



# Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

[www.hickoryhillslake.com](http://www.hickoryhillslake.com)

978-582-6365

[hickoryhills@netlplus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@netlplus.com)

Summer 2010

## 2010 HHL TROPICAL BEACH PARTY

ON SATURDAY, JULY 10TH

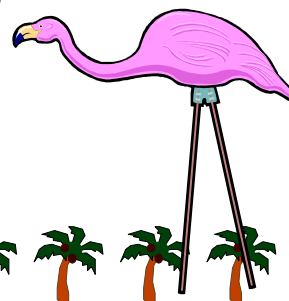
at the Island Road Beach with a LIVE BAND from 3 to 7 pm

50/50 and Fishbowl Raffles \*\* Children's crafts and activities \*\* and more!

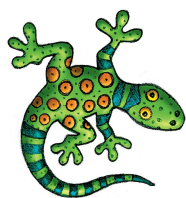
The Lake Management Group will be selling hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks to support ongoing efforts to maintain the lake.

Bring chairs, blankets, etc. (no glass please.) If you would like more information, contact Betty MacDonald at [davebettymacdonald@comcast.net](mailto:davebettymacdonald@comcast.net)

\*\*\*Rain Date Sunday July 11th\*\*\*



### Youth Program to Begin on July 6th...



The HHL is pleased to be able to offer a Summer Youth Program again this year. Marie Doucette will be our Youth Director. This year we are charging a minimal fee of \$15 per week in order to cover the program costs.

The program will run six weeks from July 6th to August 12th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00. The program is open to all children or grandchildren ages 5 through 12 of Hickory Hills residents.

A variety of activities are planned for each day including arts and crafts, nature walks, and sports, etc. If you would like to register a child for the program please go to our website [www.hickoryhillslake.com](http://www.hickoryhillslake.com) and print out the registration form. Send the completed form and check to Hickory Hills Landowners, P.O. Box 298, Lunenburg, MA 01462. Or place it in our drop box by the office door.

### Hickory Hills 2010 Annual Boat Parade Saturday, July 3rd at Noon From Island Road Beach





## Lake Maintenance with Hydro Raking

by Neal Sullivan, President HHL

Our lake took a beating this spring. In the month of March two storms accounted for much of a rainfall total that was more than 200% of normal. A tremendous amount of silt, sand and debris washed into the lake. The areas most affected by these events were: the Mulpus inlet, the boat launch area and the Hemlock beach area. Hickory Hills Landowners was granted a limited emergency permit, of one month duration, by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to address the issues created in these three areas. Thanks to the tremendous amount of work that the Lake management group had put into the comprehensive lake management plan, we were able to take the quick action required by the emergency permit. By accelerating the hydro-raking component of the plan, in the affected areas, Hickory Hills was able to mount an effective response to the extensive damage caused by the spring storms.

Mechanical raking (hydro-raking) is a widely used and effective technique for area selective removal of nuisance, rooted vegetation. In some situations the hydro-raking is also used to clear accumulations of unconsolidated bottom debris (i.e. decaying leaves, peat, muck). The hydro-rake can best be described as a floating barge upon which is mounted a backhoe with several different size and functioning rake attachments. The hydro-rake is powered by a diesel engine which drives the hydraulically operated paddle wheel propulsion system and back-hoe functions. The hydro-rake can operate in water as shallow as 1.0 -1.5 feet and can remove nuisance vegetation and bottom debris from variable water depths as shallow as a few inches to a maximum depth of 12 feet. The hydro-rake works from the water and can therefore access coves and shoreline areas otherwise inaccessible to conventional machinery. Damage to valuable shoreline habitat and waterfront property are avoided with the hydro-rake. The hydro-rake deposits each rake full (maximum 500 lbs.) of material directly on-shore.

The Lake Management Group recognizes that in order to mitigate sediment and debris build up in the future, investigation as to the cause of the problem is critical. Members of the LMG are actively investigating storm water outfalls around the lake and inspecting the Mulpus Brook and will be making recommendations to the Board on possible mitigation measures.

