



Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

www.hickoryhillslake.com

978-582-6365

Summer 2011

Saturday 8/13
rain date Sunday 8/14

Hickory Hills Lake Management Group

BEACH CARNIVAL

Live Music • Food • Games
Prizes • Make your own Sundaes • and MORE!
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

4-9:30pm at the Island Road Beach

Annual Shareholders Meeting

September 17, 2011

The Hickory Hills Landowners 33rd Annual Shareholders Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley. The meeting is open to all shareholders in Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.



Any property owner interested in becoming a shareholder can do so by contacting the office.

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 on July 15. If you plan to attend the dinner and/or meeting please complete and return the registration form in your July packets and if you are not attending please sign the proxy box on the registration form and return to our office.

Youth Program in Session...

This year we were very excited to be able to offer a Youth Program this summer and it's off to a great start. We are very fortunate to have Holly Rivard as Youth Director. Her teen assistants Sam and James have been excellent and very reliable, making for a very enjoyable morning for some great Hickory Hills youths at the Island Rd. beach.

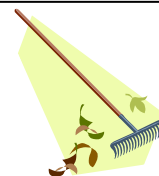


If you haven't signed up, please send in your sign up form ASAP!

There are many activities planned and we are looking forward to more great weather! Thank you to Holly and her team!

Beach Clean-up Day

It is very much appreciated that residents take an active role in keeping the lake property clean. Thanks to Chris Albert and his crew who have done a fabulous job once again spring cleaning our neighboring beaches. We wouldn't be able to enjoy them as we do without these folks donating their valuable time and energy! Thank you to all who were involved!





Summer 2011

BOAT PARADE — JULY 2011



For more parade pictures, check out our website at
<http://www.hickoryhillslake.com>

THE WAVES 2

Summer 2011



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THE WAVES 3



Hydro Raking Project 2011

In accordance with the Lake Management Plan, on May 17th, 2011, hydro raking began in various community areas of Hickory Hills Lake, Little Hickory and along 66 private waterfront homes that contracted for service. Hydro raking was conducted by Shoreline Weed Control which is now owned by Lycott Environmental of Southbridge.

The hydro-rake is similar to a floating backhoe which is outfitted with a raking tool that removes rooted vegetation and associated sediment and debris. Hydro-Raking typically provides seasonal to 1-3 years of nuisance plant control. The clearing of selective areas causes minimal disturbance to shoreline landscapes.

In order to ensure that the hydro raking was done in accordance with the Lake Management Plan and to ensure that all residents were properly served, the Board appointed two Project Managers, Matt Proctor and Paula Bertram.

One of the main concerns of the Lake Management Group and the Board of Directors was the prevention of introduction of invasive vegetation to the Lake by the equipment and trailer. Hickory Hills was the first lake to be raked this year by Lycott, and according to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, equipment that has been out of the water for a season is not a possible source of contamination because plant matter is no longer viable. Prior to allowing the machines to enter the

lake, they were pressure washed by Lycott with a



Matt Proctor, Project Manager, conducting a very thorough inspection before allowing equipment to enter the lake

bleach solution off-site. Thorough visual inspections were conducted by members of the Board of Directors and the Project Managers before the equipment was allowed to enter the Lake.

During the operation, two rakes and a barge were operated in various areas. The entire water body was divided into 6 zones; each zone was completed before proceeding to the next area. Unfortunately, the rake that was placed

in Little Hickory immediately encountered mechanical issues which resulted in numerous scheduling delays. Eventually a total of 22 hours was completed in Little Hickory and the machine was then deployed to the main lake.

The operation of the hydro-rake generates high turbidity, and to minimize impact to adjacent properties, modified turbidity curtains were installed at the boundaries of participating properties. Typically the curtains remained in place for a minimum of 24 hours to allow sediment to settle.



Modified turbidity screens

Generally the raked debris was placed on the shoreline of participating properties, in some instances where accessibility to the debris pile was an issue, a barge was utilized to transport the debris to a more suitable location.

The amount of debris removed varied greatly from property to property; volumes of weeds and sediment were removed from some beaches and right next door only a small amount of material may have been removed. The amount of material varied due to the type of surface being raked; i.e. mucky versus gravel and the amount of material on the lake bottom.

Portion of Hemlock Beach debris



Removal of the debris was completed by P & E Construction of Southbridge, who did a phenomenal job.

Continued on next page

The hydro-rake in operation





The Board allowed residents to retain debris for compost if desired, with the stipulation that all debris be removed from the shoreline within 4 weeks.

