



Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

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978-582-6365

Winter Edition
2020/2021

drawdown

An HHL Aerial Mapping by Eric Vickery

We wanted to leverage the full extent of the drawdown and good Fall conditions to map as much of the lake as possible for visibility to what may be of interest in these exposed areas. These aerial pictures are available at www.vickeryphoto.com by clicking on the "focus" menu and then "HHL drawdown mapping". The photos are named and sorted by Zone (with island indication) and direction of view.

If there is desire for higher resolution images or video for any specific research or purposes please contact Eric Vickery at vickerye@gmail.com or 978 855 1010

Some Important Info for this Season

Lunenburg Conservation Committee has allowed a drawdown of 48 inches on Hickory Hills Lake this year as well as the last few years. The Dam Committee has successfully held the lake to near that level most years.

As a reminder, we do a drawdown for three reasons, 1) to reduce the weeds along the edges, 2) to reduce the Muck along the edges through ice scouring and wave action, and 3) to give the lake extra capacity for early spring run-off. The best way to reduce the weeds and kill their roots is through exposure to multiple days of a deep freeze. In central MA, historically, the best opportunity for a deep freeze is in January.

A short time ago, the lake had risen to -34 inches; 14 inches higher than our winter drawdown target. The Dam Committee re-started the siphons to get back closer to the drawdown target and to take advantage of any January deep freeze that may occur. This will also allow residents to continue to clean their shorelines. Historically, Hickory Hills Lake has maintained a drawdown close to -48 inches the last few years and we can see improvement along many shorelines.



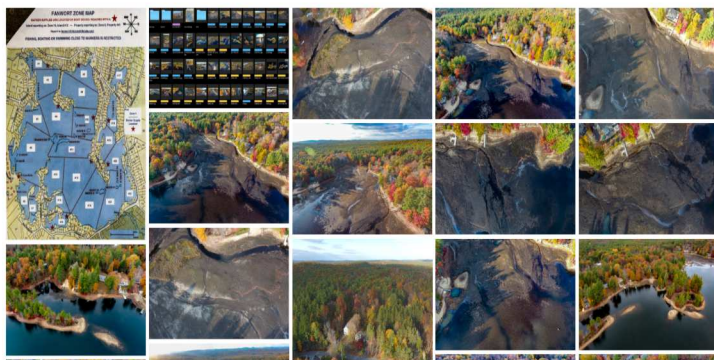
Snow Covered Siphon Bubbling
Photo Credit: John Fortune

eric vickery photography

home about events focus info contact vimeo link 500px Artistic Projects

hhl drawdown mapping

hhl drawdown mapping - naming convention is zone / island / view direction





HICKORY HILLS LANDOWNERS, INC. BUYS LIZARD ISLAND!

We are pleased to announce that HHLI Corporation has purchased Lizard Island! When the existing private owner expressed interest in selling the island, the BOD met to discuss the benefits and liabilities of ownership. It was determined that ownership of the island would preserve its use for the residents in perpetuity.

The Corporation received an unexpected tax refund through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), enabling us to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase this property very inexpensively at a total cost of \$5,782.80.

Lizard Island is an asset to lake residents. It provides tie-up locations for family swimming and recreation. We expect to continue to enjoy this island and all that it offers for many years to come!

Seeking Volunteers for Canoe/Kayak Rack Projects



HHL Board of Directors would like to repair an existing canoe/kayak rack at the Island Road Beach and add kayak racks at Hemlock and Brookview beaches. The racks will allow for more easy access to the lake by residents, who will pay a small usage fee for storing their canoes and kayaks there.

We are looking for volunteers to repair the existing canoe/kayak rack at Island Road Beach in the Spring. Construction of the new canoe/kayak racks could be done any time from now until Spring. What a great Winter project! (HHL can reimburse for the materials.) Anyone who is willing to help with this project, please contact the office at hickoryhills@net1plus.com.

The Hickory Hills Landowners community benefits greatly from many volunteers and we are very thankful for all their contributions.... from seasonal cleaning of beaches, providing labor to repair the dam, building plunge pools, donating picnic tables and for supervising this year's weed control efforts. Please consider offering to help out in the canoe/kayak rack project. Thanks to all in the community for their efforts in making HHL the "BEST"!!



