



# Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

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

978-582-6365

[hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com)

Winter 2012

## Recreational Vehicles

We would like to remind our Snowmobile friends to have fun, but to remember their neighbors and not encroach on ice skating rinks and private property.

Please also remember to stay on the main beach's marked trail which travels over the volleyball court and not ride anywhere near the Office itself.

Remember, recreational vehicles on the dike, islands and beaches damages tree roots and causes erosion so always stay on marked trails.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and keep your machine quiet after 10:00p.m.

When riding, think of safety first and stay away from open water. It's up to us as a community to police ourselves. Snowmobile and ATV riders should operate their machines safely and with respect for the environment and their neighbors.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR A TASTE OF CHINA!

The Lake Management Group is working hard planning another great fundraising event! The last Spring event, "A Taste of New Orleans" was a SELL OUT, with great food, music, a 50/50 raffle with prizes and more and they're planning the same great time with **A Taste of China, so reserve your tickets now!**

Currently, they're accepting donations for the raffle so please donate and make sure to mark Saturday, April 28th on your calendar; then bring your appetite for a fun time with friends and neighbors at the Leominster Elks. Tickets will be \$20.00 for adults and \$7.50 for kids under 12.

This years' star prize raffle item is already wrapped up and ready to be won. **A 32" LCD 3D TV!**

For more information contact Betty MacDonald at 978-582-XXXX or email Betty at [XXX@comcast.net](mailto:XXX@comcast.net)



## Snowmobile Code of Ethics

*Published by the International Snowmobile Industry Association.*

1. I will be a good sports enthusiast. I recognize that people judge all snowmobilers by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners to promote fair conduct.
2. I will not litter trails or camping areas. I will not pollute streams or lakes.
3. I will not damage living trees, shrubs or other natural features. I will go out only when there is sufficient snow so that I will not damage the Land.
4. I will respect people's property and rights.
5. I will lend a helping hand when I see someone in distress.
6. I will make myself and my vehicle available to assist search and rescue parties.
7. I will not interfere with or harass hikers, skiers, and

snowshoers, ice anglers or other winter sports enthusiasts. I will respect their rights to enjoy our recreation facilities.

8. I will know and obey all federal, state and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I use my vehicle. I will inform public officials when using public land.
9. I will not harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection or feeding of wildlife.
10. I will stay on marked trails or marked roads open to snowmobiles. I will not snowmobile where prohibited.
11. I will not drink and drive.

The Lunenburg Snow Riders are a family oriented group dedicated to fostering safe and legitimate snowmobiling. ~ Tom Bertram

Please call if you're interested in joining 978 582 XXXX



# HICKORY HILLS LAKE FIREWORKS

The Board of Directors is currently discussing the possibility for a group of HHL residents to privately fund & hire a professional fireworks display this July. Below are two board members thoughts on the topic and includes some of the pro's & con's of approving this request. After reading the opinions below, please put some thought into your own opinion, and then email the office how you would like the Board to vote on this important decision.

## DON'T LET THE LAKE GO DARK!

Fireworks have been a way of celebrating our nation's birthday for 235 years. They have become a symbol of patriotism, Freedom in America, pride in our country and are an important part of our history. It is a way of celebrating the men and women who gave of themselves so unselfishly for the independence we enjoy.

This past year was a great year on HHL. The water level was high, the boat parade was fantastic, the barbeques were great and the weather was nice and warm. Yet there was something missing, something important to me as well as a lot of the other residents of HHL. Fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

The board of directors have been approached by a patriotic group of HHL residents, to see if they the residents could look into hiring a professional fireworks company to put on a display that is not only safe, but will give all of us memories that will last a life time.

Help us decide which way we should go as a group and as an association. Please support hiring a professional company in order to make fireworks safe and enjoyable for everyone on this lake and to bring back the pride of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Below is a list of the pros on why we at HHL should have fireworks return to HHL for all our family and friends to enjoy.

God Bless America

Yours truly,

Michael J Nault, Director, HHL Inc.

