



Friends of HRA, Inc., 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521 Tel# 413 668 6851

April, 2011

For those of you who have not been here, this has been a particularly Snowy, Cold and Windy Winter here at the Lake. The ice is typically out by St Patrick's Day but not this year...over two feet thick and slow to melt. The ice finally went out April 5, 2011 at 3 pm

There were a number of fishing derbies this winter and this was one of a Pike that came out of our lake.



The good news is that spring is here and one of our favorite birds is back – photo taken at the end of February.



## 2011 Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP)

Dennis Allard and Jim Dusza attended the 1/29/11 COLAP Meeting at Worcester State College

Some highlights:

**State Senator Steven Brewer** reported Natural Resources / Environment are represented well politically, but not so financially. Budget cuts, poor economy, etc...

### **Massachusetts DCR, Jim Straube**

Zebra mussels are in Laurel Lake and the Housatonic River. The DCR will be sponsoring ramp monitors at large state ramps to try and prevent any further spread. The DCR will sponsor weed watcher and organism watcher programs which should be good. They will be offered on weeknights and we will try to get interested groups a schedule.

**The Big Picture in Watershed Management** - How nutrient loading changes with development and Realistic expectations for watershed management. **Ken Wagner, PhD**, Water Resource Services  
Ken spoke of the impact of development on natural resources, focusing on phosphorous as a cause of environmental degradation. The focus is on phosphorous which stimulates algae growth which in turn stimulates Cyan bacteria ( one type is Blue Green Algae – which has caused the Army Corps to close Lake Siog for the past few years). The vast majority of Cyan bacteria can make you sick.

Within his data, Ken illustrated the best ways to maintain the environment

- a Move out; leave it alone
- b Source and activity controls
- c Capture and removal of pollutants (no better than 50% effective)

At 30% development, the insect population plummets and phosphorous climbs from 5 ppb to 50 ppb and with best management practices it can be reduced to 25 ppb, at best; never getting back to the initial level.

At 75% development, it climbs to over 100 ppb, no chance of returning to initial level, even with BMP. The area is NEVER the same again. New Jersey is even considering a run-off tax.

Fertilization, laundry soaps = phosphorous.

We ask you every year PLEASE-THINK ABOUT INPUTS TO YOUR SEPTICS and LEACH FIELDS and what you put on your lawn!!!!!!!!!! There are choices, readily available and not necessarily more expensive

### **Watershed Management** – Low Impact Landscaping for Lake and Pond Watersheds

#### **Bob Hartzel, GeoSyntec**

Major message is to use landscaping to stop direct runoff into lakes and streams. Shrub buffers, Bio-retention, and Planters used as buffers along edges of parking lots, roadsides, beaches, edges of your water fronts where water runs into the lake or a stream that ultimately runs into the lake .

## The Lake Oversight Commission ( LOC)

This spring the LOC sent out Requests for Proposals to treat the lake for the next three years. The responses are back and the Selectmen have approved the LOC recommendation to use Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT), the vendor we have been using for the last three years.

The LOC has also been investigating other non chemical ways to deal with the weeds.

It is important to remember that the worst in our lake is the very invasive milfoil. Milfoil is spread by fragments that reseed. So, when boats (The speed is irrelevant) drive through any milfoil and the easily cut milfoil is cut off and floats away, it is being spread. While it is nearly impossible to avoid all milfoil, there are heavy growth sections of the lake that boats routinely take rides through, motors fragment the weed exacerbating the spread. The only way to stop any spread is to pull the weed out totally, bag it and throw it in your trash. If you see any pieces floating in the lake or up against your shores or waterfront walls do the same.

At our Meeting in May we will be talking about the two other non chemical options that, after their investigation, the LOC thinks will work well here.

We have identified Asian Clams on both basins of our lake. These are invasive and can be as bad ultimately as the Zebra Mussels. We are hoping that this extremely cold freeze may have eliminated them BUT, If you see them attached to your docks ( hopefully not to your motors) pull them off and dispose of them ( DO not knock them off and throw them back into the lake!)