Welcome to our New Residents!



We have had several new residents move into our community in 2020 so to them, we say, WELCOME! If you haven't already received yours, please e-mail the office at hickoryhills@net1plus.com for your **OFFICAL WELCOME PACKET** which contains a ton of useful HHL tips and info, trail maps, etc.!!



Got Snow?!



The winter has only begun and we're already receiving requests to remind our snowmobile friends to remember their neighbors and not encroach on ice skating rinks and private property.

We would like to remind snowmobilers and ATV riders to stay off the Islands and the dam. Recreational vehicles on

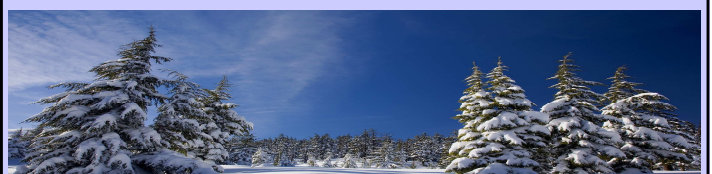
the islands and beaches damages the tree roots and causes erosion.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and keep your machine quiet after 10:00 p.m. Noise carries on the lake!

When riding, stay away from open water and think of safety first. Riders need to respect landowners and stay on marked trails! It is up to us as a community to police ourselves. Snowmobile and ATV riders need to operate their machines safely and with respect for the environment and their neighbors.

Please be considerate of your neighbors when engaged in winter use of the area, especially when operating a snowmobile, ATV, or drilling fishing holes in the ice. Sound carries on the lake, and loud machines roaring past homes late at night can disturb sleep. We urge all winter machine operators to show courtesy and respect for their neighbors within our lake community.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable winter!





A HICKORY HILLS

History

Class is in Session...



Hickory Hills Lake, 1938

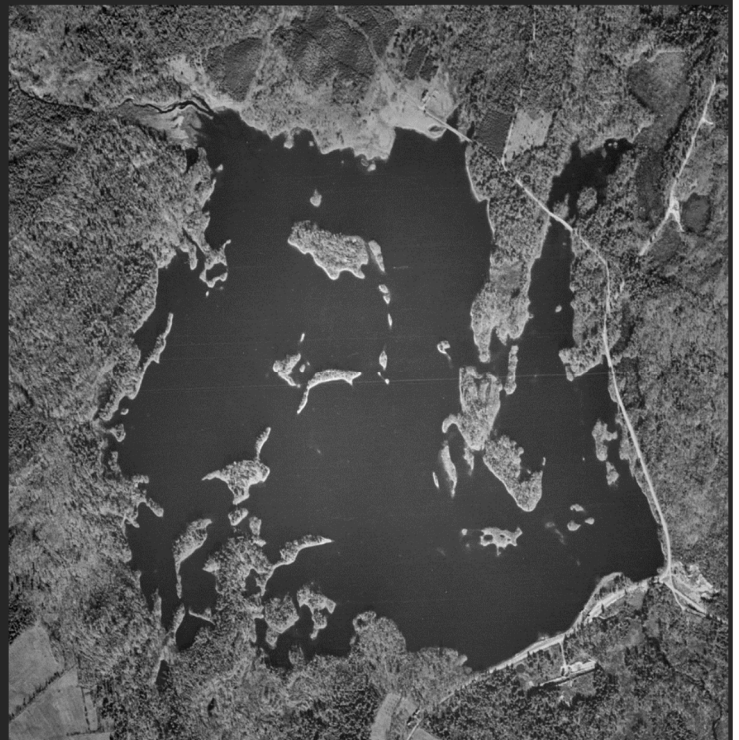
By Bob Pease



This is an aerial photograph that shows what the Dickinson Reservoir looked like in 1938. The land around the lake was still owned by Arnold Dickinson who lived in the house at 256 Northfield Road. If you look closely, the Dickinson boat house shows as a small white square at the present location of the Woodlands Village kayak cove.

A good deal has changed since this photograph was taken. In 1952, the lake and much of the surrounding land was sold to the Hickory Hills Lake Corporation who subdivided the land around the lake into lots and installed our many roads. As part of the development process, the lake was temporarily drained and the surrounding land was reshaped to create more house lots.

