

Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

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Summer 2006

Join the Annual July Boat Parade!

Saturday, July 1

Gather at the Island Road Beach. Parade begins at noon!



Lots of folks — the young and young at heart — come out to enjoy this fun tradition on the lake. We look forward to seeing more participants every year. So bring your boat and line up, or bring a chair for a beach-side view!



Rigel and the Three Bears

by Jega Arulpragasam

On the first of June, my dog Rigel and I had a somewhat unnerving encounter in the woods. On our way back home along Lower Swamp Trail, Rigel seemed to get interested in something over to the right, and set off in that direction. Next, I heard some scratch-scratch sounds, quite loud, and saw a couple of critters climbing a tree. They seemed somewhat larger than raccoons, and were climbing in an odd sort of way -- forepaws moving together, and hind paws moving together. I kept peering at them for some seconds but couldn't make out what they were -- until I looked away from them! When I did, I saw a bear on the trail about fifty feet in front of me. She was looking at Rigel who was standing still about 30 feet away on the left! She had obviously chased Rigel across the trail, although I had heard no sounds except for the scratch-scratch of the cubs climbing the tree -- no barking, no growling, no crashing through the undergrowth.

When I first spotted the bear, she was standing still. Rigel was standing still. And I was standing still, having stopped to peer at the critters climbing the tree. This tableau lasted for a about five seconds. Believe me, five seconds is a long time! The



bear looked at me, then looked at Rigel, and then turned and disappeared into the undergrowth on the right, towards her cubs.

I had to pass the spot where the bear had been, which I did keeping an eye on Rigel for any signs of alarm. But he seemed quite calm, and when I had passed the spot, I *whispered*, "Good dog! Come!" and took a short cut home, even finally going through the backyard of a vacant house up for sale, looking back nervously from time to time.

I've heard that bears are not dangerous unless you get between them and their cubs. I think this qualified. I have the feeling that the bear turned away because both Rigel and I were standing still and didn't seem to pose a threat. If so, it's amazing that Rigel's behavior was instinctively optimal.

Back home, when I told Emily about our encounter, she said that that bear had wanted to let us know she was there -- to protect her cubs. Apparently Emily's brother, a veteran hiker who has traversed the full length of the 250-mile Long Trail seven times, says that one doesn't see a bear unless it wants to be seen.

See the following page for recommendations on protecting yourself in the woods.



Wildlife — Protect Yourself



There have been a few sightings of a mother bear and 3 cubs in the Hickory Woods area. There have also been bears spotted on the other side of town near Howard Street. We will be posting a warning at the trail head to Hickory Woods, and a few other spots. Here are some recommendations on how to protect yourself if you come across a bear...

- Do not approach bears in the wild. Bears will usually flee from people and move away silently.
- If you approach from downwind, a bear may not immediately recognize you as a human and may be curious until it scents you.
- Make the animal aware of you by clapping, talking, or making other sounds.

- Do not intrude between a female bear and her cubs. Black bears almost never attack in defense of cubs, but your continued presence may be stressful to the animal.

- Don't assume that unaccompanied cubs are abandoned and handle or capture them. The mother is likely to be nearby and will return for them.

- Black bears will sometimes "bluff-charge" people when they are attempting to protect or raid a food source, when cornered or threatened, or when courting or mating. Do not run or crouch down but stand your ground and then move slowly away.

For more information on Black Bears in Massachusetts visit

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/dfw_bears.htm

Trail News

Well, we've been making trails in Hickory Woods officially since 2002. I usually head out in the early spring to clear debris, mark the trails, cut back growth. This spring, things changed! The trails are now very visible trails! People have actually been using them! And I know it's not just Jega, myself, and a few animals. The trailhead station's log book is getting full!

ATV Use on the Trail System

This spring was very wet. A few places along the West Perimeter trail have been particularly wet where the trail crosses a few swampy areas. ATVs have ripped up these areas pretty good. We will be holding a trail maintenance day coming up. If you own an ATV and still want to ride on the trails, your help is needed. It's against the law for ATVs to damage swamp areas. See <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/atvsafety.htm>.

