

Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners Inc.

www.hickoryhillslake.com

978-582-6365

hickoryhills@net1plus.com

Summer 2020



READ ALL ABOUT IT: For our Residents...



<u>Facebook Groups:</u> <u>Hickory Hills Lake Community Info</u> is the informational, read-only corporate Facebook group. The HHLI Board of Directors, Office Manager, and committee chairs post here to keep residents informed about corporate activities and news. <u>Friends of Hickory Hills Lake</u> is a private, informal group that helps residents of Hickory Hills Lake communicate with each other.

<u>Waves Newsletter:</u> Published 3-4 times annually for the community and mailed or emailed if HHLI has your email on file (preferred, because it saves postage costs).

Email Notices & Reminders: Sharing news about events, meetings, calls for volunteers, beach clean-up days, etc.

<u>Hickory Hills Lake Website</u> - Our Website is <u>www.hickoryhillslake.com</u>. It has information on a number of topics, such as:

- Office/Contact Office hours, contact information, and services (such as stock sales, property releases, issuance of ID cards and watercraft stickers, accepts fee payments, etc.) HHL's Office Manager is Misty McGee, who handles inquiries and services.
- Committees Committee contact information if you would like to volunteer or learn more.

<u>Communication</u> - Members of the BOD help manage and promote communications with the residents of the Hickory Hills Lake community <u>Dam</u> - Manages the integrity of our Dam and ensures state compliance, manages seasonal water level drawdown.

<u>Diver-Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH)</u> - Removes the invasive weed Fanwort from our lake, oversees 3rd-party DASH vendors. <u>Fanwort Survey</u> - Finds and marks the invasive weed Fanwort in our lake for removal.

Finance - Manages financial planning of corporate funds.

Land and Resource - Manages Tree, Septic, Building and Main Beach Use requests. Maintains Boat lot, Canoe/Kayak rack, Wildwoods, Hickory Woods, office building, private roads, snow removal and beaches.

<u>Lake Management Group (LMG)</u> - Writes and submits the Lake Management Plan to Lunenburg Conservation Commission, fundraises, investigates best practices for weed mitigation, algae bloom prevention and erosion control, and monitors specific water quality testing requirements per Lunenburg Conservation Commission.

<u>Security</u> - Manages boat and trailer inspections into and out of our lake, patrols the lake verifying up to date boat stickers and proper ID cards and parking stickers for beach goers, removes floating logs.

Policy & Procedure - Periodically reviews existing Policies and Procedures, recommends new program policies as needed to the Board of Directors

<u>Weed Mitigation Group (WMG)</u> - Investigates best practices pertaining to weed mitigation in our lake, manages the Benthic Barrier resident & Fanwort programs, manages illuminated markers indicating Fanwort locations to boaters at night, works in coordination with Drawdown Committee's water testing work.

- •Capital Assets Reserve Fund Trustees oversee funds (acquired primarily through resident donations and gifts), determine investment strategies, and control how and when these reserve funds are dispersed. The fund was established in 2001 to improve the corporation's capital structure and financial base. Funds can be used for planned and unplanned capital expenditures that promote and conserve the welfare and betterment of Hickory Hills Lake. Your Welcome packet includes a form for making a donation to the Capital Assets Reserve Fund should you wish to do so.
- Forms & Documents Links to pre-approval forms required for activities such as tree removal, dock installation, building/fence/septic permits, benthic barrier requests. Pre-approval is required from both the Board of Directors and the Lunenburg Conservation Commission for any proposed changes to a landowner's property; this allows us to ensure compliance with provisions in our deeds and with all town and state regulations and codes. These restrictions assist in protecting our lake's water quality. You'll also find links to HHLI documents such as the Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Manual, and Prospectus.

We hope you find these resources (and more!) helpful as you explore our lake community!



LAKE PROGRESS REPORT:

Lake Restoration is Underway!

ESS Group was hired by the Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc. in early 2020 to develop a five-year comprehensive treatment plan to ensure the continued health of our lake. ESS presented an interim report outlining action to be taken in the Spring/Summer of 2020. Following their recommendations, the Board of Directors contracted with SOLitude Lake Management to implement this summer's treatments. SOLitude began the initial Fluridone treatment for Fanwort in late April with a plan for additional booster treatments as needed throughout the summer.



In April 2020, SOLitude surveyed both Hickory Hills Lake and Little Hickory to make an initial assessment. In April they applied Fluridone in both lakes to treat Fanwort. In May, SOLitude returned to assess the success of the first application and found that the herbicide had begun to work and that Fanwort was showing signs of absorbing the chemical. A Fluridone booster treatment was applied in May and June to specific areas, such as coves and areas of water inflow, to increase the level of herbicide.