At that time, there were three islands where Peninsula Drive is now. Fill was used to connect the islands to the mainland to create one continuous peninsula. The photo also shows there were three additional islands that no longer exist to the west of the current location of Peninsula Drive. One could assume the material from these islands was used to build up the Peninsula Drive area.



In addition, you can see that a road used to go across the front of what is now the Island Road Beach. It also appears there was a cove to the right (east) of the of the Island Road Beach that has been filled in. Additional areas where islands were converted into peninsulas include Horizon Island Road, Birch Island Way, Hilltop Lane, and Hemlock Terrace as well as lots on Pine Acres Road and Townsend Harbor Road. The photo also reveals many of the lake's islands have become smaller or even disappeared due to erosion. Can you spot the islands that are no longer there? What other differences can you find?

Class dismissed!!





Winter Rules!



A Guide to Winter Use of Hickory Hills Lake Area

To ensure a safe and enjoyable use of the Hickory Hills Lake area, here is a quick refresher on 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 onto Landowners' facilities must be removed.
12. Vehicles may not be parked on public roads during snowstorms 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 dam 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.

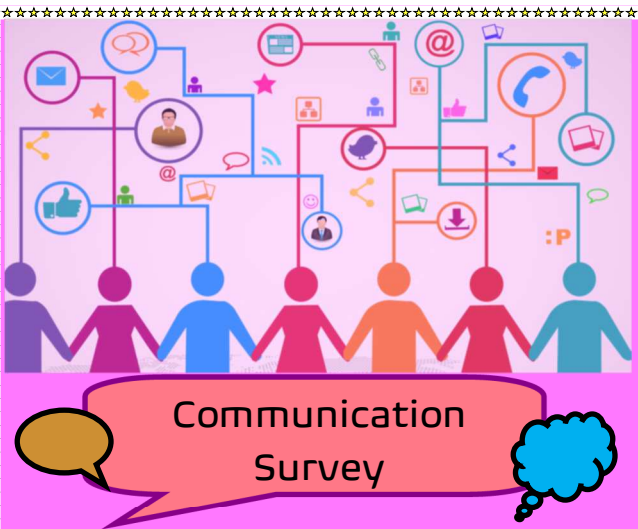
Be Safe and Have Fun!

HHL 2021 Calendar Fundraiser – A SUCCESS!



Thanks to all 230 residents who submitted a photograph in the calendar photo contest. Without your photographic talents, this calendar would not have been possible. The resulting calendar is beautiful...a stunning representation of life on the lake. Thanks also to the Calendar Committee, judges, calendar layout artist and sales promotions team. But most of all, sincere gratitude to all residents who supported our efforts by purchasing this year's edition of the HHL calendar.

The Lake Management Group's Calendar Fundraiser netted a profit of \$3,257. These monies will be allocated to the HHL restoration project.



The Board of Directors wants to make sure that the methods we use to communicate with you are as effective as possible. Therefore, we'd like to understand what you think about our current communication channels and what improvements we could make. Please follow the link to the Communications Survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9395FC>

The survey is due by January 18, 2021
Please make every effort to give us your feedback!



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 waterbodies 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/masswildlife.

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.