We are working on relocating the trail and building another bridge to address the problems. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Trail Day

On Saturday July 15, we will be holding a trail maintenance day. We have one bridge to build, some trail relocations, and a few blazes to repaint. Tools: muscles, wheelbarrow, chainsaw, clippers, and screwdrivers. Check the website for time and place: www.hickoryhillslake.com.

Send Us Your Story

Our lake community has history, stories of lake life, and knowledge about the lake environment and wildlife — like Jega Arulpragasam's article in this issue. Maybe you're one of these folks. Please share your insights into our special way of life. Send email to the office at hickoryhills@netlplus.com or call 978-582-6365.



Summer Security — Yellow-Shirted Security Team Watching over Hickory Hills

Many of you have already seen the yellow shirts out and about this season. They are here to help insure that Hickory Hills remains the beautiful place we all moved here to enjoy. To make their job easier, we remind everyone to:

- Have ID cards handy when using the facilities
- Display current car stickers on the driver's side rear window
- Place current boat stickers on the front right side of the boat

All these items can be obtained at the office or by mail (by sending in the information contained with

the bill).

All residents' boats on the lake must have a current sticker or they cannot be used until the sticker is updated. Lack of a sticker makes it easier for us to identify non-resident boats that are not supposed to be on the lake. To park at a Hickory Hills beach or the boat lot, cars must have a current yellow sticker. Guests are asked to park at the residence they are visiting or on the street. Parking is limited and this insures residents get a space.

If you have an incident to report please call the office (978-582-6365) and leave a message with a number for a Security Team member to return your call.

Have a safe summer and enjoy all the lake has to offer.

Put the Boards In – Pull the Boards Out – Put the Boards In....

By Jack Kutarnia

The month of May and the first two weeks of June have been wet to say the least. As you can imagine trying to manage whether the boards should be in or out is a challenge. We have been very busy during rain storms pulling them up and then dropping them in again when it is dry. So far we have made the right decisions. We know this impacts the water levels for all the waterfront owners. Your patience with Mother Nature is appreciated.

We received 25 inches of rain during this time frame, or about half our average annual rain fall, and our dam remains in good condition. In fact, David Lenant of Tighe & Bond Consulting Engineers and Environmental Specialists with whom I meet the beginning of June stated that our dam is in much better condition than a lot of other dams in Massachusetts. He also mentioned that, based on recent flooding condition throughout New England, the Department of Dam Safety will continue to place pressure on

dam owners to improve dams, making them safer than they are at this time.

What does this mean to us? Well, I wish I had the answers, but I don't at this time. I say this because The Department of Dam Safety has not finalized the inspection criteria that will be used for future engineering inspections, and this inspection is mandated by Massachusetts law in Chapter 253. It is my understanding that the Department of Dam Safety will notify us this summer, and I anticipate a formal inspection this fall.

The cost of this inspection and the hiring of a certified engineering firm is the burden of the dam owner. I anticipate the cost to be more than \$2,000. Our objective is to make as many improvements to our dam as possible this summer and consequently minimize inspection cost. We'll keep you informed.

SPECIAL NOTICE

During the week of June 25, Matt Proctor will be doing masonry work at the bottom of the dam. We will have to lower the lake by 4 inches below the top of the boards so that the concrete sets properly. This work is in line with the consulting firm requests for summer repairs.



Welcome New Resident

A Welcome meeting for new residents is held twice a year. The next meeting will take place this fall; details and invitations will follow. In the meantime, the following new resident has made joined the Hickory Hills community.

Chang Shin – South Row Road

No Dogs on the Beach

Residents are reminded that dogs are not permitted on the beaches, as specified by State Health regulations. Additionally, the Town of Lunenburg's restraint law states that dogs must be under the control of their owners at all times. Dogs are not allowed to run freely, especially trash day! When walking your dog, please be considerate of your neighbors and clean up after your pet; you know, if it wasn't offensive, you'd let them make their "deposits" on your own lawn. Please also be considerate when your dog is barking. No matter where you live around the lake area, the noise travels across the water, affecting many neighbors.