1. 100% Legal.
2. Once a year event. We've celebrated our freedom with fireworks since the time of John Adams.
3. Done by professionally licensed fireworks technicians and permitted by the town of Lunenburg.
4. Will provide HHLs a 6 million dollar bond for liability.
5. Will be totally self funded by donations.
6. Great family night - 4th of July fireworks for the entire lake to view.
7. Will be decided on a year by year basis.

## Why the BOD should not vote approval of July 4th fireworks, on and over the lake, by a fireworks contractor

On previous 4th of July celebrations private citizens have displayed fireworks over and on the lake. These were not approved or authorized by HHL. These private individuals assumed all potential bodily injury or property damages as individuals.

Last summer both state and local government authorities warned the citizens of Lunenburg, thru various public media, of the prohibition of firework displays in our town and of their intent to enforce the ban, especially on the lake. In spite of the ban the display commenced and the local town and fire departments reacted to halt the display.

As a result a group of private individuals want to hire a company to put on a 4th of July display over and on the lake. This must be approved by the HHL Board and by means of various permits submitted to the Town of Lunenburg.

I am opposed to granting the permission for the following reasons:

1. HHL's current liability insurance policy will not cover any damage, injury or death caused by the fireworks.
2. HHL's insurance carrier would consider coverage with the submission of an application and an anticipated additional premium of \$500
3. HHL's insurance underwriter advised against approval
4. A legal opinion was sought and again approval was not recommended due to the fact that if any claim occurred it is guaranteed HHL would be brought into the suit.
5. The cost for the display is \$6,000 and will last between 15 and 18 minutes and classified as a class b display. A lot of money for a short display
6. A contract with the display company must be signed. Who will sign it and what is their legal responsibility?
7. The contract stipulates strict compliance to a payment schedule, including fines. All funds will be raised by contributions.
8. What will the Town require as to traffic control, safety, police details etc? At present those costs and requirements are unknown.
9. The contractor is the same contractor that put on the last July 4th display at the Boston Esplanade, that barge caught on fire.
10. The barge will be placed in our lake. Will the contractor follow our requirements that the barge be sterilized against further invasive weeds?

My purpose for opposing the approval is motivated only by an over riding goal to **protect the assets of HHL Inc.**

I would support a group of Lunenburg citizens to approach the Town in order to develop a 4th of July Fireworks plan approved by the Town, on Town property and totally paid for by voluntary donations. If we want fireworks in our town this is the way to proceed, rather than put all of the liability and risk on our lake.

In conclusion, approval would put us at high risk for little reward. Are the chances for a serious loss low? Answer is yes. But if one did occur it could jeopardize our lakes financial future. Is it worth the risk?

See you all on the lake,

Walt Parquet, Vice President, HHL Inc.



## Winter Rules — Use of Hickory Hills Lake Area



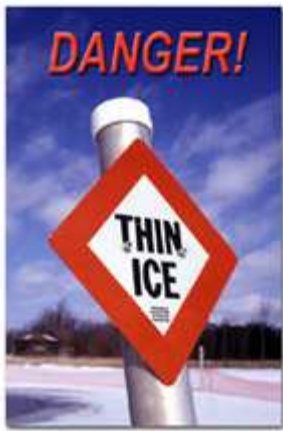
To ensure a safe and enjoyable use of the Hickory Hills Lake area, we remind you of the following rules established by the state, town, and/or Hickory Hills Landowners:

