



Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners Inc.

www.hickoryhillslake.com

978-582-6365

hickoryhills@net1plus.com

Summer 2019

2019 HHL Montgomery Classic POKER RUN

Saturday August 17

\$20/head • Extra cards \$5 each (buy at Island Road Beach)

1:00

Check-in at **Locations removed for web viewing** for a wristband
YOU MUST HAVE THE WRIST BAND TO MAKE THE RUN
(list of stops will be provided when you enter)

1:00 – 5:00

Make the RUN!

1:00 – 6:00

Go to a judges table to open your cards

6:00

BBQ for wristband holders

For tickets please call **Name and contact information removed for web viewing**
Or e-mail us at **Name and contact information removed for web viewing**

NO BOAT? NO PROBLEM!

Volunteer boats depart Island Rd. Beach 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00

Call Dave or Betty to book seating!

Proceeds support the fight against fanwort

BEST HAND WINS 50% OF PROCEEDS
(UP TO \$500)



Summer 2019

HHL RAFFLE

to Benefit Fanwort Management



5-Piece Wicker Fire Pit Conversation Set

D4 lounge chairs and fire pit table

Durable weather-resistant wicker

Tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20

For tickets please call Dave & Betty at 978-582-7474
Or e-mail us at davebettymacdonald@comcast.net

Winner will be drawn 8/17
Do not need to be present to win!

All proceeds to benefit the fight against fanwort



Order your Hickory Hills Lake 2020 Calendar!

Each calendar contains 13 beautiful images of Hickory Hills Lake submitted by contestants. The first pages of the calendar are in memory of Paul Doherty, a photographer who captured beautiful lake sunsets and sadly passed away recently. Several of his gorgeous photos are featured.

Order **NOW** for delivery the week of August 26th. Don't wait, we expect to sell out!



Purchase multiple copies and SAVE!

1 Calendar \$18

3 Calendars \$50

5 Calendars \$80

*Share the beauty of Hickory Hills Lake!
Calendars are great gifts!*

Calendars will also be on sale and available for pickup at the Annual Shareholders Meeting, September 21st. Cash or check accepted.

Checks payable to Hickory Hills Landowners Inc.

Name and contact information
removed for web viewing



American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) Found in Hickory Hills Lake



Solitude Lake Management, in their '2018 Vegetation Assessment and Water Quality Evaluation Report', documented the presence of American lotus, an aquatic perennial plant, in Hickory Hills Lake. Although native to North America, American lotus is not native to New England. Here, it is believed to have been introduced by the horticultural trade for ornamental use in koi ponds. At some locations it has been found to spread aggressively, outcompete native aquatic vegetation, alter water chemistry, and impede recreational uses such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Spread occurs through the production of acorn sized seeds (which can lay dormant for decades), underground tubers, and underground stems which can spread distances of up to 50 feet per year. It tends to prefer water less than 6 feet deep. In muddy substrates it can grow several feet underground, making it difficult to manually remove.

The floating leaves of American lotus are similar to water-lily (*Nymphaea* species), bullhead-lily (*Nuphar variegata*), and watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*). Unlike both water-lily and bullhead-lily, American lotus and watershield have leaves which lack a sinus. American lotus and watershield may be differentiated by the size and texture of their leaves. American lotus has blue-green waxy leaves up to 27 inches wide (commonly 8 inches wide), whereas watershield has shiny leaves which rarely exceed 6 inches in width and regularly have a thick slimy coating on underwater portions of the plant.

Currently, American lotus has been found in a single location in the cove to the east of Hemlock Terrace, where it covers an area of approximately 4,000 square feet. A review of aerial imagery showed that the plants were introduced sometime between 2010 and 2016. The observation of American Lotus in HHL is notable as it is the first known population in Worcester County.

If you encounter what you believe to be American lotus on either big or little Hickory, please contact Matt Charpentier (mpcharpentier93@gmail.com) with photos and a location. Please do not attempt to remove any American lotus which you encounter as it may make it more difficult for us to locate plants when we begin the eradication process!

Written by Matthew Charpentier, Field Botanist, Oxbow Associates, Inc, VP New England Botanical Club



Many thanks to Scott Snape, Doug Waters & Shawn Kelley for trimming trees making this possible for the many dog walkers around our lake.

Dog Walk Trail - New to Main Beach

The main beach, as are all of our beaches, are off-limits to dogs for several reasons. Our main beach area now offers a by-pass for dog walkers or any walkers to cut from the Island Road beach parking lot to Park Street Terrace. We hope it will provide a safer way navigating on South Row Road and beyond for residents and their pets (and also is off the beach).