In addition to the areas addressed within the Emergency Permit, the Lake Management Group has recommended hydro raking in other areas of the lake. A Notice of Intent has been submitted to the Conservation Commission to authorize many lake management techniques, including erosion control, storm water management, benthic barriers and hydro raking. A hearing will be scheduled in early July and abutters will be notified. Prior to initiation, all activities will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors for implementation.

The comprehensive lake management plan remains on track to accomplish the goals of the lake management group and the board as set out during the 2009 shareholders meeting. For further information, please see the relevant articles in this and future issues of the waves and refer to the association website ([www.hickoryhillslake.com](http://www.hickoryhillslake.com)).



Photo courtesy of P. Lawn.



## Lake Management Detectives

By Diane Nowd



When the Hickory Hills Lake LMG was formed, its main purpose was to investigate and propose solutions for the overall health of our beautiful lake. One of the most urgent problems facing the group was the dramatic increase in buildup of silt and sediment at the mouth of Mulpus Brook. After a tremendous amount of research it was felt that the hydro raking process was the best solution to try to keep this problem in check at this time.

The LMG also realized that we needed to do further investigation to find out the causes of this escalating problem. A group of hardy detectives decided to walk the Mulpus Brook from the mouth to the DPW on Rte. 13. On May 10th, a group of five LMG members (Paula Bertram, Joanne Martinec, Betty MacDonald, Diane Nowd and Eileen Ramsden) set out to see what they could discover along the way. Armed with a hand held GPS, camera, bug spray and high boots they set out for what would be a four hour hike. Many photos were taken along the way and several issues were discovered that could be contributing to this problem.

The information gathered will now be discussed with various town departments such as the Conservation Commission to see what steps can be taken to try to alleviate these possible factors.

## Announcement of HHL Yard Sale

Sponsored by the Lake Management Group

Start putting those treasures (no clothes) aside to donate for the Fall Yard Sale. Proceeds to go to supporting the work planned by the LMG. The date has yet to be set but stay tuned to the HHL website for further details.

If you would like more information or would like to offer some help please contact Betty MacDonald at [davebettymacdonald@comcast.net](mailto:davebettymacdonald@comcast.net)



## 10 Things You can Do to Prevent Storm water Runoff Pollution

- ◆ Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- ◆ Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- ◆ Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly
- ◆ Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- ◆ Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
- ◆ Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- ◆ Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- ◆ Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- ◆ Pick up after you pet
- ◆ Compost your yard waste



This article and much more information on Storm Water Pollution can be found at: [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

## Oil Heating System Upgrade & Insurance Law

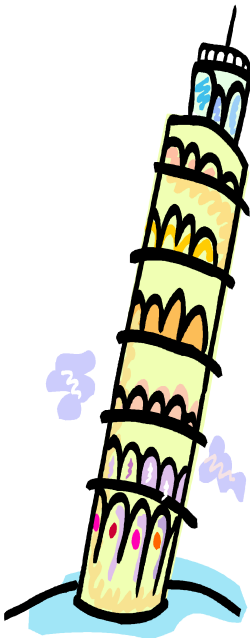
By July 1, 2010, you must upgrade your home heating system equipment to prevent leaks from tanks and pipes that connect to your furnace. Massachusetts has a new law to address oil leaks from home heating systems (see [Chapter 453 of the Acts of 2008](#)). This law has two major provisions that require: 1. the installation of either an oil safety valve or an oil supply line with protective sleeve on systems that do not currently have these devices; and 2. insurance companies that write homeowner policies to offer coverage for leaks from heating systems that use oil. For more information go to [www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/laws/hhsl.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/laws/hhsl.htm)





## **“Taste of Italy” Fundraiser a Home Run!!!**

The hard work and personal commitment of Betty MacDonald and Bob Novacek in planning a new spring social event for Hickory Hills residents had success written all over it when tickets for the “Taste of Italy” were sold out a week in advance of the April 24<sup>th</sup> event.



Before the doors officially opened at 6:00 HHL residents and friends were lined up to enter the Eastwood Club on Townsend Street.

