Hess Lake

Improvement Association Newsletter

P.O. Box 239 • Newaygo, MI 49337-0239 • www.hesslake.com Fall 2025

Greetings to all-

Well, another summer in the books. Where did it go? Whether you have closed up, packing up to head South, or staying here I want to take the opportunity to say thank you on behalf of the Hess Lake Improvement Association. Thank you for your membership, for the volunteering, and for being good stewards of the lake.

We are continuing to try and offer activities and other offerings through the HLIA. This year we hosted the picnic at Smugglers and brought back the Neighborhood Watch program as a couple of examples. We would welcome any suggestions or volunteers that would be willing to help on these activities. We are trying to set up committees for our events which will be discussed later in the newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and we will see you in the Spring!

Brian Meyer, HLIA President
(517) 243-8764
brianrmeyer@comcast.net

A friendly reminder as we enter into Fall…

LEAVES & GRASS CLIPPINGS

The **DNR** strongly discourages dumping leaves and grass clippings into the lake. Leaves, grass clippings and similar debris add nutrients to the water that use up precious oxygen as they decompose.

Aquatic organisms need that oxygen!!

**Please pass this information on to your Lawn Maintenance Companies as well.

What is the difference between the HLIA and the HLB?

As we welcome new residents, we think it is important to clarify any confusion residents may have about the difference between the Hess Lake Improvement Association (HLIA) and the Hess Lake Board (HLB).

HLB

Hess Lake Improvement Board

The **Hess Lake Board** consists of five people. These five people have legal authority to make decisions on behalf of lake residents, including taxing authority for any lake project they deem necessary. The three lake representatives are appointed positions, with the other two elected. Please visit **www.hesslakeimprovementboard.org** for a complete description of the HLB responsibilities and meeting dates / times.

HLIA

Hess Lake Improvement Association

The purpose of the **Hess Lake Improvement Association i**s to promote a sense of community among its members including homeowners and summer residents. HLIA was created to work together on solutions for better water quality, to stimulate general property improvement around Hess Lake, and to plan fun annual community events.

The HLIA is a volunteer, leadership team that promotes community well being and plans social events for Hess Lake residents. *Unlike the HLB, we have no mandate to make decisions regarding water testing, property taxes, septic issues, etc.*

News from the Hess Lake Board

In 2025, the Hess Lake Improvement Program focused on exotic aquatic plant control, fisheries management, fish habitat improvements, water quality monitoring, and information and education.

The goal of the Hess Lake aquatic plant control program is to reduce the populations of exotic species like Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed while protecting the growth of beneficial native plant species. This summer, the aquatic plant control program targeted 2.5 acres of Eurasian milfoil with herbicides in June, providing control for much of the growing season in those areas. Sparse Eurasian milfoil was noted during the August lake survey, but not to a density that required additional treatment. The native plant community continues to exhibit low biodiversity, largely due to poor water clarity. However, the lily pad population has expanded, providing valuable habitat to aquatic organisms in Hess Lake.

The Hess Lake Improvement Board is planning to stock perch and black crappie in an effort to diversify fish species to predate on carp eggs. These species were chosen based on input from DNR fisheries biologists. In the fall, 2,260 yellow perch (5"-7") and 2,260 black crappie (4"-6") will be released into Hess Lake. In addition to stocking fish, installation of woody fish habitat structures is being proposed on two Hess Lake properties. Installation will likely take place in 2026. With assistance from MSU Extension and Progressive Companies, the project team will apply for a Fremont Area Community Foundation grant.

Water quality sampling took place in August, with collections occurring at 3 of the deep basins within Hess Lake to monitor temperature, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll-*a*, water clarity, and total phosphorus.

In an effort to provide information and education to residents of Hess Lake, an annual report summarizing the aquatic plant community and water quality data will be provided to the Hess Lake Improvement Board and posted on hesslakeimprovementboard.org this winter.