One end is behind the porta-potty and takes you through a log-lined path through a lush forested area and out to Park Street Terrace.

There are signs posted on both ends. Please remember, as always, to pick up after your pet.

We hope you'll visit it soon and happy walking!

Get To Know Your Lake Wild Flowers – Carnivorous Bladderwort

Hickory Hills Lake is home to several species of Bladderwort (*Utricularia*). Bladderwort is a submerged, rootless, carnivorous, bushy aquatic plant that can form dense mats at the surface of the water. Bladderwort can thrive in a wide range of water chemistry conditions including low to high nutrient rich waters and varying acid conditions. The lace-like green leaves are branched and filled with sac-like bladders. Tiny zooplanktons swimming in the water are lured to the bladders by a sweet scent. When the microscopic animals brush against trigger hairs on the bladders a trap door opens and a vacuum force sucks the tiny organisms in. Bladderwort's ability to consume small organisms in addition to absorbing nutrients from the water provides it with a competitive advantage over other species.

Floating mats of Bladderwort can also out compete many other native aquatic plant species by reducing the amount of sunlight that penetrates the water column. This in turn can cause a reduction in oxygen levels in the water which can harm other aquatic organisms and reduce biodiversity. These floating mats can also impede recreational activities such as boating and swimming.

During late July and August, the bladderwort plants send up stalks with tiny snapdragon like flowers on the tips. These flowers can be yellow or pinkish purple and extend a couple of inches above the surface of the water. The plants can reproduce by seeds from these flowers or by over wintering pieces of the stem that surround themselves with a thick protective coating.

There are several native species of bladderwort in our lake. The leafy floating bodies look very different but they all have bladders and similar flowering structures.



Photo credits – Don Cameron and Arthur Haine



Thank You Loosestrife Vigilantes!

A heartfelt thank you to **Deb & Dan Consalvo**, our 2019 Loosestrife Vigilantes for patrolling the lake again this season pulling Loosestrife from our shorelines. Call the Office if you'd like to help too! Loosestrife is another invasive weed known to our lake and has been kept from taking over our shorelines each year by this effort.

We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated people caring for our lake. If you see this plant, please pull it and call the office at 978-582-6365 so this team can add it to their list of known growth areas.



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 and have some fun!

Beach Hours

The beaches are open from dawn to dusk. Please make sure your vehicles have HHL car stickers when parking at the beaches & are not in the parking lot after 8:00 p.m. except for volleyball nights on Thursday's.



Final Notices for 2019 Annual Maintenance Fees

Your 2019 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 most of our residents – Thank you! Final notices have been sent.

Please send your payment to P.O. Box 298, Lunenburg, MA or feel free to use the black rectangular drop box to the left of the office door.

Environmentally Safe Disposal of Unused Medications



On occasion, you may find that you have left over, unused medications. Incorrect disposal of unused medications in the trash or down the toilet can result in pharmaceutical pollution of ground water which contributes to aquatic environment pollution. Source (J Int Med Res.2018 Mar; 46(3):927-939)

Unused medications can be taken to the Lunenburg Public Safety Building on 655 Massachusetts Avenue for safe, environmentally correct disposal. There is a kiosk in the lobby of the police department into which you can drop any unused medications for proper disposal. No appointment is necessary and no forms need to be filled out.

Security Team & Contact Number

This season it's a whole new group to welcome to our Security Team! Please wave hello when you see them driving in our Security boat or visiting our beaches & Islands. Security is patrolling the lake and beaches by boat during varied hours every day throughout the summer. Please be prepared to show your IDs and have boat stickers visible on all watercrafts, as well as your FREE resident car stickers on your automobile if parked at our lots. Your cooperation is appreciated!!

Please call our **security phone number at (978) 877-1338** if you 1) have a boating safety concern 2) are wondering if Security is free to inspect your boat outside inspection hours (free) 3) notice a non-resident at one of our 3 beaches, 4) see a floating dock lost 5) see a tree log drifting in the lake 6) if you need a tow home.

If you have an emergency, call the police directly.

Our Boat Entry Protocol



In order to prevent further introduction of invasive species into our lake, we will continue to staff the Island Road boat launch to perform boat and trailer inspections prior to allowing boats to be placed into the lake from the boat ramp. It is expected that anyone putting a boat into the lake from private shorelines follow the states regulations and guidelines for invasive species control.