Following Fluridone treatment, the tops of the Fanwort plant will turn white and the stalks will be pink indicating that the plant is absorbing the Fluridone and is dying. This is because the herbicide travels down the Fanwort plant from the top to the root ball. It has been observed that in very tall Fanwort plants in deep water, only the top 1/3 has been affected by the Fluridone. However, over the next few months (July – Sept.) the herbicide is expected to reach the root ball and the plant will die. In addition to treating Little Hickory with Fluridone, an Aluminum salt treatment, Alum, has been applied to prevent algae blooms.

Success! Fanwort is Dying!

SOLitude routinely takes samples of the lake water to verify that the Fluridone concentration is appropriate and they are monitoring the effect of the herbicide treatment. What they have found so far is exactly what they expected. The treatment is working well; Fanwort is taking up the chemical and it is beginning to die. SOLitude has guaranteed a 95% or greater reduction in Fanwort biomass at the end of the 2020 treatment season.

LAKE RESTORATION Q & A

- Q: Why do we restrict swimming and boating on the day of Fluridone treatment?
- A: The airboat which is used to apply the herbicide has no reverse and no brakes, so control is limited. As a safety precaution, SOLitude has requested that recreational use be prohibited on the lake when they are treating it. The restrictions are not due to any herbicide toxicity concerns.
- Q: Is it safe to swim in Fluridone-treated water?
- **A:** Yes, swimming is safe after chemical treatment. In addition, our experts have confirmed that Fluridone will not affect well water for drinking or household purposes.
- Q: Why should we not water our lawns and plants with water from the lake during this time of herbicide treatment?
- **A:** The herbicide is not toxic to humans but it is to plants. Since plants have chlorophyll, they will absorb the chemical, which will adversely affect lawn, shrubs and plants. Humans cannot absorb the herbicide so it is safe for swimming.
- Q: Should we hand pull Fanwort plants if we see them?
- **A:** No, do not hand pull Fanwort. The plant is in the process of absorbing the herbicide and it should stay intact, so that the herbicide can get to the root ball. The chemical travels down the stem to the root, where it is absorbed and the plant is killed.
- Q: What should we do about Fanwort Floaters?
- A: Floaters will have taken up the Fluridone and will be destroyed during the treatment. It is possible that a fragment will break off from the main plant and may be floating. While it is expected that there will be minimal floaters in August, residents can scoop them up and throw them away.

- Q: How confident are we that the Fluridone is working?
- A: SOLitude surveys the lake after each treatment and takes water samples to determine if the chemical concentration is being maintained. To date the concentration levels have been high, as expected. SOLitude has offered a 95% guarantee of effectiveness for 2020, and 85% in 2021.
- Q: When will we have the final results of the Fluridone treatment for Fanwort?
- A: Our consultant, ESS will be conducting a survey in July to assess the success of the Fanwort treatment program. They will be providing a comprehensive analysis of the lake and we will receive a detailed 5-year plan identifying next steps, expected in January 2021.
- Q: Where do I go to ask my questions about the lake remediation program?
- A: If you have any questions about the Lake Restoration Program, please email them to the HHL office at hickoryhills@net1plus.com. The Board of Directors will respond to all questions.





What You Can Do to Reduce \mathbf{Muck}_{2}

Biomass or "muck" at the bottom of the lake contributes to weed growth. Any algae floating on or below the surface should be removed before it settles to the bottom and contributes to the depth of the muck. The same goes for floating masses of weeds. Removing both floating algae and weeds is easy to do using a pool skimmer. Carry one in your kayak or canoe and as you pass a floating substance, scoop it up and put it on the front of your kayak. You can dispose of it when you get home. This is one step we can each take to lessen the amount of muck on the bottom of our lake.

Photo of an algae mat

****ATTENTION RESIDENTS****

LAKE WATER SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR WATERING PLANTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SOLitude visited Hickory Hills Lake on Wednesday, July 22nd to inspect the lake and take water samples and additional booster applications of Fluridone are likely going to be warranted. Thus, the NO IRRIGATION POLICY will need to be extended beyond the originally stated July 29,2020 date. We appreciate your understanding and patience!

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.











HHL 2021 CALENDARS ON SALE NOW!













Order your Hickory Hills Lake 2021 Calendar!

Each calendar contains 13 spectacular photos taken by lake residents. The photo contest resulted in over 230 entrants and each photo was evaluated by a panel of 3 highly qualified judges. One of the winning photographs was chosen for the cover and the remaining 12 photo winners represent each month of the 4 seasons. The winners of the photo contest will be announced soon.



Order NOW! You can place your order by emailing calendarorder@hickoryhillslake.com

Please list the number of calendars you would like to order.

Payment and delivery information will be emailed to you.

Purchase multiple copies and SAVE!