Rick Buteyn
Environmental Scientist
Progressive Companies

PROGRESSIVE COMPANIES

Hess Lake Board (HLB)
2026 Meeting Dates:

April 21st
July 14th
September 15th

Time:
9:30am

Location:
Drain Commissioners Office - White Cloud

Please visit the Hess Lake Board website:

www.HessLakeImprovementBoard.org

- Highlights of Summer 2025 -

Boat Parade

1st - Moana
2nd - Pirate with Cannon
3rd - Wine and cheese
4th - Carp boat

What an **AWESOME** Boat Parade!

THANK YOU participants for helping keep this tradition going!

Start your planning for 2026!

Cornhole Tournament

1st place: Steve and Derek Sterken

2nd place: Jake and Kevin Coppock

3rd place: Ken Russell and Randy Vanhoven

HLIA Membership Picnic:

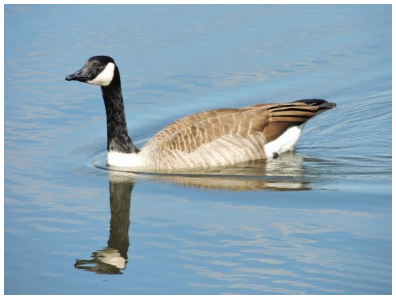
A huge success! Thanks to members for attending and Smuggler's at North Shore for hosting.

HLIA MEET & GREET EVENT

Saturday, May 23, 2026
9:00am - 11am
Location - Smuggler's at North Shore

HESS LAKE
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

- Pay your Membership Dues
- Receive Membership Sign & Decal/Sticker
- Meet the Leadership Team and your Zone Reps
- Continental Breakfast
- A chance to meet your Neighborhood Watch representatives



GOOSE NESTS ⟹

Come Spring 2026 when geese start nesting; if you spot any geese nests or eggs, we kindly ask you to reach out to:
Jerry Swendrowski
(231) 519-1139
swendog59@gmail.com

Did you know about the historic sign on Catalpa Avenue?

Originally placed in the 1960s, the sign was rebuilt in 2011 by HLIA member, Gene Robinson. Its message remains: Safety, Loiter Not Litter, and our Hess Lake Improvement Association.

Let's keep our community spirit alive!

Hess Lake Improvement Association

2026 Monthly Meeting Dates:

Thursday, May 14 @ 6pm
Thursday, June 11 @ 6pm
Thursday, July 9 @ 6pm
Thursday, August 13 @ 6pm
Thursday, September 10 @ 6pm

Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 13th @ 9am

HLIA Meetings Location:
Brooks Township Hall - Newaygo, MI

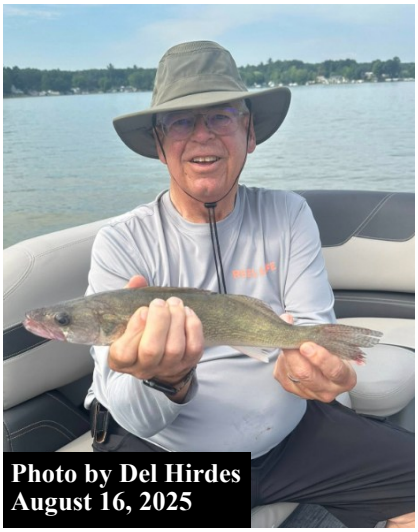


Photo by Del Hirdes
August 16, 2025

Photo by Karen Baxter
September 2, 2025

A lake community is like a family, connected by the shared love and care for the water that unites us. Together, we can build a safe and thriving environment for everyone to enjoy .

SAVE THE DATES FOR SPRING / SUMMER 2026

Date:	Event:	Time:
May	Spring Clean-up	All Month
May 23	Meet & Greet Event *Location: Smugglers at North Shore*	9 am - 11am
June 5 & 6	Hess Lake Yard Sales	
June 20	Corn-hole Tournament Band Party - 'GUINESS BROTHERS'	TBD
July 4	Boat Parade	12pm
July 4	Ring of Fire	10pm
August 7 & 8	Hess Lake Yard Sales	
August 15	Membership Picnic	11am

Committee Members Needed

The HLIA is looking for Committee Members to help with events, such as: Corn-hole, Band Party, Boat Parade, and Membership picnic.