The following community areas were raked; Hemlock Beach, Brookview Beach, the Island Road boat ramp, Pine Acres Cove and Little Hickory. Pine Acres Cove (also known as Proctor Cove) was an area of particular concern as mermaid weed has been present in this cove for many years. The last vegetation survey conducted by Aquatic Control Technology in 2010 indicated that mermaid weed had almost completely filled in the cove and was beginning to enter the main lake. After confirming with Tom Flannery of the Department of Conservation and Recreation that the weed was in fact mermaid weed and that hydro raking was an appropriate way to address the problem, a decision was made to spend 10 hours raking the center of the Cove. In order to prevent any vegetation from entering the main lake, a full turbidity screen was placed at the mouth of the Cove.

Overall the response from those that participated in the program has been positive. In some cases, disappointment over the number of re-emergent lily pads has been expressed. Lily pad roots are thick large roots with tendrils anchoring them to the ground and can be very extensive.

Generally hydro raking is an effective method to remove lily pads; however depending on the density of the patch, the rake may not be able to remove all the root system. Lily pad communities have extensive root and rhizome systems. With the energy stored in these systems, lily pads can quickly re-grow. While hydro raking will certainly reduce lily pad density, continued maintenance will be crucial to eradication in recreational areas.

Lily pad root

The approved Lake Management Plan recommends that hydro raking be conducted again in 2013.

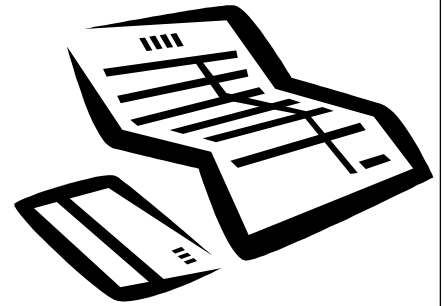


Thank you to the dedicated members of the Lake Management Group for their research and hard work to make this project a reality and to the Board of Directors for supporting and implementing the project.

Final Notices for 2011 Annual Maintenance Fees

Your 2011 annual maintenance fees were due on May 1. 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 most 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 black rectangular drop box, upper left of the office door...Thank you.



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!

Summer Office Hours

Mon., Wed. & Thurs.

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.



reach the office by email.

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. Remember you can always leave payments in the drop box or

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.



Weed Watcher Education

The weed watcher class held on May 25th at the Lunenburg Library was well attended by members of the Hickory Hills Community and residents from Lake Shirley. This informative two hour hands-on training taught participants how to identify wetland plants and provided information about invasive non-native species and what we can do to protect our lakes. The class was conducted by Tom Flannery of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Tom is extremely knowledgeable about all facets of lake management, many thanks to him for providing this free, fun educational program.

One particular matter of interest that Tom mentioned is that currently there is legislation being considered that would make it illegal to place any boat or trailer in inland waters unless the equipment has been decontaminated in accordance with DCR's regulations to remove any aquatic nuisance. It is unclear at this time as to when or if the legislation will be enacted, however it is clear that law makers recognize the threat to our inland water bodies and are looking at ways to protect our natural resources. Ensuring that you or your vendor is not transporting "aquatic hitchhikers" is crucial to protecting Hickory Hills from invasive species. When launching a boat always follow the decontamination steps recommended by DCR:

Remove all plants and animals from your boat motor, trailer, anchors and fishing gear, and dispose of them on dry land, well away from the water or in a trash can.



Flush engines and dispose of livewell, bait bucket, and cooling water away from the shore after each use.

Never release any plant or animal into a body of water unless it came out of that body of water.

Never empty aquariums into a waterbody.

Inspect and wash your boat and trailer with hot water, and allow it to completely dry before entering another body of water.

If you are interested in participating in a future weed watcher class, please let the office know. If there is enough interest, another class will be scheduled.

A Chance to Help HHL Lake

The Massachusetts House and Senate are both voting on two important bills to protect lakes and ponds in Mass this year. Please consider calling our law makers to express your support of these bills.

Senate Bill S00347 - Legislation to protect lakes and ponds from transportation of aquatic nuisances

This legislation originally submitted by Senator Benjamin Downing in 2009 is designed to access civil penalties of up to \$10,000 and fines of up to \$1,000 for knowingly and intentionally placing or causing to be placed aquatic nuisances upon inland waters, a vessel, a boat transporter, a truck-trailer boat transporter or any other equipment unless that vehicle has been decontaminated in accordance with the regulations of the Dept of Conservation and Recreation. DCR shall study and promote improved methods of suppressing, controlling or otherwise mitigating or reducing the spread of aquatic nuisances.

House Bill H00225 - Legislation to establish an invasive aquatic plant management fund.