1. Use of Hickory Hills Landowners' facilities, lake beaches, and islands is limited to licensed residents with current IDs and their guests.
2. Keep your ID with you while you use Landowners' facilities.
3. Guests must be accompanied by their host who has an ID while using Landowners' facilities.
4. Property owners who rent their homes are responsible for obtaining IDs for their renters.
5. Renters are not eligible to use Landowners' facilities unless they have identification.
6. No resident who is delinquent paying annual charges can be the guest of a resident who has paid annual charges.
7. Property owners are personally responsible for the behavior of their family members and guests while the latter are using Landowners' facilities.
8. Ice fishing is limited to residents with current IDs and their guests. A Massachusetts State Fishing License also is required.
9. Ice fishing is permitted from dawn to dusk only. No ice drills are to be operated before 6:00 a.m.
10. Ice fishing shall be done in compliance with all the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts including those laws and regulations concerning the number of fishing holes to be drilled each day and the size and number of fish to be taken.
11. No open fires are permitted on the lake or on the land. (The town also prohibits open fires.) All fires must be contained (grill, hibachi, etc.). All materials brought on Landowners' facilities must be removed.
12. Vehicles may not be parked on public roads during snow-storms because they will obstruct snow plowing (a town ordinance). For fire purposes, all roads shall be kept clear during any type of weather.
13. Islands, except those privately owned and posted, may be used daylight hours only (one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset).
14. No trespassing on the spillway.
15. If a dog falls through the ice, do not attempt a rescue. The Lunenburg Rescue Squad has a flotation suit and can arrive within a few minutes to make a safe rescue.
16. No glass bottles or glass of any kind are permitted on Landowners' facilities.
17. Use of snowmobiles and recreation vehicles on Landowners facilities is limited to residents with current IDs and their guests. Snowmobiles and recreation vehicles also must be registered with the State of Massachusetts. Operating a snowmobile or recreation vehicle shall be done in compliance with all the laws and regulation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
18. Don't roll rocks or debris on ice! They become hidden after snow fall and could lead to injury.





## KEEP AN EYE ON THE ICE!



Winter has made its appearance in Massachusetts but at this stage of the season the condition of ice on the Bay State's water bodies can be unpredictable and treacherous. The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife urges outdoor enthusiasts to play it safe and check ice carefully

before venturing onto ice-covered waters. A clear layer of 4-inch ice is a good, safe thickness for foot traffic. An ice strength table and safety tips are posted at

[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice\\_safety.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice_safety.htm).

How can you tell if ice is safe? There are no guarantees -- always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. Assess ice safety by using an ice chisel to chop a hole in the ice to determine its thickness and condition. Make sure you continue to do this as you go further out on to the ice, because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform all over the pond or lake. Be aware that ice tends to be thinner on lakes and ponds where there are spring

holes, inlets or outlets. Don't venture on to ice bound rivers or streams because the currents make ice thickness unpredictable.

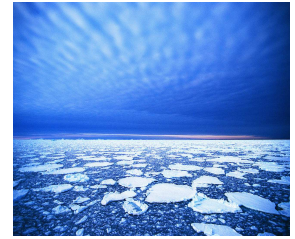


What if you fall through the ice? As with any emergency, don't panic! Briefly call for help. It doesn't take

long for the cold water to start slowing your physical and mental

functions, so you must act quickly. Air will remain trapped in your clothes for a short time, aiding your buoyancy. Kick your legs while grasping for firm ice. Try to pull your body up using ice pins or picks that should be hanging around your neck.

Once your torso is on firm ice, roll towards thicker ice. This will better distribute your weight. Remember that ice you have previously walked on should be the safest. After you reach safe ice don't waste precious time, you need to warm up quickly to prevent hypothermia. Go to the nearest fishing shanty, warm car, or house. Don't drive home in wet clothes!



If a companion falls through the ice remember the phrase "Reach-Throw-Go." If you are unable to reach your friend, throw him or her a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or other object. If this does not work, go for help before you also become a victim. Pet owners should keep pets on a leash. If a pet falls through the ice do not attempt to rescue the pet, go for help. Well-meaning pet owners can too easily become victims themselves when trying to save their pets. Links to winter weather related preparedness tips and a video on ice safety from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources can be found at

[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice\\_safety.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/safety/ice_safety.htm).



### **HHL Office Winter Hours & NEW Location**

Please note, the office has moved for the Winter!

Email or call us for our new Winter location.

Open, Monday and Thursday 9-11 a.m.

**Our regular office location on Island Road will be reopened again on April 2, 2012.**

As always, the best way to reach us is through email at [hickoryhills@net1plus.com](mailto:hickoryhills@net1plus.com) or call us at 978-582-6365.