If interested, please contact:

Brian Meyer (517)243-8764
brianrmeyer@comcast.net
or
Mary Spicer (616)780-1074
maryspicer21@yahoo.com

HESS LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCATION (HLNWA)

The **Hess Lake Neighborhood Watch** is a collaborative effort between residents and local law enforcement to foster a safer, more connected community. By working together, we aim to enhance the quality of life for everyone at Hess Lake.

If you are a Hess Lake resident or cottage owner, please join the Hess Lake Neighborhood Watch Association Facebook page:

Scan Me!

A valid Hess Lake address is required for participation in the Neighborhood Watch program.

Mark your calendars for June 2026, when the HLIA and HLNWA will host:

1. Neighborhood watch safety training
2. Light up the night (June, July, August, September)

Watch for more details in the Spring newsletter !

QUESTIONS? Please contact: Jerry Swendrowski (231) 519-1139 or swendog59@live.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

HLIA Zone Representatives				
Zone 1	Larry Hohs	517-410-0682	larry.hohs@gmail.com	2023 - 2026
Zone 2	Barb Hemmeke	231-225-8065	barbarahemmeke@yahoo.com	2025 - 2028
Zone 3	Grant Bryan	616-292-4383	bryanstv10@gmail.com	2023 - 2026
Zone 4	Jerry Swendrowski	231-519-1139	swendog59@live.com	2025 - 2028
Zone 5	Katherin Farwell	616-581-1771	thearkby2@gmail.com	2024 - 2027
Zone 6	Mary Spicer	616-780-1074	maryspicer21@yahoo.com	2024 - 2027
Zone 7	Dale Dozeman	616-307-8589	daledozeman@aol.com	2024 - 2027

OFFICERS		*Term Expires:*	Zone Rep Alternates 2025-2026		
President	Brian Meyer	2027	Deb Coy	616-304-3866	dbvos@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Mary Spicer	2027	Nancy Calvi	616-540-4095	nancycalvi813@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nanci Calvi	2026	Bart Calvi	616-340-7016	bartcalvi@gmail.com
Secretary	Paul Dennis	2025 - *pending*	John Eichler	734-368-0411	john.eichler@frontier.com
			Paul Dennis	616-813-1188	pdennis1955@gmail.com
			Brian Meyer	517-243-8764	brianrmeyer@comcast.net
Media Coordinator	Mary Spicer	Ongoing	PJ Bevelacqua	616-460-9019	pjjeep@gmail.com
Welcome Sign	Jerry Swendrowski	Ongoing	Phyllis Sano	810-513-8536	psano514@aol.com

A sincere thank you to the devoted HLIA volunteers for your time and representation. Your contributions are appreciated!

HLIA COMMUNICATIONS

How to stay connected:

- Hess Lake Welcome Sign
- Email - Contacthesslake@gmail.com
- Website: **www.hesslake.com**
- Facebook: **Hess Lake Improvement Association**
- Newsletters
- Zone Reps

Photo by Tammy Van Tuinen, June 6, 2025

HESS LAKE ZONE BOUNDARIES

Zone 1:	East 88th Street: 1605 to 1844 Catalpa Ave: 9035 to 9593
Zone 2:	Hess Lake Drive: 1717 to 1989 Kathleen Street
Zone 3:	Hess Lake Drive: 1411 to 1661 Clearwater Steet & Peninsula Drive
Zone 4:	Hess Lake Drive: 941 to 1390
Zone 5:	Hess Lake Drive: 615 to 925 Redwood Drive: 9016 to 9394
Zone 6:	Redwood Drive: 8872 to 9011 East 88th Street: 745 to 1154
Zone 7:	East 88th Street: 1157 to 1596 Graves Drive, Parkwood Drive Lockwood Drive, Wellington Drive

If your address is missing from this list please please email: **contacthesslake@gmail.com*

Photo by Kandy Fisk
October 21, 2025