### Membership

We are looking for a volunteer to work with us on Membership. If you are interested please call the HRA telephone number 413 668 6851 and leave a message.

### Membership info

At the August meeting we discussed raising the membership fee. The Executive Board decided that these are tough economic times and many of our members may not be able to afford an increase at this time. Membership will remain at \$35.00. However, we are asking for those that can afford it to please consider making an additional donation. Remember we are a nonprofit and your membership and donations are tax deductible. We had a trial to see if reducing a membership by \$5.00 was an incentive to bring in new members. Since it did not work well and was very hard to track, we are no longer offering that program.

### Fund Raising

Please call 413 668 6851 to volunteer with our fundraising or if you have any fun and interesting ideas. Fund raising ideas being discussed for next year: Mohegan sun trip; lotto calendar; and meat raffle. Please call 413 668 6851 to help with fundraising. Be sure to leave name, telephone # and your idea.

**MEAT RAFFLE** Our FHRA fundraiser this year is an unbelievable deal-

For a \$5.00 ticket or 3 tickets for \$10.00 you are entered into our drawing to be held June 30th to win one of two gift cards - each for \$250.00 worth of meat (Chicken, hamburger, hot dogs, and steaks) at Big Bunny in Southbridge.

JUST IN TIME for that 4th of July picnic and the rest of the summer. You don't need to be there for the drawing to win. Winners will be notified by phone. And, you don't have to pick up all that meat in one trip either you can use your gift card over a period of time until you reach your total of \$250. Proceeds go to our Preserve the Lake Fund! If you aren't coming to the meeting and want to enter the ticket below - cut it out or make more copies and send them all in to **Friends of HRA, Inc. 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17 Holland, MA 01521** with your check(s) made out to FHRA.



Friends of Hamilton Reservoir Association, Inc.  
Meat Raffle – Big Bunny Markets

**(2) \$250 Gift Cards**

**\$5.00 per ticket or 3 for \$10**

(Chicken, hamburger, hot dogs, and steaks)

Drawing: 06/30/2011

Winners will be notified by phone.

Proceeds go to "Preserve the Lake Fund"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Mark Your Calendars

- *May 21, 2011*- FHRA Meeting at the Holland elementary school. 8:30 Coffee and, 9:00 Business meeting
- *June 12, 2011* is our annual Pancake breakfast at the Holland Senior Center. To Volunteer to help that morning please call FHRA 413 668-6851 and leave your name and phone #
- *July 4, 2011* North Side BOAT Parade, No rain date, starts at 10 am – details to follow
- *August 20, 2011* – Holland Aqua Riders Ski Show at PJs beach at 10 am.
- *August 27, 2011*- HRA Meeting including Election of Officers

**We need someone to be in charge of refreshments for our next meeting, please consider volunteering. If you are interested please call the FHRA cell phone at 413 668 6851.**

**NOTE: if the date printed above your name is not 2011 – YOUR MEMBERSHIP is not current . Every membership makes a difference. Please make sure we have your current email address if you'd like to receive email updates and/or newsletter via email.**

**HRA Membership Form – Membership \$35.00 per year per family  
Return to and Payable to: Friends of HRA, 27 Sturbridge Road, Unit 17, Holland MA 01521**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Holland Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

North Basin \_\_\_\_ South Basin (CT side) \_\_\_\_ Neither \_\_\_\_ YEAR PD \_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Holland Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU WANT newsletters emailed to you CHECK YES \_\_\_\_ here.

If you'd like to make an additional donation to our membership, please do so. \$ \_\_\_\_\_. All donations are tax deductible.

The FHRA phone number is 413 668 6851 – you can leave a message and one of the board members will return your call. If you need additional information visit HRA website [www.hamiltonreservoir.com](http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com).

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