On a perfect spring night guests were greeted with friendly smiles, lively music and the aroma of homemade Italian food. The evening’s menu was planned and prepared by members of LMG’s fundraising committee and consisted of Mario and Phyllis Andella’s chicken picatta, Diane Nowd’s eggplant parmesan, Paul Lawn’s meatballs, Bob Saiia’s sauce, Kerry Sullivan’s antipasto, Olive Garden’s lasagna and an array of beautiful and delicious Italian cookies made by Joanne Martinec, Diane Nowd, Jean Pearson, Jeanette Biery and Betty MacDonald. Bob Novacek generously volunteered his culinary expertise and served as Head Chef and Kitchen Manager for the evening.

Dave MacDonald served as Master of Ceremonies and kept the crowd entertained during band breaks with trivia questions and prizes. Prizes included gift baskets, electronic accessories and jewelry. The 50/50 raffle generated a \$350 cash prize and the raffle brought in another \$600. 25% of the raffle proceeds went to the Hickory Hills Youth Group. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will support Lake Management Group activities.

The Ron Robuccio band provided music throughout the evening until the last couple left the dance floor at midnight.

The spirited LMG’s Fundraising Committee vows to continue their efforts to bring Hickory Hill neighbors together and is already thinking about another event like “The Taste of Italy” for next spring. But, you do not need to wait a year to join in the fun. The second annual Hickory Hills Beach Party is planned for Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>. (See the front page for details)



## **Summer Office Hours**

**Mon., Wed. & Thurs.**

**9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Please call the office before arriving to make sure someone is there, 978-582-6365. Email is the best way to reach the office. If necessary, appointments may be made for a more convenient time. Remember you can always leave payments or documents in the drop box.

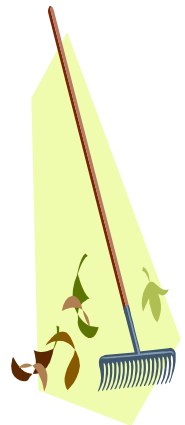
## **Beach Hours**

The beaches are open from dawn to dusk. Please make sure your vehicles are not in the parking lot after 8:00 p.m. Exception: The parking lot is open for volleyball on Thursday nights. Residents need a parking sticker to park in the beach lots.

## **Beach Clean-up and More!!**

Beach Clean Up on Saturday, May 1st was a great success! All the beaches got a clean up this spring.

Chris Albert and his family led a group of volunteers in cleaning up the Island Rd Beach including; Chad Adams, the Cutter family, Anne Davis, Sue Andrews, and others we may have missed. A special thanks goes out to Tom Reynolds for his time and the incredible vacuum he had attached to his truck to pick up the piles in half the time. Also a special thanks to the very new residents Stacey Manseau on Beachview and Jim Riel and his grandson Nick on Hemlock for jumping right in to help out.



It is always very much appreciated that residents take an active role in keeping the lake property clean. Thanks to all the residents of Hemlock and Brookview Beaches who have helped clean up those neighborhood beaches.

We give a huge THANK YOU to Brett Ramsden for regarding Harbor Terrace, and cleaning out the debris from the weed harvester off Townsend Harbor Rd.

It all looks great! Thanks to all who helped!



## NATURES CORNER

### The Truth about Snapping Turtles

*"Snapping turtles, embodiment of turtles who shared the earth with the dinosaurs for a time and are now obliged to share it with the human species, might well report that the former companions were far less stressful"*



Today snapping turtles have hardly changed from 215 million year ago when *Proganochelys*, the most primitive turtle known to live. In comparison the age of the dinosaurs was approximately 150 million years ago and to put things into perspective: humans evolved a mere short 3.5 million years ago!

A 10-year-old turtle measures about 7 inches and a 25-year-old individual about 11 inches. The largest snapping turtle ever recorded was 18.5 inches, the oldest observed age for snapping turtles so far was over 75 years

Snapping turtles have extremely good eyesight both above and under water. They can even see straight above their heads because of the position of their eyes. They also hear very well. Their ears are located in the normal location on the skull, but lack external structures and are therefore not readily visible.

Snapping turtles are a bottom walking species, which means that instead of swimming they crawl or bounce along over the bottom in shallow water. They can only float as long as they hold a significant amount of air in their lungs. They prefer obstructed or covered areas to live in and prefer the bottom of rivers and lakes with soft mud (very important), organic debris, dense vegetation, and water lilies.

