after July 5th). Pre-race packet pickup and sign-up will be July 10th at 1249 Hess Lake Drive from 4-8 p.m. Race day sign-up will be 7 a.m.-8:15 a.m. at River Valley Community Church on M37 and 88th Street. On-line registration is available at www.goracego.com. To get an entry form or sponsor form you can go to hesslake.com to download one. Chip timing for runners will be provided by Runners Edge. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help with the race, or make a donation, contact Betty Bosowski at bettybuzz@juno.com or Katie Lipner at KLLipner@aol.com or (231)834-9915.

VOLUNTARY SHORELINE RESTORATION PROGRAM Report from the Hess Lake Board

A proposed "Voluntary Shoreline Restoration Program" is moving forward based on significant positive feedback from a recent postcard survey sent to Hess and Brooks Lake residents this past winter. Program details are currently being planned with program introduction targeted for Summer/Fall 2009.

A goal of the "Voluntary Shoreline Restoration Program" is to provide lakefront residents an opportunity to become better stewards of their lake by planting native plants to:

- 1) enhance the appearance of their shoreline property,
- 2) improve the water quality of their lake,
- 3) reduce surface water runoff into their lake, and
- 4) create habitat for butterflies and other desirable wildlife.

Another goal of the program is to increase awareness among lake residents about the negative impacts that traditional lawn/turf grass have on water quality. Turf grass lawns have short root systems, require regular mowing and watering, and many folks apply fertilizers/pesticides to keep turf grass healthy. However, much of what is applied to traditional turf grass lawns (nutrients like phosphorus in fertilizers and pesticides) and heavy rain, cannot be absorbed and runs off into our lakes, stimulating excessive weed growth and more frequent algae blooms, among other problems. In contrast, native plants and grasses have much longer root systems (that encourage greater infiltration of water), don't require mowing or watering once established and they don't need any supplemental applications of fertilizer or pesticides. Because of their longer root systems, native plants and grasses absorb more water, nutrients and help filter/cleanse water in the soil, thereby improving the quality of sub-surface (groundwater) that reaches our lakes. Native plants and grasses also provide habitat for many desirable types of butterflies and birds and can be designed accordingly, in addition to providing colorful aesthetics to any landscape. The objective here is for lakefront owners to convert a portion of their waterfront turf grass to native plants/grasses for a more natural landscape that will help buffer the lake from surface water runoff impacts.

The "Voluntary Shoreline Restoration Program", as designed, will provide participants with information on different types of native plants and basic instruction on how/where/when to plant. Participants can choose which native plants/grasses they want to add to their lakefront landscape. The program will also subsidize the cost of available native plants/grasses to participants that commit their time and labor to planting them during Summer/Fall 2009. Monies to subsidize the cost of native plants will come from Muskegon River Watershed Assembly discretionary program funds provided by the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

This voluntary program is a great way for each lakefront and near shore owner to do something positive to help protect the lake we enjoy while enhancing the appearance of their property. Further program announcements and education/instruction meetings will be forthcoming through both the Hess Lake Board and Brooks Lake Board. The Hess Lake Improvement Association encourages all lake residents to participate in the "Voluntary Shoreline Restoration Program".

Gary Noble
Hess Lake Board Vice Chair

Editor's Note: In addition to the Hess Lake Improvement Association (HLIA) which is a neighborhood association, Hess Lake residents are served by the Hess Lake Board (HLB). The board is a legal entity created by local government and focuses on issues of pollution, flood damage, and water conditions that affect public health or safety. They also work to increase the value of property by improving the quality of the lake and conservation of fish and wildlife. A lake board can create an assessment district and assess the tax roll to fund various projects.

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