



Higgins Lake Foundation



November/December 2015

Seasons' Greetings from the Higgins Lake Foundation!

Although there's a certain melancholy associated with the change of seasons from summer through fall to winter, it is accompanied by a sense of peace, introspection and gratitude.

As the Higgins Lake Foundation reflects on this past year's activities, we – and our donors - can be proud of our accomplishments:

- The DASH boat (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) once again removed hundreds of bags of the invasive Eurasian water milfoil from the lake bottom, and surveys of last year's harvested areas show little or no reoccurrence of growth.
- The HLF joined with the MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) in the second annual AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Blitz. Board members greeted visitors at the South State Park with "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" materials and an invitation to use the free boat wash (paid for by the HLF) before launching their boats.
- Brochures depicting Aquatic Invasive Species with a map pinpointing the three boat washes on Higgins Lake were printed and distributed throughout the county to area marinas, township offices, and state and local parks.
- Roscommon's fourth graders participated in the 8th annual Lake Saver Day, supported by the Roscommon Rotary this year. They learned important lessons about lake stewardship and safety while enjoying a day filled with fun activities.
- The North State Park received HLF funding for wastewater treatment system improvements.
- Greenbelt grants enabled a lakefront property owner to remove a deteriorated seawall and also provided Lyon Township with funds to enhance Sam-O-Set Park.

- Two separate grants were awarded to try to alleviate swimmer's itch in the lake.
- Water samples from Higgins Lake were collected throughout the spring and summer and delivered to the DNR for analysis. Purchase of a GPS device helped volunteers locate the precise sampling locations.
- HLF sponsored swim lessons again this year as part of the Dorothy Hamilton Swim Program.
- Our annual fun fundraiser, Higgins Lake Awareness Day, was a big success with many friends in attendance. (*Mark your calendars for next year's event on August 6, 2016.*)
- Our new website (www.higginslake-foundation.org) gives a fresh face to the Foundation and will help keep you informed of HLF activities and opportunities.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of you, our donors. Your contributions allow us to invest in programs and projects necessary to address the many needs of Higgins Lake and its delicate ecosystem.

Your trust in the Higgins Lake Foundation to be responsible stewards of your financial gifts encourages community partners to get involved also, and we are grateful for help this past year from the RCCF (Roscommon County Community Foundation), Huron Pines, the En-Trust Fund, Roscommon Rotary and the Coast Guard Reserve.

As you reflect on the past year and look forward to the new, we hope you will remember the Higgins Lake Foundation in your year-end giving. We not only count on you; we also count you among our many blessings.

Happy holidays to you and yours,

*Vicki Springstead
and the Higgins Lake Foundation Board*