Swimming Lessons

Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc will sponsor swimming lessons again at the Island Road Beach. We have scheduled three two-week sessions beginning July 10. Sandreley Henderson, a certified Red Cross instructor, will return again this year to teach. Each two-week session cost \$20.00 per student.

Session 1 - July 10 thru 20

Sesison 2 - July 24 thru Aug 3

Session 3 - Aug 7 thru 17

Hickory Hills' residents have first priority to enroll their children or grandchildren. Remember to register early as sessions fill up quickly. Go to www.hickoryhillslake.com for your registration forms or call the office at 978-582-6365.



Cans for Concerts

As many of you are aware, the funding for the Lunenburg Town Band concerts was eliminated from the Fiscal 2007 Budget. The band concert budget presently has enough revenue to fund the band concerts for this summer, however, we are looking toward the future. Currently Kathryn Herrick and Lisa Normandin are collecting returnable bottles and cans to supplement the budget. To make arrangements for pick up please call Lisa 582-7256 or Kathy 582-7270 or leave cans at Kathy's house, 31 Mulpus Road, Lunenburg. All donations are appreciated.

Lunenburg Summer
Concerts

Monday nights
at 7:30

Check with Town
Hall for actual con-
cert dates and donate
to cans for concerts!



Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the families and friends who recently lost loved ones.

Kenneth Lowe, 88, of Woodland Road, who until recently lived on Woodland Drive, died June 8. He leaves his beloved wife Betty and children Priscilla and Ken Jr. Following is a remembrance by Brian Tarbell, who grew up next door to his family's dear friends, the Lowes.

"I knew Kenneth Lowe my entire life, but I always knew him as "Mr. Lowe," my next door neighbor. While he may have been my neighbor, he always seemed more like a second grandfather to me. He was always there for my birthday parties, holidays and celebrations. He was a loving, caring human being that encouraged and motivated me as I grew into the man I have become. I was very lucky to have him in my life, and he will be greatly missed. It was an honor and a privilege to have him as my next door neighbor, and I know that his memory and his spirit will always be with me."

Walter Dubois Richards, age 98, of New Canaan, Connecticut, who passed away peacefully on Monday May 22, 2006 in his home. In addition to his wife, Glenora Case Richards, two sons, Timothy Richards and Henry Richards, both of Lunenburg, survive him. Mr. Richard's was nationally known for his artwork, which has been exhibited in many galleries and museums, including the White House and his creation of 38 postage stamps designs.

M. Marguerite Rogers, 85 of Peninsula Drive died Saturday April 29, 2006. Margaret was one of the original property owners at Hickory Hills. Her daughter Karen Rogers of Pine Acres Rd and a son Glenn Rogers of Orange survive Mrs. Rogers. She attended Harvard University and worked there as an Accountant in the Controllers office until her retirement. Marguerite was a volunteer for the American Red Cross as an Officer during WWII. She will be remembered as being devoted to her family and faith, for her wit and enjoying a good game of cards while camping.

Summer Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday
and Thursday from 9:00
a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Please call the office before arriving to make sure someone is there — 978-582-6365.

If necessary, appointments may be made for a more convenient time. It is preferred that you mail your annual fees payments, request for boat stickers and IDs into the office.