**IMPORTANT!** We're still short a few resident email addresses to communicate with without the cost of a stamp. Please send yours along to the office if you received this seasons' Waves in the mail. Thank you!!

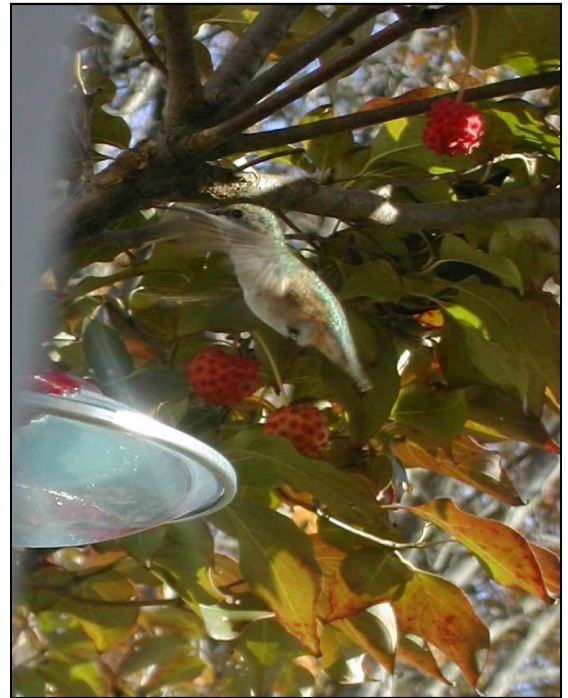




## A Visit from a Tiny Friend!



This past Fall brought us all a wide variety of weather, from extraordinary rainfalls as a result of Hurricane Irene, the historic snowfall on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> to the lingering Summer like weather well into mid-November. As I do every Fall, I began the process of “putting my garden to bed” for the Winter. This process in-



cluded taking down my hummingbird feeders. I can't explain why, but something told me to keep one feeder up and filled with fresh nectar. It had been several weeks since seeing any of the Ruby Throated jewels that grace my garden, but I guess I was hoping that if one or two happened to linger before their annual migration, I would provide a little boost of energy. I started noticing what I thought was a female Ruby making many trips to my

single feeder throughout the day. She quickly got used to me getting within a foot or so of her and I was able to take a closer look at her markings and take a photograph. I sent my picture to the Audubon asking about this tiny visitor and



was she a Ruby Throated. They quickly called me back asking if they could send representatives out to take pictures, band and weigh her. It was pretty clear from all the excitement and attention that I most likely had a special visitor at my feeder. The process of capturing and subsequent exams confirmed that it was a Rufous Hummingbird! Most likely a bird that was hatched this past season. Rufous Hummingbirds breed on the West Coast. So what was she doing on Hickory Hills? We may never know the answer to that question, but now that she is banded, there are many dedicated and knowledgeable folks who are interested in her flight pattern, arrival and departure times and overall activities. She, like many in the animal kingdom, may be the “harbinger” of changes to come. Mario and I feel privileged that she chose our garden and Hickory Hills to spend some time along her journey. We look forward to next year to see if she returns.

~P. Andella







## Fight Against Fanwort — Update



On December 12, 2011, members of the LMG lifted a few of the benthic barriers installed in the shallow areas of the boat ramp cove to determine their effectiveness after their installation last Fall. Unfortunately, Fanwort was found either growing or floating in numerous areas. There's a major concern that these barriers have not been effective and that Fanwort



will continue to spread throughout the lake.

LMG members began to brainstorm alternative approaches to fight this very difficult weed. After weeks of research & planning, new agendas were created and approved by the BOD, including the draining of the cove to enable a deep ground freeze of that area in hopes to kill the plant by the roots over the winter. With the Lunenburg Conservation Committee's approval, the boat ramp cove is now dammed at both ends by an amazing group of hardworking LMG volunteers and the cove is now beginning to drain. Thankfully, there is no Fanwort growing in the area of the cove where two drain pipes exist on the Island Road side, enabling these volunteers to also build a pipeline which now trans-

ports water coming into the cove from the drains, over the first dam made of over 800 sandbags, and directly into the main lake. The goal is for the cove, once dry, to remain that way for a significant period of time allowing for a deep freeze and to manage the benthic barriers when the weather gets warmer. The intent is to completely drain the cove as soon as possible. The second approach being



taken, is the construction of a Suction Harvester for the manual removal of the plant by it's roots in other areas of the lake after thaw and will be comprised of a:

Platform – preferably a pontoon boat, Pump, Suction Hose, Motor and a small scale hopper system.