This legislation originally submitted by Sean Garballey in 2009 is designed to establish and set up a separate fund by the Dept of Environmental Protection to be known as the Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Fund. **A grant program will be established to allocate money to lake associations and towns which seek to administer an invasive aquatic plant prevention and mitigation prevention program.**

Jennifer E. Benson - House

978-582-4146 x450 & 617-722-2017

Jennifer L. Flanagan - Senate

978-534-3388 & 617-722-1230

Lake Security Team

This season we have a new member to the Security Team. Please welcome Mike Rash and welcome back Jake LaChance. They are patrolling the lake area by bike, car and boat during varied hours every day throughout the summer. Please be prepared to show your IDs and have boat stickers visible. Your cooperation is appreciated. 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. If you have an emergency situation call the police directly.**



A Taste of New Orleans

On April 30, 2011 the LMG held A Taste of New Orleans fund raiser at the Leominster Elks. Entertainment was provided by the Open Highway Band and lots of great food was provided by many volunteers of the LMG. We had many raffle items donated by lake residents a, 50/50 raffle and a Mardi Gras Bead contest (won by Sandra Charpentier, who very graciously donated the \$100.00 prize back to the LMG). We also sold out of the light up HHL hurricane souvenir glasses. If you missed out on these, don't worry, more are on the way for our summer beach party!!! Watch for signs and flyers.



This year we raised \$3000.00 to help with lake management issues and donated \$500.00 to the HHL summer program. I would like to thank the many people who worked so hard to make this a very successful and fun

event. I hope to see you all again at this years **3rd annual Beach Party, August 13th** at Island Rd Beach.

Betty MacDonald
Co Chair, Fund Raising Committee

HHL Classifieds section on the Web!

The new Classifieds section on our website is now Up and RUNNING! Check it out here

<http://www.hickoryhillslake.com> then select CLASSIFIEDS from the left pane.



Just send an email or call the office with details about your item for sale and we'll display it for you. You'll be in charge of all other communication and management for the sale of your item or real estate.

To get your item advertised, send an email to the office at hickoryhills@netplus.com or call 978-582-6365. Sorry, but Animal requests will not be accepted. You have to be 18 yrs or older to post.



New Boat Entry Protocol

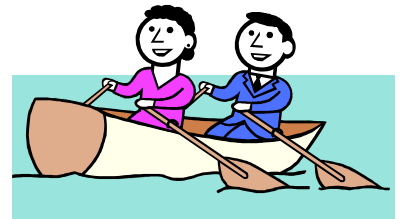
In order to prevent the introduction of invasive species into Hickory Hills, this year the Board is formalizing the way in which boats are put into the lake. Up until this point the process has been one which is based upon the honor system. It has been expected that anyone putting a boat into the lake will follow the states regulations and guidelines for invasive species control.

Beginning this year, HHL began monitoring the boat launch at selected times and performed boat and trailer inspections prior to allowing boats to be placed into the lake. Additionally HHL will be working with the local marine dealers, who put a considerable number of boats into the lake, to standardize their processes to minimize the exposure of Hickory Hills to invasive species that come from other area lakes.

An important component of this program is control of the HHL boat launch. Starting this year and each subsequent year, HHL will change the combination and release it only to residents in good standing and qualified marine suppliers. The new combination was released with this year's boat stickers.

Thank you for your cooperation in this evolving process to maintain the purity and scenic beauty of our wonderful lake.

To learn more about the spread of invasive species and how to prevent it, please take a few minutes at each of these websites :



<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/rampMonitor.htm>

<http://www.protectyourwaters.net/>

THANK YOU!



Erosion Control Efforts Enter Second Summer

You may have noticed that several of the lake's islands are looking quite different these days. The Erosion Control Committee began efforts to prevent soil loss last August, work that has continued this summer.

In the first phase, volunteers convened on Lizard Island to place rocks to reinforce the shoreline, construct a 60' boulder wall, and install and stake 200' of biodegradable woven coconut coir logs, behind which various grasses (*Juncus tenuis*, *Carex lurida*, *Carex lacustris*) and highbush blueberries were planted.



In addition, they protected another 250' of shoreline with floater logs and constructed log steps to prevent further problems on the east side. Recycled materials from the cove-dredging project were transported to the island by barge and used in each of these installments.

This summer, volunteers have already visited Barrier Island, reinforcing the shoreline with coir logs, floating logs, and debris from the Hydro-Raking project.

They also planted sandbar willow, pussy willow, button-bushes, and various grasses in the recycled material. A



group has also returned to Lizard Island, planting willows, swamp azalea, highbush blueberries and more grasses. Meanwhile, the high-water line on Andella Island has been reinforced with various *Carex* and reed plants.

Work will continue throughout this summer. The committee plans to repair and/or back fill undermined shoreline on other islands, construct more "natural stairways," transport more barges of soil, and do several more plantings.