\*The main and most important part of their diet is aquatic vegetation (65%), so they can be considered pri-

marily herbivorous. The second most important part of their diet is animal material including fish. Snapping turtles are only capable of taking slow non-game fish (small trash fish) and are absolutely no hazard to game and sport fish. They also eat carrion, frogs and other amphibians, invertebrates (mollusks and crustaceans), occasionally water fowl, and very rarely other birds and small mammals. However, they are not a threat to waterfowl populations. Snapping turtles eat only once their body weight in food per year.

The hunting technique of snapping turtles involves very little active movement. Snapping turtles usually forage on the bottom or lie still in the mud, waiting for something to swim by close. When they stalk prey they move extremely slowly and once they strike the hooks on their jaw hold the prey firmly.

In the winter snapping turtles hibernate in shallow water, buried in the mud in places which do not freeze to the bottom, usually in groups. During this time they hardly move, although some have been observed moving under the ice. Hibernating snapping turtles do not breathe for more than six months since ice covers their hibernating site. While hibernating they can get oxygen by pushing their head out of the mud and allowing gas exchange to take place through the membranes of their mouth and throat.

Snapping turtles are not as aggressive as commonly believed. They will defend themselves if cornered and cut off from the water by striking out with their head, which can reach almost all the way back along the shell. In the water snapping turtles will always leave instead of attack. Snappers do not attack people in the water.

Even if a turtle bites it has no intention of hurting you. Our delicate skin just gets injured much more quickly. Do not attempt to remove the turtle if for some reason it has bitten and held on. It will let go by itself after a short while if you leave it in the water. Killing a snapping turtle will cause significantly more injury to you since the jaws will contract after death even more. But again, snapping turtles in the wild do not bite people. Many individuals are very curious and will approach swimmers or boats very closely. They examine things by touching them with their nose, so a very curious snapper might bump a swimmer carefully.

There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that snapping turtles will drag swimmers under. They do not even hunt in water deeper than we can stand up in.



(Con't from previous page)

### To Help Snapping Turtles:

Drive slowly during June and be on the lookout for snapping turtles crossing the roads, especially from dawn to noon, and again in the evening.

- If you see a snapping turtle crossing the road stop traffic and heard it across in the direction it was walking in, never try to turn to go back, because it needs to get to some destination.

- If you need to move a snapping turtle quickly simply pick it up by the back edge of its shell and carry it across the road holding its head away from you.

- Snapping turtles especially during their nesting migrations will frequently snap. However, in the great majority of cases they simply strike in the air or to touch you with closed jaws. They do not intend to bite as long as you keep your fingers away from their head.

Snappers should not be held by the tail because that can cause serious injury to them.



You can find the complete version of this article by **Susanne Kynast** at the following webs site /[www.tortoisetrust.org/articles/snappers.htm](http://www.tortoisetrust.org/articles/snappers.htm)

### Final Notices for 2010 Annual

#### Maintenance Fees

Your 2010 annual maintenance fees were due on May 1st. We are using the same program as in the past, which will automatically assess interest on any bills that are more than 30 days past due. We have received payment from 90% of our residents – Thank you! Final notices have been sent out. Please send in your payment to P.O. Box 298, Lunenburg, MA 01462. Or place them in the drop box by the office door...Thank you!



### CLASSIFIEDS

**Pontoon Boat** - '03 Playbuoy Kingfisher 16' w/ 9 hp 4 stroke big foot, only has 150+ hrs. includes mooring cover, bimini top, CD player/radio, full rear bench, Capt. chair, Asking \$6500 or B.O. And...

**Dock** - Hewitt Aluminum 24ft roll-a-dock includes bumper, crank unit, deep water kit, ladder, asking \$1300. Call 978-582-4820 or [ngbweb@yahoo.com](mailto:ngbweb@yahoo.com)



**House for Sale:** 36 Hemlock Drive, 2 Bedrooms, 2 full bath, garage, forced hot water w/oil, town water, asking \$200,000.00. Serious buyers only call Bob at 978-582-6812.



**STOLEN:** A 4-wheeler has been stolen from a carport on Townsend Harbor Rd. It is a 2005 white Yamaha Blaster 200cc. If anyone knows anything that could help the owners please contact them at 978-582-7959.

