

HENDERSON LAKE NEWSLETTER

May 20, 2020

Mike Kujawa and Bill Olsen, Editors

Loon Report: The Loons have returned again this year and appear to be searching for a place to nest. They have been seen exploring spots in the canal and along the west shoreline of the lake. In 2019 they successfully nested along the west shoreline in a new spot just north of the “island”. The nest was very low and close to the waterline. They were on the nest about two weeks, then apparently something (eagle, snapper, large wave, etc.) got to the egg(s) and the loons were off the nest for the season.

Winter Ice Party Fundraiser / Fishing Report: This year’s Winter Ice Party Fundraiser was a great success by all measures and raised just under \$2,500 for the Fishing Club! (This is about \$1,000 more than the 2019 first annual event.) Estimates are that well over 150 folks attended the fundraiser throughout the day. A big thank you to all who participated and to the many local business who helped sponsor the event. For those who like to plan ahead, the 2021 event will be on Saturday, February 13, 2021

The other **big news** is that the Henderson Lake Fishing Club has a proposal from a retired DNR Biologist to conduct a fish sampling or survey in Henderson Lake. This retired biologist has started a business called Northpoint Fisheries Management, LLC which focuses on helping small lakes, like ours, improve biologically. *(See the other side of this page for the full story.)*

2019 725 Perch (4-6”), 1100 Hybrid Bluegills (3-5”), 200 Walleye (4-6”) and 29 gallons of Fat Head Minnows
2018 740 Hybrid Bluegills (5-7”), 6 gallons of Fat Head Minnows, 600 Black Crappie (4-5”), 400 Perch (4-6”)
2017 950 Large Mouth Bass (5-8”), 100 Walleye (6-9”), 300 Black Crappie (3-4”), 3 gallons of Fat Head Minnows
2016 25 gallons of Perch
2015 300 Hybrid Bluegills, 500 Bass (very small sized at 2-3”)
2014 300 Hybrid Bluegills, 5 gallons of Fat Head Minnows
2013 250 Bass (4-6”), 200 Sunfish, 8x5 gallon buckets of Perch and Minnows. The Perch should spawn Spring 2013
2012 500 Perch
2010 300 Black Crappie (4-6”), 300 Hybrid Bluegill (4-6”), 200 Walleye (4-6”) and 300 Perch
2008 500 Large Mouth Bass (5-7”), 200 Black Crappie (4-6”), 200 Hybrid Bluegill (4-6”), and 100 Walleye (4-6”)
2006 500 Bass (5-7”), 160 Black Crappie (4-6”), 160 Hybrid Bluegills (4-6”)

Lake Health Management: The Special Assessment District (SAD) which provides funding for aquatic management of our lake was renewed for seven years (Dec. 2019 – Dec. 2025 tax bills) by Cumming and Hill townships. The previous five-year SAD ended with the 2019 treatment season. The overall health of Henderson Lake is A-Rated in large part because of funding from the SAD. The assessed monetary amount and technical content of the SAD did not change.

Invasive species of weeds (Eurasian Water Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, Curly Leaf Pondweed, etc.) found anywhere in the lake, and nuisance weeds only along the developed shoreline out to five feet of water depth are being treated. **Please see HendersonLake.org for downloadable copies of all the various reports and studies.**

Henderson Lake Fishing Club Volunteers:

North End	Ron Chapman, Dave Attenberger, Mike Kujawa	50
Allen Sub	Bryan Pepper	25
Henderson Heights	Dave & Adam Skornia, Brad Bellville	30
South End	George & Barb Losee, Bill Olsen	85 = 190

Please mail your generous donation, or use PayPal from <http://www.hendersonlake.org/fishing-club.html> or this QR Code →

(PayPal charges a 2.9% service fee, so please account for that in your donation.)

Mike Kujawa, 468 3rd Street, Lupton, MI 48635

Make all checks payable to HENDERSON LAKE FISHING CLUB

Basic Family Donation \$ 30.00 (More is always welcome!)



- **Practice CATCH AND RELEASE! Please do not keep all that you catch.**
- **Keep a rake-by-the-lake to remove / clean-up weeds washed ashore. Milfoil spreads by fragmentation, so get those weed fragments out of the water.**

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The survey will collect live fish samples using Fyke Nets in late spring to early summer 2020 when water surface temperature hits 60-70 degrees. (*Fyke Nets are a type of live trap, so there will be no, or minimal loss of fish from the sampling.*) Nets will be placed in six locations around the lake. Fish from each location / net will be sampled three times over a three-day timeframe, so 18 samples in total. The survey will provide a written Fisheries Management Recommendation's report. This information will allow the HLFC to efficiently spend your donated funds on fish species and quantities which are most beneficial to the overall health of the lake.

Cost of the survey is \$1,500 which is 1/2 to 1/3 of the usual price. (*Again, this retired biologist is focused on helping small lakes like ours.*) Funding will come from two sources. The first \$750 will come from proceeds of this year's successful Winterfest Ice Fishing Tournament and Fundraiser. Another \$750 will come from the Henderson Lake Milfoil Committee (HLMC) who still has funds from the 2010-2014 time of voluntary donations for weed control. (*Since 2015 the lake has had a Special Assessment District for this purpose.*) The HLMC has been holding these funds for a cause like this which benefits the overall health of Henderson Lake.

Northpoint Fisheries also raises Fat Head Minnows and this proposal includes provision of up to 400 pounds for the lake. This large quantity of minnows will help remove some of the predatory load away from the younger / smaller fish already in the lake. Converting pounds to gallons of minnows, that's about \$2,700 worth of minnows at the usual \$56/gallon price. You read that correctly! Spending \$1,500 will result in a Fisheries Management Report and up to \$2,700 worth of Fat Head Minnows!