

## LAKES LINES

July saw another very successful Kids Fishing Derby put on by the HVL Fish and Game Club. Thanks and Good Job Guys! They have also installed “porcupines” in the lake as fish shelters. These are balls about the size of a cantaloupe made out of plastic with half inch PVC rods about two feet long sticking out of them in all directions. If you snag one of them or see one, don’t be alarmed. They are supposed to be in the lake.

We have also put new signs at all of the lakes with the new fishing rules and limits. They also have pictures of the various species of fish that are in the HVL lakes. There are also brochure boxes attached to each sign. These have fish surveys in them. If you are fishing in any of the lakes, please take a moment to take one of the surveys out and complete it and put it back in the box. We will be using information gathered by these surveys to help manage the fish populations in all of our lakes.

Dredging of the main lake is still scheduled to start this September. We have been working with Dredge Resources to iron out the logistics and specific timings. One of the issues we have turned up is the geothermal heating and cooling coils that are in the lake. The POA office doesn’t have a complete list of who has them and where they are. If you have a geothermal system, please contact the POA office as soon as you can. They will need to be marked plainly so that the dredging crew doesn’t disturb them. Any units not marked and made known to the POA office will be the responsibility of the home owner should any damage occur.

The first main lake treatment of the summer seemed to take pretty well. There were a few spots that had problems, but we contacted ATAC, the new company we are using, and they came and did a spot re-treatment. As of the end of July, the weed situation seemed to be just fine. We are trying to treat enough of the lake so that the weeds are not a nuisance to those using the lake, but also to keep as many of the weeds as we can. They not only provide shelter for fish, but are one of nature’s main tools to maintain a healthy and clean lake. We only treat approximately thirty-five to forty-five percent of the lake shoreline. Most of this is in the fingers and around the docks at the marina, Willies, and Moeller Park. If you have complaints or comments concerning the treatments, please let the office know. Before you do, though, be aware that it often takes up to two weeks for the treatment to work completely.

The next treatment is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23. The lake is scheduled to be closed that day and at no wake the day following the treatment. Please refrain from using lake water for watering lawns for at least a week following the treatment. Remember that when the lights on the lake are RED and the sign at the ramp says Lake Closed, that means to stay off the lake until it is put to the No Wake status. We try and get the signs and lights switched as quickly as we can, but you never know if there might be an important reason for keeping the lake closed a bit longer. The best thing to do is to obey the lights and the signs.

As we have done for many years, we are continuing to test the lake for e-coli. We take water samples from specific points in the main lake and the beach and send them to Environmental Labs in Madison to be tested. We also take samples from each of the small lakes, too. This is a monthly procedure that continues throughout the summer.

The Lake Patrol has been doing their usual fine job keeping the lake safe and helping boaters who break down. They have had a few calls about noise from the lake late at night. Please be aware that sound travels over water more than on land, so try and keep the music and conversations down after dark.

Also, be sure you have the proper number of personal flotation devices on your boat. Per Indiana regulations, the number of PFD's in a boat must be equal to or greater than the number of occupants. Watercraft greater than 16 feet in length, except for kayaks and canoes, must also carry at least one throwable life preserver, such as a life ring or a seat cushion.

Remember, if you need to contact the Lake Patrol, they have a new special number to reach them – 812-584-9997. If you have an emergency, though, call 911. If you need a deputy, call dispatch at 812-537-3431.

On a slightly different note, you may notice that some of the events that we normally have in the Valley might not happen this year. The reason is that the Civic Club is just stretched too thin. They need members to help organize and put on the events. If you have some time and want to help out, contact the POA office and they will put you in touch with the right people.

Have a great rest of the summer on the lake. Keep on using plain old common sense and common courtesy. A little of each goes a long way towards keeping everyone happy and safe in, on and around HVL waters.