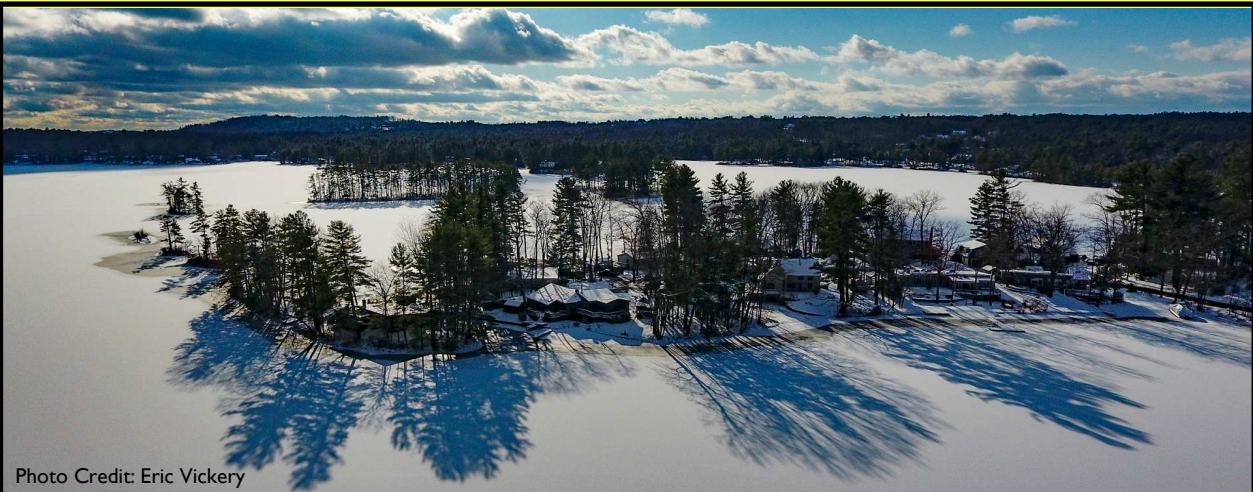


Photo Credit: Eric Vickery



Chef Jacques Torres' Famous Hot Chocolate With Whip

Makes 4 3/4-cup servings

INGREDIENTS

For the whipped cream:

1 cup heavy cream, chilled

For the hot chocolate:

2 cups whole milk*

50g (about 1/2 cup) milk powder

3g (about 1 teaspoon) cornstarch

1 cup 60% dark chocolate,

in disks or coarsely chopped

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST HOT CHOCOLATE FROM SCRATCH



*Note: This hot chocolate is very rich. If you like it slightly thinner, use 3 cups of milk.

PROCEDURE

For the whipped cream:

Pour the heavy cream into a medium mixing bowl and put it in the freezer for 5 minutes (If you don't have room for the bowl, just put the heavy cream in the freezer.)

Take the mixing bowl of whipped cream out of the freezer and whisk with a large whisk until soft peaks form.

For the hot chocolate:

Bring milk to a boil in a medium sauce pot over medium-high heat. Lower the heat to medium then add the chocolate, whisking vigorously until the chocolate is completely melted. Add the milk powder and cornstarch, still whisking, until everything is dissolved and the mixture is smooth and thick.

To serve, divide the hot chocolate among four mugs or glasses, then garnish each with a large dollop of whipped cream.

Time to Relax, but...

Where's McGrath!?

McGrath is hiding in 4 spots in our newsletter...can you spot him?

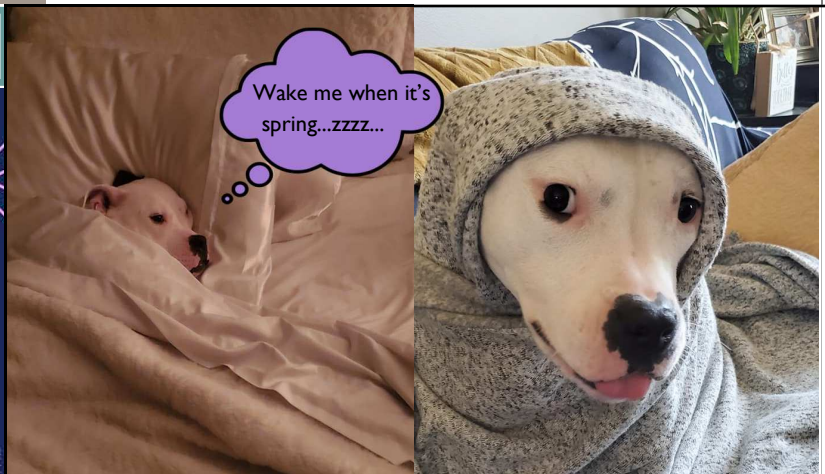


Bobbi Turkington &
Bob Vaughn's cat, McGrath



Say It...En Francais!

hiver – winter	frimas – wintry weather
neige – snow	neige fondue – sleet
glace – ice	poudreuse – powder snow
froid – cold	glacial – freezing, icy
gel – frost	bise – north wind
givre – hoarfrost	blizzard – blizzard
grésil – fine hail	congère – snowdrift



Misty's dog Zuul is NOT a fan of the cold! She hopes everyone stays safe and warm this winter!

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