1 Calendar \$18

3 Calendars \$50

5 Calendars \$80

In order to receive the discount price, multiple calendars must be ordered at the same time.

Your calendars will be delivered to your home beginning the week of August 31, 2020.

These calendars will make great holiday gifts!

Calendar proceeds to benefit the Lake Management Group and will be utilized for lake restoration.



HHL Summer Edition of

The More You Know

Tree Removal, Fences, Dock Installations, and More...

Did you know...that HHL Inc. requires that <u>all</u> work on or in the lake be approved by the HHL Board of Directors? Many of us are out working on our properties this time of year, so it may be a great time to brush up our knowledge!

The original Dickinson Deed states that the Corporation owns Hickory Hills Lake and the lakebed thereunder, up to and including one (1) foot above the high water mark when the boards are in the Dam. This may translate into 5 or 6 horizontal feet depends on the topography of the land from the high water mark in land. HHL, Inc. requires permission for all work on this land and structures placed on this land including but not limited to docks, fences, garages, etc. The Dickinson Deed restriction also prohibits any structures including fences and fireplaces within 50 feet of the high water mark and prohibits any animals other than pets.

Got a dead tree that needs removal?

Removal of any tree greater than four inches in diameter within the entire Hickory Hills Association area **must** have prior HHL approval.

Remember: Lunenburg Conservation
Commission (LCC) has jurisdiction and authority
over any changes by or in a wetland. This
includes the land surrounding the lake. HHL
requires that residents wishing to do any work on
land around the lake obtain LCC approval.

If you are planning to do any work within 100' of a Wetland, or within 200' of a river (this includes any stream that runs year-round) or a pond, you should call the Town Conservation Administrator, who may make an appointment to walk your project with you and advise you of the appropriate forms to file. The Town Conservation Agent can be contacted at:

LCC@Lunenburgonline.com

or 978-582-4147 ext.431.



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 I) have a boating safety concern 2) are wondering if Security is free to inspect your boat outside inspection hours 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.





REMINDER

Dogs are Not
Allowed on any of
Hickory Hills
Beaches at any time

Make It Wright

HANDYMAN

Contact me for all your home repair and maintenance needs! Fully Insured.

(978) 501-1182

Veteran and Senior Rates, as well as a 10% discount for Hickory Hills Residents!

License # 182405



Beach Hours

The beaches are open from dawn to dusk. Please make sure your vehicles have a FREE HHL car stickers when parking at the beaches & are not in the parking lot after 8:00 p.m.

Final Notices for 2020 Annual Maintenance Fees

Your 2020 annual maintenance fees were due on May 1st. We realize these are unprecedented times, so if you have not, please contact the office to arrange a payment plan if still past due. We have received payment from most of our residents – Thank You!

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



Registration of Boats and Motors

<u>All</u> watercrafts (<u>including paddleboards</u>) 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 FREE car stickers to park in one of our lots.

Swim Seen, Swim Safe!

Open water swimming in our lake is great exercise and fun. Boating protocol gives swimmers the right of way, but in order for boaters to yield the right of way to swimmers the boater must be able to actually see the swimmer!

A swimmer peacefully gliding through the water can be difficult to identify by boaters especially on windy days when the surface of the lake is covered with ripples.

Swim Safe products can help make swimmers more visible to boaters. These products include brightly colored bathing caps and swim buoys.

If you enjoy open water swimming on Hickory Hills Lake, please take advantage of one of these safety items so that you are clearly visible to boaters so that you can Swim Seen, and Swim Safe!



Annual Shareholders Meeting ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the health and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19 pandemic. Hickory Landowners, Inc. has decided that instead of holding our 42nd Annual Shareholders Meeting on Saturday, September 19, 2020, we will postpone the full meeting until the first quarter of 2021, when we will also have the 5 Year Plan from ESS. We are still asking Shareholders to vote by mail on both the Nomination Committee slate and the FY21 Budget at this time. These documents, along with a mail-in voting ballot, have all been sent to you for review. If you are a Shareholder and didn't receive the mailing, please contact the office as soon as possible.

<u>Please Note:</u> In order for the corporation to proceed with the nominations and the budget for 2021, it is mandatory that we receive a quorum or more of signed responses from the Shareholders. It is very important that everyone return their ballot by mail as soon as possible.

33

Summer 2020

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, phosphatefree 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



Systern 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—Exact Cash or check payable to the "Town of Lunenburg".

First come first served, limited supply.

Flyer created by the HHL Weed Mitigation Committee



BIKES ON OUR ROADS

The weather finally really warmed up and among the lake activities are more bikes out on our roads! Most riders we see are casual riders, but the rules of the road still apply for all. Here are some tips to help keep everyone safe.



