

From: HLIA - Hitchcock Lake <hitchcock.lake@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2026 at 4:58 PM
Subject: President's Mid-Season Message
To: HLIA - Hitchcock Lake <hitchcock.lake@gmail.com>

Friends and Neighbors,

July is Lake Appreciation Month! Our lakes give us wildlife habitat, recreation, economic value, and a quiet, beautiful place to relax and reflect. Let's not take Hitchcock Lake for granted — here's our mid-season update.

1. Boat Safety

Hitchcock Lake may be one of a kind: a small, well-developed lake with two basins, each 60 acres or less, where we welcome swimming, fishing, and paddling of all kinds alongside motorboats and jet skis. Some of us love a quiet paddle or swim; others love the speed of a jet ski, water skiing, or towing the kids around on a float. Whatever you're into, **please be careful and watch out for your neighbors.**

We've had several close calls recently. On the north lake, a jet ski nearly hit a swimmer. On the south lake, we've seen people thrown off jet skis and tubes. Large wakes near shorelines also cause erosion and can damage docks and other structures.

A quick refresher on Lake boating safety rules:

- All vessels must operate so as not to endanger others and must be able to stop safely within a clear distance ahead.
- No wake speeds above **Slow-No-Wake** (under 6 mph) within 200 feet of shore or dock for jet skis, and within 100 feet for motorboats.
- All motorized craft must travel counterclockwise.
- Navigation lights must be on between sunset and sunrise.
- Don't forget your life jacket!

Our lake is small and gets a lot of use — please respect your neighbors and make sure anyone operating your vessel does so with care.

2. Environmental Quality

So far this season, our limnology consultant, Northeast Aquatic Research, has completed two aquatic plant surveys and four water quality sampling events. The Pond & Lake Connection has also done two weed treatments: the late-April treatment targeted invasive Curly Leaf Pondweed before it could seed, and we're continuing to see it decline. The late-June treatment targeted Slender Leaf Pondweed, a native plant that had grown significantly, especially in the north lake — most of it died back within a week.

We've only budgeted for two treatments this year, so if Slender Leaf Pondweed becomes a nuisance again in mid-August, please let us know where you're seeing it. We may consider a third treatment if needed, even though it's outside our current budget.

Around July 4th, you probably noticed fragments of Tape Grass — a native plant — washing up on shore. There seemed to be more of it than usual this year; the heavy boat traffic over the holiday weekend likely loosened and chopped up the plants, sending pieces to shore. Tape Grass is beneficial to aquatic life and is not easily controlled through our weed treatments. Other than cleaning it up from your shoreline, there's not much to be done about it.

Our Lake Watch volunteers have also been sampling water clarity and temperature weekly. Based on these observations, the water appeared clearer than last year until early July. Over the past few weeks, however, the water has become cloudier, likely due to increased algae and cyanobacteria growth, as well as sediment stirred up by boat traffic.

In the short term, there is not much we can do about increased algae. Hot weather, rainfall, and phosphorus levels all contribute to algae and plant growth. While a whole-lake algae treatment using a copper-based algicide could temporarily improve conditions, it would only provide relief for a few weeks, cost nearly \$6,000, and add copper to lake sediments.

The long-term solution is reducing phosphorus in the lake, which we will evaluate after collecting additional data this year. However, phosphorus treatments are also significant investments and require careful planning.

3. HLIA Membership

If you have already joined the Hitchcock Lake Improvement Association (HLIA), thank you! Your support makes our work possible.

If you have not yet paid your dues this year, take a moment to pay your dues today— you can also register your motorized boats — at hitchcocklake.com/membership. New this year: we've added Zeffy, a secure payment platform that does not charge nonprofits like ours any fees. It also supports credit cards and automatic renewals, so you don't have to remember to pay every year.

4. Community Activities

Finally — get involved and meet your neighbors! Hitchcock Lake is a wonderful place to live, and there's a lot going on. We've already had a kayak club, a boat tie-up, and a fantastic dock-to-dock dining event on the north lake this summer.

If you're a member, download the Team Reach App (free, available in your app store) reach out and I'll send you a code to join. It's an easy way to stay connected with neighbors and see the calendar of upcoming events, including our next kayak club on the south lake, **Sunday, August 2nd**, hosted by Joe and Cathy Leogrande. North lake folks — Joe and I have extra kayaks, so come on down and join in!

Questions, or want to get more involved? Reach out anytime:

Mark R. Sussman
President, HLIA