The 30+ volunteers working on these projects are all truly





## 2011/2012 BOD Goals

The BOD wants to share the aggressive goals defined for this year; with everyone's help we hope to reach them!

1. Successfully deal with Fanwort infestation and implement long range plan for invasive species.
2. Dam Maintenance planning - new 5 year plan to replace existing plan (due in 2012 but substantially completed in 2011).
3. Formulate and implement training procedures for the Dam EAP.
4. Develop a draft Dam improvement plan based upon the upcoming Hydrology Study results.
5. Develop an Island Road facility plan.
6. Finish 2012 with greater than \$200,000.00 in the Dam fund.
7. Increase shareholder base by 10%.
8. Fully integrate the Finance Committee into the corporate budget and planning structure.

amazing people but unfortunately too many to list here. So instead, here's just a few of the many thank you's to come; the Wnuk's for their generosity allowing us on their property to build the pipeline, the Bertram's & MacDonald's for organizing & never giving up, E. Manseau for managing the pumps & B Ramsden, M Proctor & J Rabbit for donating the use of their equipment to make it all happen! Thank U for your tireless dedication to The Fight Against Fanwort!

## Welcome to Winter in Hickory Woods!



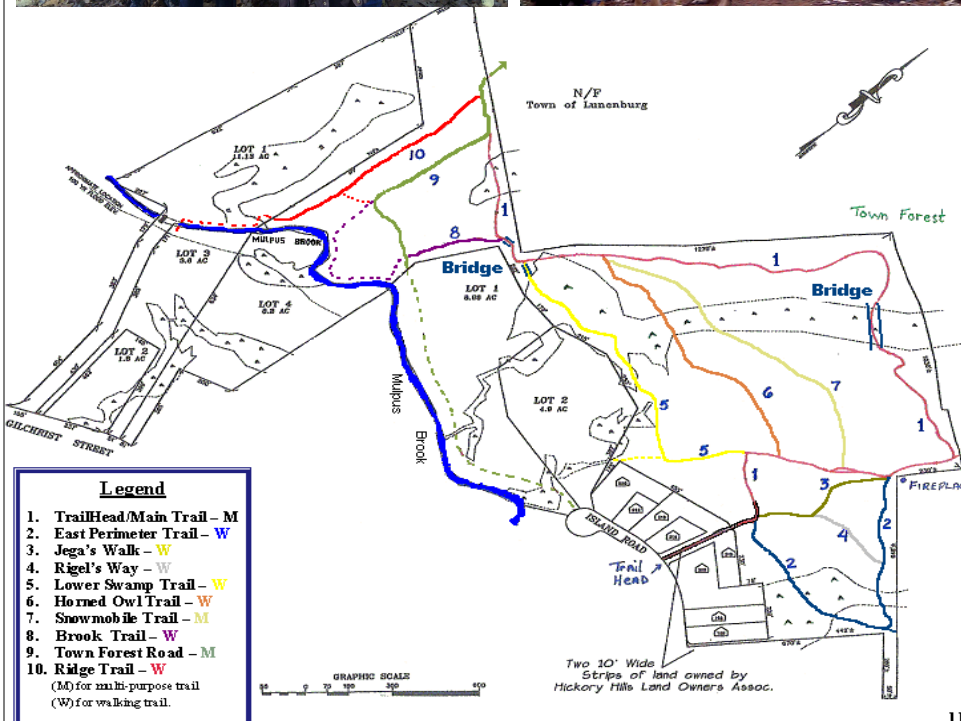
The Land Resource Management Committee hopes residents will enjoy some snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing in the woods soon... if we get some snow this season that is!