### Bump – Set – Spike!



Meet your neighbors for **Adult Volleyball** at the Island Rd Beach on Thursday evenings, during the summer starting at 6:30 pm.

Have fun!





## Our Security Team

### Say "Hello" to the Boys in the Yellow Shirts

We are fortunate to have two of our Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc. residents as our Security Team for the 2010 summer season.

Jake LaChance is a resident of Peninsula Dr, a graduate of Lunenburg High, a college criminal justice major and a semi-pro football player.

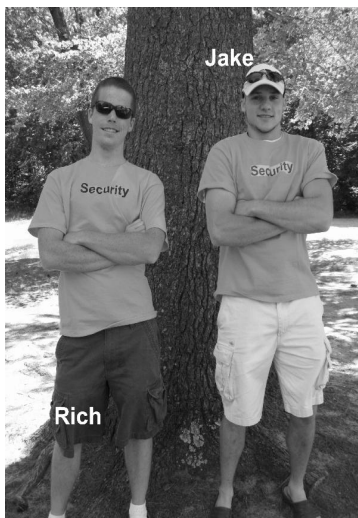
Rich Lutter is a resident at the Woodlands in Lunenburg, also a graduate of Lunenburg High. He is a student at the Merchant Marine Academy and earned his Eagle Scout designation.

Their goal is to assist our residents in helping maintain a fun and safe boating and beaching experience.

They do this, among other tasks, by making sure that watercraft are properly stickered and beachgoers are residents in good standing. Please support their efforts in accomplishing their goals. Please don't be annoyed if Security asks to see your ID or where your 2010 boat sticker is, they are working at maintaining the privacy and quality of our wonderful lake and beaches for all of us members that have paid their fees and thus contribute to the unique Hickory Hills Experience. Make sure to wave to the "Guys in the Yellow Shirts Driving the Noisy Boat."

If you have a safety or security concern, please call the office at 978-582-6365 and leave a message with your name, address and a phone number. This phone will be checked often. If you have an emergency situation call the police directly.

See you on the lake. Walt Parquet, HHL Director



## Is that an Airplane on the lake?

Yes, through the years we have had a plane or two land on the lake and then taxi around and take off.

As you can imagine we do not allow any aircraft on the lake. There are a number of very valid reasons, least of all is the fact the could injure someone. Secondly, the motor is clearly over 8 hp, and the risk of a fuel leak is huge and they are trespassing.. And worst case, if they happen to hit a sand bar and have an accident I hate to think what injuries could occur and what that clean up would cost us.

But even worst, invasive aquatic plants could have fallen off that airplane dropped into our lake. One of the main reasons we are one of the few lakes in MA still without invasive aquatic plants is due to the fact we are a private lake and all work so hard to control the access of boats and motors.

If you ever see an airplane on the lake please get the "tail" number and send it to the office, from that we can identify the owner. Or if you happen to know someone who owns one of these airplanes perhaps you could let them know they are trespassing and taking a huge risk with our lake!

"It takes a village to keep a lake pristine"

## Annual Shareholders Meeting September 18, 2010

The Hickory Hills Landowners 32nd Annual Shareholders Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2010. The meeting is open to all shareholders in Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.

Any property owner interested in become a shareholder can do so by contacting the office by June 30th. There is a one time cost of \$240 to purchase a share. A share qualifies an owner to have a voice in the management of the lake.

A meeting notice and Shareholder packets will be sent out in mid July. If you plan to attend the dinner and/or meeting please complete and return the registration form in your Shareholder packets and if you are not attending please sign the proxy box on the registration form and return to our office.



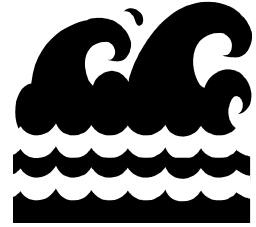
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# Waves



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## Directors

Chris Albert

Mario Andella

Paula Bertram

Jack Kutarnia

Jim Leblanc

Ron Pearson

John Pesenti

## Officers

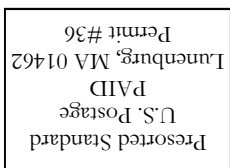
President, Neal Sullivan

Vice President, Walter Parquet

Treasurer, Anne Davis

Clerk, Lisa Normandin

TO:



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