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



Hickory & Wildwoods Hike

Residents enjoyed some natural scenery with a hike through Hickory & Wildwoods on June 2nd this year. Our local Hickory Hills Trail guide Doug Waters will be setting out again this fall for a walking tour of our Woods and beyond. Look for the fall date in our next edition of the Waves.

These hikes usually cover approximately 3 miles of our beautiful woods. If you're interested, but can't make any of his scheduled hikes advertised in our Spring & Fall Waves issues, feel free to contact Doug, and he'll be happy to take you out on another day. **Contact information removed for web viewing.**

A Successful Beach Clean-up Day!

It is VERY much appreciated that residents take an active role in keeping the lake property clean. Thanks to all of the dedicated residents who did a fabulous job bringing our 3 beaches back into shape after the winter.

We wouldn't be able to enjoy them as we do without these folks donating their valuable time and energy! Thank you to everyone involved!

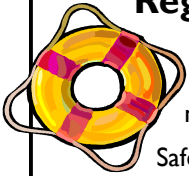


Wanted

Small HP motor to be used on small Jon Boat.

Contact information removed for web viewing.

Registration of Boats and Motors



All watercrafts and motors must be registered through the office. Boat stickers are \$20.00 for non-shareholders and \$10.00 for shareholders.

Safe Boating Guides are available at the office!

Please contact the office to get your boat or car stickers to park in one of our lots.

Annual Shareholders Meeting

September 21, 2019

The Hickory Hills 41st Annual Shareholders Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at the **Great Wolf Lodge in Fitchburg**. The meeting is open to shareholders of HHLI.

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 and vote in the management of the lake and a 50% discount on Boat Stickers, ID Cards and Releases. Become a Shareholder and have your opinions heard.

If you plan to attend the optional dinner and/or just the meeting, please complete the [registration form](#) and return it to the Office by September 1, 2019 (date & venue are corrected on the lower portion of the **ORANGE** registration forms and have been mailed to your home).

If you're not attending, please assign someone to vote your proxy so your vote will still count.

We hope to see you there!

Dave Queen Company

10% Discount For Hickory Hills Residents Only!



**Mention You're from
Hickory Hills on your next
New Roof or Repair project
and receive a 10% discount!
Call Dave at 978 732 8298!**



What YOU Can Do to Keep Our Lake Healthy



Gardening & Lawns

Growing a lush green lawn, beautiful flowers and hearty vegetables are gardening goals and applying pesticides and fertilizers are commonly used to achieve them. Unfortunately these chemicals can wind up in our lake and cause havoc with the aquatic environment, causing algal blooms and fish kills. Here are a few tips that will help minimize the impact:

- Avoid using fertilizer, if you must fertilize September is the best time. Use a slow release fertilizer.
- Don't fertilize in the Spring until you have mowed the lawn 3 times (again September is better!)
- More is not better! Avoid "step programs" of chemical applications.
- Mow high and leave lawn clippings, they help improve the lawns quality and your less likely to need fertilizer.
- Don't apply fertilizer when rain is predicted.
- Hand pick weeds when possible rather than treating them with chemicals.
- Sweep up anything on the pavement so that it doesn't get washed in the storm drains — including chemicals, yard debris and leaves.
- Sweep, don't hose the driveway, to prevent washing debris into storm drains.
- Consider using organic fertilizer such as bone meal, blood meal, compost or organic blends.
- Spread a thick layer of mulch in gardens (except for heat living veggies like tomatoes).
- If there's a drought, consider letting your lawn go dormant, it will come back in the fall.
- Grow native plants—they have adapted to our geography, hydrology and climate!



Watering

Conserving water can reduce the potential of washing contaminants into the lake. Here are some tips:

- Established lawns only need one inch of water per week, including rainfall.
- Adjust sprinklers so they don't water paved areas.
- Don't water in the heat of the day, water early morning or evening.
- Consider slow watering techniques, like drip irrigation or soaker hoses.



Dog Waste

Bacteria and other parasites in pet waste can survive for long periods on the ground. When it rains these pollutants can be washed into the lake.

- **BRING IT**—Always have a plastic bag with you when walking your dog.
- **BAG IT**—Use the bag as a glove to pick up waste.