This past Fall, we had a couple great opportunities to take many adventurous people out on tours of the trail network and look forward to doing a few more in the Spring. A warm thanks to all that came out!

Other than clearing trees fallen over onto the trails and making the most out of the mild weather this season, we've moved our trail operations inside, but did want to redistribute the [Trail Map](#) (also found on our website) to help guide people in Hickory Woods this Winter.

### Trail Descriptions

1. Trailhead/Main Trail: Multi-purpose trail
2. East Perimeter Trail: Walking trail
3. Jega's Walk: Walking trail
4. Rigel's Way: Walking trail
5. Lower Swamp: Walking trail
6. Horned Owl Trail: Walking trail
7. Snowmobile Trail: Multi-purpose trail
8. Lot I Link Trail: Walking trail
9. Town Forest Road: Multi-purpose
10. Ridge Trail: Walking trail





## Did you know?

ATV & Snowmobile operators under 18 years of age **MUST** take the Off Highway Vehicle Safety and Responsibility Course to legally operate in Massachusetts?



For a list of courses available, visit the following link  
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/ohvcourselist.htm>

Please visit the link below to view the full Mass. law  
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/323cmr30.pdf>

These new listings here & more can be found online at our HHL Classifieds page. To view, go to our website & **[select CLASSIFIEDS!](#)**

## Mohawk Brand Cherry Coffee Table - asking \$100

It is in perfect condition, one drawer in the center.  
 Measures 4 ft long X 2 ft deep and 17 inches tall.  
 Contact Pat at 978-582-7588



## New Beginner Tai Chi Class

8 Week Class - United Parish of Lunenburg,  
 Begins Tuesday, March 13th @ 6:30pm

Approximately half of the \$80.00 sign-up fee will go to the Church School Campership Program.

Benefits include improved balance and flexibility:  
 a serene activity in a hectic world.

Taoist Tai Chi is recommended for men & women of all ages. For more info, call 978-582-6572

## Safe Boating Class in Feb & Mar

The Board of Directors encourages all residents to consider enrolling yourself and children in one of the Massachusetts Environmental Police Boating and Recreational Vehicle Safety Courses.

Boat Massachusetts addresses fundamental safety concepts and emphasizes the operator's legal and ethical responsibilities. It targets the boating novice, especially young boaters (12 through 15 yrs of age), who are required by state law to complete such a course in order to operate a motorboat without adult supervision. Additionally, safety and legal demonstrations are offered to groups of boaters, snowmobile riders, and all-terrain-vehicle users, with programs tailored to a group's particular needs.

If interested, the closest location is holding classes in both Feb & March at Littleton High School on 2/27 & 2/29 and 3/5, 3/7, 3/12. To sign up, call 978-540-2490 or visit their website at <http://littletonrec.com>

**To view the complete schedule for other locations of Boating Safety Courses visit**

<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/courselist.htm>

## Maple adjustable table on rollers - asking \$75

Light maple finish, new and in perfect condition with various adjustments to accommodate different height beds, or chairs.  
 Handy for laptops, or games. (laptop not included).  
 Contact Pat at 978-582-7588



## House for Rent:

3 bedroom, 2 bath, ranch style home  
 Fireplace with wood stove  
 Close to main beach

If interested, contact 978-582-9090



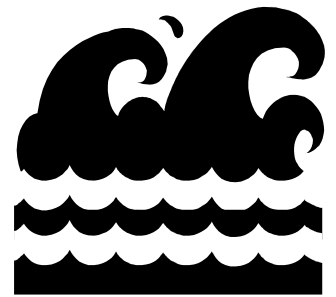
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# Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners Inc.



## Directors:

Mario Andella

Tom Bertram

Jim Leblanc

Eric Manseau

Michael Nault

Bob Novacek

Jim Shearer

## Officers:

President: Neal Sullivan

Vice President: Walter Parquet

Treasurer: John Pesenti

Clerk: Chris Albert

TO:

Lunenburg, MA 01462

P.O. Box 298

Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.



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