For Bikers

- Wear a helmet, your skull is worth it! Even experienced riders can find an unexpected patch of sand, or have a momentary loss of focus and go off the road, which can lead to an ambulance ride. I have seen too many helmets crushed, and riders' heads saved, not to put this first. If your helmet is more than 10 years old, or has been dropped a few times, get a new one. Both UV and falls can deteriorate foam and shell.
- If you're riding with children, WEAR A HELMET! Your child may just be riding in the driveway but it will be good for him/her to get used to wearing one whenever riding. Children tend to grow so make sure they haven't outgrown their helmets!
- Follow the rules of the road and make sure you're not the one creating an unsafe situation. Your bike may be human powered but is legally considered a vehicle on the road.
- Many bikers assume that cars automatically have to give them right of way, but make sure you're giving cars the room they need as well. Try to choose roads and time of day for riding so as to avoid unsafe situations.
- Make sure you're visible! If you're planning to ride on a busy road, some riders are using flashing lights these days, both front and rear. And those ugly unnatural colors actually serve a purpose -bright colors to improve visibility!
- Niding past parked cars is one of the most potentially dangerous situations. Be prepared for a door opening suddenly, or car backing out of a driveway, because drivers cannot see you until you can see the driver.
- If you're stopped at a corner where there is a bus or truck + trailer making a right hand turn, stay out of his way!! Long vehicles need room to turn and a trailer will cut the corner, so stay in back and give him room. Keep in mind he might not see you so if you're next to him be prepared to get off the bike and out of the way.
- When you stop and chat with another biker or pedestrian, make sure it's in a safe place away from an intersection, and better yet off the road.
- Some cars are quiet and sort of sneak up, or sometimes there's noise around you and you don't hear a car approaching, so a mirror can help. Some mirrors mount on the helmet, some mount on handlebars, so pick whichever is more comfortable for you. If you like gadgets then radar sensors are available that will alert you when a car approaches from behind!

For Drivers

- It is OK, really OK, to slow down if you're approaching a rider on a narrow piece of road, and see another car coming from the other direction. Slowing down will add no more than a few seconds to get to wherever you're going to.
- Some drivers will give a gentle horn honk to let bikers know they're approaching. This is fine if you're at least 50 yards back. Laying on your horn as you're passing a rider is NOT okay! If you do that to a novice rider you could surprise them to the point of causing them to swerve into traffic!
- Please be patient biking only lasts for a few months!





















Hot Dam!!

Dam Committee is happy to announce that the MA Office of Dam Safety has given final approval for the Dam Overtopping Project. They have accepted all the work as compliant with their requirements, as well as all plans and specifications. The work was performed on the earthen portion of the dam to improve the safety requirement from withstanding a 500 year storm (which it already met) to a new, more severe requirement known as 1/2 Probable Maximum Flood. Implementation of the plans, and obtaining certification, was led by John Fortune, but is also the culmination of many years of work by past Dam Committees, as well as past Boards of Directors, and the Shareholders and Residents who through their support and funding made it all possible. We should all be proud of ourselves and our neighbors who stepped forward and worked together, all focused on a single goal to benefit our entire community.

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



%

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.

If you see an Algae Bloom

Send an email to wmg@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

How Can We Be Sure?

Additional algae reports in several of the coves have been investigated and they have been determined to be filamentous algae and not a safety concern. Solutions to address this nuisance are being investigated and more information on the causes and possible solutions will be available when the comprehensive report from ESS Group is received in January of 2021.

There are a couple of simple tests that can be done to determine if blue-green algae is present:

The Stick Test – Push a stick into the surface mat and slowly lift it out the water. If the stick comes out looking like it has been dipped into a can of paint, the material is likely blue-green algae. If the stick comes out with green strands like hair or threads, the material is probably filamentous green algae, which may be a nuisance but is not a health hazard.



The Jar Test - Use gloves to fill a clear jar three-quarters full with lake water (not directly from the surface, but collected just under the surface). Set it in a refrigerator where it can be left without being disturbed overnight. The next day, carefully (don't agitate and mix the water) take the jar out and look to see where the algae has accumulated.

A: If the algae is all settled out near the bottom of the jar, then that is a likely indication that the lake does not have a lot of blue-green algae growing in it.



B: If, instead, the algae has formed a green ring around the top of the water in the jar, or just seem to be collected at the air/water divide, there is a strong possibility that the pond does have a blue-green algae community present.











2020 Boat Parade







www.hickoryhillslake.com

978-582-6365

hickoryhills@net1plus.com

Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners Inc.



Directors:

Paula Bertram

Mike Coulombe

Pete Cowley

Bobbi Turkington

Korina Veenstra

Doug Waters

Pauline Zirkle

Officers:

President: Neal Sullivan

Vice President: Katie Kissel

Treasurer: Donna Fortune

Clerk: Joan Pease

:OT