If you are interested in contributing to these important and fun efforts, please let us know by contacting the Lake Management Group. We can use the help!

As you enjoy the Islands this Summer, please note the areas identified by the Erosion Control signs and by obvious plantings and tread lightly. Whenever possible, please embark and disembark, from the Islands, using the log-constructed stairways or solid rock or soil areas, rather than walking across the locations where there are plantings in coir logs or along the shoreline.

Thank you,

Erosion Control Committee Members



Are You Contributing to this Problem?



Our shoreline is being eroded...by US!

Residents need to understand that the "NO WAKE" signs are put out for two reasons...to reduce the shoreline erosion, and reduce damage to docks and boats.

If you are driving your boat in the middle of the lake, your boat wake will dissipate before it reaches the shoreline. If you are near the shoreline or in ANY cove on our lake your wake will NOT dissipate before it reaches the shoreline and will cause damage.

You must use "HEADWAY SPEED ONLY" in all coves and near the shoreline. To be clear...headway speed means a speed at which your boat leaves "NO WAKE,"

Please obey the NO WAKE areas marked in the coves around the lake. Complaints roll into the office regarding the wake left by boats that speed in and out of the coves. No Wake or Headway Speed Only applies to ALL COVES and signs need to be respected.



HHL Appreciates All Gift Donations!

The following residents have donated to the **Capital Asset Reserve Fund**;

Jane Doyle	William & Jane Blake
Catherine Clapp	Rita & Richard Masciarelli
James & Pam Vogt	Charles & Druscilla Nason
Imre & Eleanor Toth	Walter & Margaret Parquet
Peter & Lori Craig	Thomas & Patricia Siciliano
David Samuels	Neal & Martha Sullivan
Erik & Meghan Arnold	James & Susan Stockard
Paul & Dolores Anderson	Andrea & Carl Strathmeyer
Richard & Ronney Ann Nadile	

The following residents have donated to the **Harvester**:

Peggy Gorman	Charles & Druscilla Nason
Bill & Jane Blake	Walter & Margaret Parquet
Jane Doyle	Anna & William Thompson
Deborah St Vrain	Neal & Martha Sullivan
Matt & Kelly Hart	Aime & Mary Charpentier
Michael Immerso	Malcolm & Jacqueline Parker
Peter & Lori Craig	James & Suan Stockard
Kim & Daniel Thomas	P Lastella & Sue Andrews
Daniel & Paula Murphy	

Speaking of Donations!

For a \$5 donation we will send you one oval HHL Bumper Sticker

They are available at the Island Road office.

Or send your contribution along with a
Self Addressed STAMPED Business Envelope to:

Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.
P.O. Box 298
Lunenburg, MA 01462



Summer Reminder!

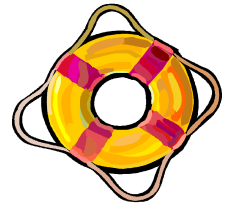
The summer has begun and the kids are out in droves having a ball. This is a reminder to all parents that the beaches of HHL do not have life guards and that the state and HHL *recommend* that children under the age of 14 not swim unless accompanied by an adult.

Bikes and dogs are not allowed on the beaches. We had several incidences in the past of dogs roaming the beaches and frightening the beach goers and children. If you see a dog on the beach please get a description and let the office know where it lives. If you feel in danger please notify the Lunenburg police department at 978-582-4531. Thank you for your help in making this a safe and welcoming community.

Registration of Boats and Motors

All boats and motors must be registered through the office. Boat stickers are \$20.00 for non-shareholders and \$10.00 for shareholders. Boating Guides are available and may be picked up in the office. If your boat is in the water (even in front of your house), it needs a boat sticker.

Please contact the office to get your boat or car stickers by calling 582-6365 or emailing hickoryhills@net1plus.com



Send Us Your Story

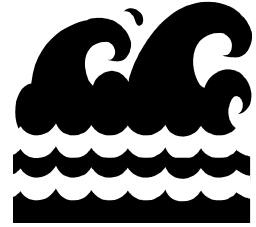
Our lake community has great history and we'd love to hear your stories of lake life, knowledge of the lake environment or it's wildlife. Please share your insights into our special way of life. Send your stories to P.O. Box 298 or email them to hickoryhills@net1plus.com

www.hickoryhillslake.com

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hickoryhills@netlplus.com

Waves



The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.

Directors

Chris Albert
Mario Andella
Bob Novacek
Jack Kutarnia
Jim Leblanc
Jim Shearer

Officers

President, Neal Sullivan
Vice President, Walt Parquet
Treasurer, John Pesenti
Clerk, Lisa Normandin

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