- **DISPOSE IT**—Properly dispose of waste by flushing it down the toilet or putting it in the trash can. **Never throw into a storm drain!**

Read the Labels

Use phosphate-free or low-phosphate (less than 1%) automatic dishwashing detergents. Gel detergents tend to have less phosphorus than power detergents. Consider reducing the number of products you use that contain hazardous ingredients. Some household cleaner receipts can be found at



<https://www.naturallivingideas.com/homemade-cleaning-products/>



Care for your Car

The best way to minimize the effect washing your car has on the lake is to take it to the car wash...but if you decide to wash it at home:

- Use biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaners only.
- Minimize water usage. Use a hose with flow restriction to minimize volume and runoff.
- Wash on an absorbent area such as gravel, or grass. This can filter water before it enters the lake.



Maintain your vehicle, leaky fluids from your car can be washed into the storm drains

Plant a Rain Garden

Consider planting a garden with native plants along your driveway or road to trap stormwater pollution.



Maintain your Septic System

Pump your tank as necessary (usually every 3 to 5 years depending on usage). Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

Items that Aid the Environment: Available from the Town of Lunenburg



System Rain Barrels

\$56.00

55 Gallon Capacity

Capture Rain and help conserve water!

Earth Machine Compost Bin

\$43.00

Holds 80 gallons - ***Create your own Mulch Naturally—(keep compost area away from the lake)***



Purchase the rain barrel and compost bin together and Save! \$80 for both!



Kitchen Compost Bucket

\$5.00

Holds 1.85 gallons, mess-free food scrap collection, dishwasher safe

Create your own Mulch Naturally

Purchase at the Dept. of Public Works, 520 Chase Road, Mon.—Fri. from 8 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Exact Cash please
Or check payable to the "Town of Lunenburg". First come first served, limited supply.

Flyer created by the HHL Weed Mitigation Committee



Summer 2019

TAKE OUR LAKE CHALLENGE! DO YOU KNOW...





ALGAE BLOOMS

What is an Algae Bloom?

Not all algae blooms or surface scums are cyanobacteria, a harmful toxin. Anabaena and Microcystis are types of cyanobacteria (commonly known as blue-green algae) that grow naturally in most waterbodies. In certain conditions the algae may multiply quickly and result in dense, floating mats of algae, commonly referred to as an “algae bloom”. The leading cause of blooms is excess nutrients (particularly phosphorus and nitrogen) in the water caused by a variety of sources including septic systems, fertilizers and stormwater runoff. An algae bloom can be a variety of colors including green, yellowish-brown, or red. As an algae bloom grows, it consumes the dissolved oxygen in the water, resulting in a negative impact to the aquatic environment.

A harmful algal bloom is an algal bloom that causes negative impacts to other organisms via production of natural toxins.

What does a Harmful Bloom Look Like?

Blooms can look like:

- Slicks of opaque, bright green paint
- Pea Soup
- Foam, Scum or mats



If you see an Algae Bloom

Send an email to algae@hickoryhillslake.com Include the location of the algae and approximate size.

Your report of suspected algae will be followed up by a member of the WMG

What is being done?

The Weed Mitigation Group (WMG, a sub-committee of the Lake Management Group) has developed an algae protocol that identifies specific steps to be taken in the event of an algae sighting. If deemed appropriate, testing would be conducted to determine level of algae and presence of toxins. If testing reveals high levels of toxins, the area would be posted.

Should it be determined that treatment is appropriate it must be approved by the Lunenburg Conservation Commission who has strict guidelines on when treatment of algae is allowed.

The best prevention of algae blooms is to reduce our impact to the environment, and the WMG has compiled tips on how to keep the lake healthy.

To reduce the amount of surface algae, skimmers have been purchased to allow volunteers to remove surface algae. The WMG is conducting regular water testing for ph, Phosphorus and Nitrates. We also researching techniques to prevent algae blooms including the use of barley straw, alum and lime.

How To Protect Your Family & Pets

- Don't swim or boat in areas where the water is discolored or where you see foam, scum, or mats of algae
- Do not allow children or pets to play in or drink scummy water.
- If pets, especially dogs, swim in scummy water, rinse them off immediately. Do not let them lick the cyanobacteria off their fur.
- If you do swim in water that might contain harmful cyanobacteria, rinse off with fresh water as soon as possible afterward.

Sources

https://www.cdc.gov/habs/pdf/cyanobacteria_faq.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3x04sMkYlftZPFmt8Y_zPo37raumhyBMCoAPStSMD-7302tniMU7ZIM

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algal_bloom

<https://epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/Documents/HAB/>



2019 Boat Parade





Summer 2019

2019 Boat Parade





2019 Boat Parade





2019 Boat Parade