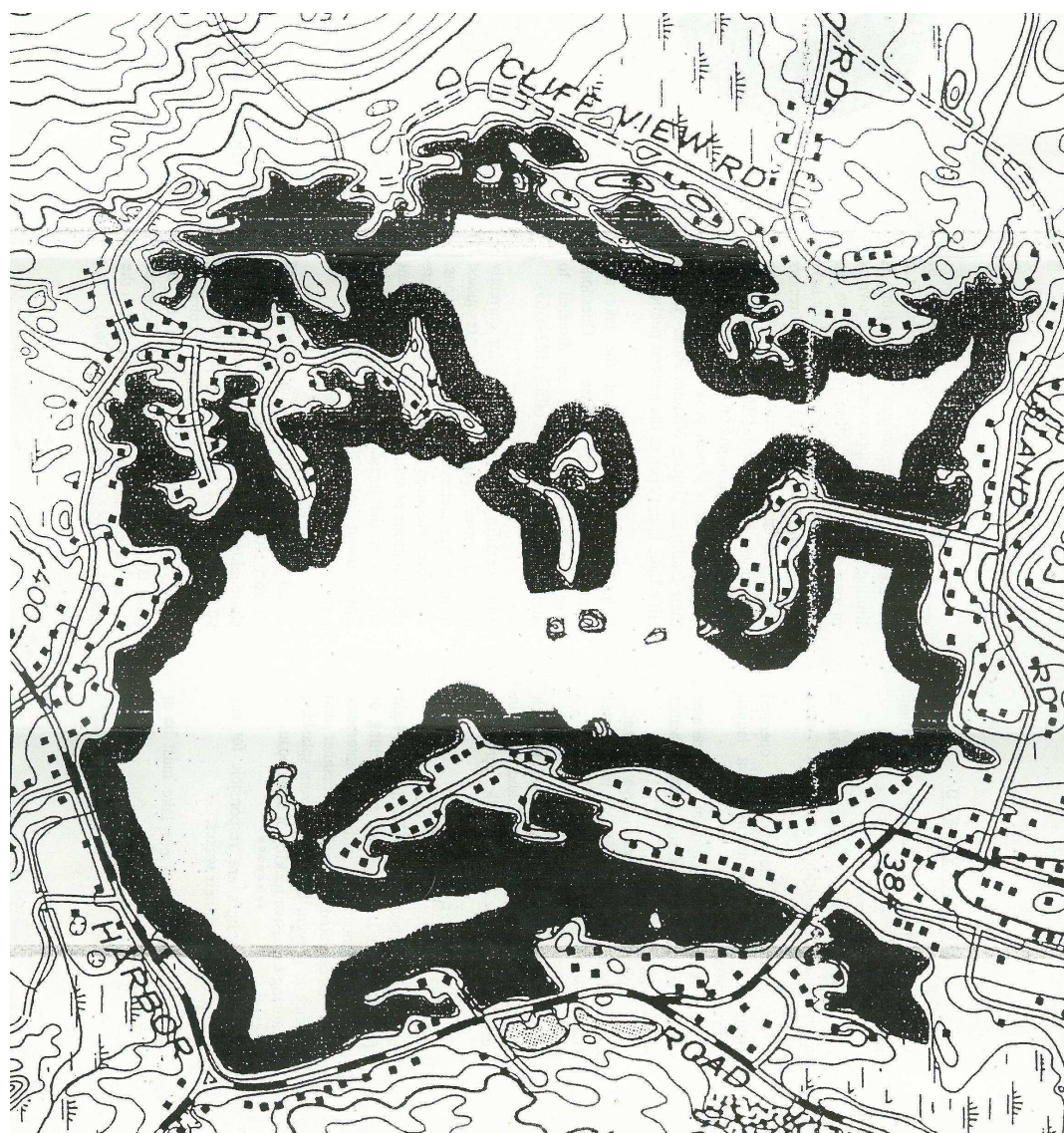
Canoe Rack at Island Road Beach

Pending Conservation Commission approval, the Board of Directors have approved a proposal by three families to build a rack to hold canoes and kayaks at the Island Road Beach.



There will be room for eight canoes or kayaks, three have already been assigned to the families building the rack. Five spots will be available through a lottery. To be eligible, you must be a shareholder in good standing. In addition, users will pay a \$20 annual fee, be required to provide a chain and lock, and must not own lakefront property. A complete list of rules and guidelines can be obtained from the office.

If you are interested in entering the lottery for one of the five remaining slots, please call the office or send email to hickory-hills@net1plus.com, stating your interest in entering the lottery by July 13 at 5 p.m. The drawing will be held at the evening Board of Directors meeting, and winners will be notified the next day.



In this aerial view of Hickory Hills Lake, the shaded areas are headway-speed zones only. They represent the 300-foot area designated as either private bathing beaches or a channel. Please observe proper speeds in these zones!



HEADWAY SPEED

Headway speed is the slowest speed at which the motorboat can be operated and maintain steerage, but **not to exceed 6 miles per hour**. Boats must never be operated at

more than headway speed when within 150 feet of a swimmer on any part of the lake.

"No Wake" means operating a boat at headway speed as defined above, which means that no "white water" can be seen trailing the boat.

Note that boat operators are responsible for any damage caused by their wakes. And motorboat operators must be at least 12 years old.

RIGHT OF WAY

Canoes, kayaks, and sailboats *always* have the right of way on the lake. Motorboats must maintain a distance to prevent the wash from motors splashing or causing excessive rocking of other boats.

These rules governing speed limits and right of way are state law. For more on boating, call the Massachusetts Environmental Police or see the website at <http://www.boatma.com/government.html>.

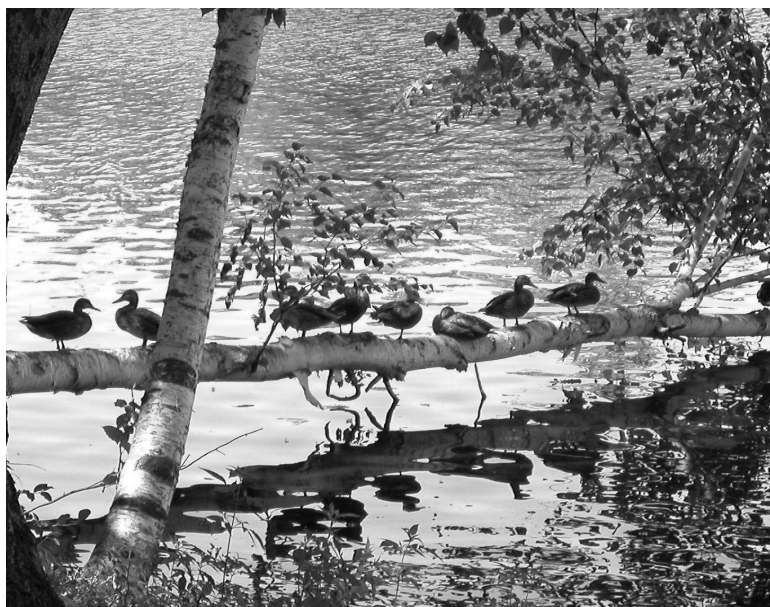


Mallards Sunning at the "Nature Preserve"

Neighbors dubbed the fallen birch "The Nature Preserve" after mallards began gathering to preen and quack with one another on a fallen birch off Horizon Island.

Categorized as surface-feeding ducks, mallards are vegetarians, feeding on water plants. They fly off the water with a sudden upward leap.

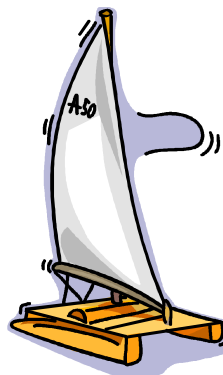
Although this photo doesn't show them off in color, the males are beautiful, with shiny green-feathered heads, white neck band, and rusty breast. Females are mottled brown. Ducklings imprint on their mothers, a process that begins with the mother and ducklings exchanging low calls even before the ducklings have hatched.



Catamaran Donated to Benefit Hickory Hills Lake

We're happy to announce that a generous local resident has donated a 16-foot Hobie Cat for sale to benefit the Hickory Hills New Building Fund.

The 1986 (approximately) boat has yellow hulls, rainbow sails and comes with a trailer that includes sail storage. We are asking \$1100 or best offer for the boat. The money



will go into the New Building Fund which will be used to build the new recreation/office facility at Island Road Beach. Please call the office at 978-582-6365, or send email to hickory-hills@net1plus.com if you're

interested in more information or would like to see the boat.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 27	Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Special Town Meeting, Lunenburg High Auditorium
July 1	Saturday, Boat Parade, starts at noon, Island Road Beach
July 10	Swimming Lessons begin; see article this issue for all lesson dates
July 15	Saturday Trail Maintenance Day
September 16	Saturday, Annual Shareholders Meeting

TO:

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE

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