



Friends of HRA, Inc. 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521

March 2010

COLAP

Jim Dusza and Chris McCooe attended this year's annual Massachusetts Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) meeting in Worcester on January 23rd. This year's main message was that funding will be tight. Although Washington has declared an end to the recession, we know better. In fact, this year's Department of Conservation and Recreation budget has been eliminated, from \$500,000 annually down to Zero. There are currently two men staffed to monitor the state's 3000 lakes and ponds. The outlook for 2011 is just as challenging. Please write to - Senator Brewer, Rep Smola, and Governor Duval Patrick's office and express your concerns. Stephen.Brewer@state.ma.us , rep.toddsbola@hou.state.ma.us

Massachusetts State House Office of the Governor Boston, MA 02133 Phone: 617.725.4005 888.870.7770 (in state) Fax: 617.727.9725	Springfield, MA Western Mass Office of the Governor State Office Building 426 Dwight Street Suite 300 Springfield, MA 01103 Phone 413 784 1200	Washington, DC Office of the Governor 444 N. Capitol Street Suite 208 Washington, DC, 20001 Phone 202 624 7713 Fax 202 624 7714
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(Please include your phone number on any written correspondence to facilitate a prompt response from the Governor's Office) You can email the governor by going to www.mass.gov and filling out the form provided on the governor's page

Some of the COLAP seminars they attended were:

Lake and Pond Restoration Techniques – This was an overview of how a healthy lake is defined followed by rudimentary management techniques. The General Environmental Impact Report was introduced as the document which guides the state's position on managing lake and pond resources. The GEIR Report is very comprehensive and requires a companion user guide. The documents are available for your reference and use.

Using the GEIR and DEP Guidance Documents for Lake and Pond Management Permitting Using the GEIR and companion documents can facilitate cutting through the red tape when it comes to applying for project permits. By following the guide, virtually all areas of permit questioning can be addressed making the application more comprehensive and direct. This was a valuable workshop for those involved in writing the paperwork to support our activities.

Community Preservation Act Funds - CPA funds are collected as part of our tax bills and are available for one-time projects or improvements. Maintenance or recurring actions are not covered by this money. We will be looking into the availability of these funds as they pertain to our projects.

The COLAP workshops are for anyone interested in maintaining our lake's health. Interested in attending future meetings or workshops? Contact one of our officers.

LOC

The Lake Oversight Commission (LOC) is working with the Highway Department and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in finishing the work on the Mashapaug Rd; at Fenton RD., Mashapaug Rd at Stevens Brook and Kimball Hill projects for the current 319 grant. The LOC has started the process of working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Committee for the next 319 grant – the application is due this June.

The LOC continues to work with the Holland Police to make the lake a safe and fun place in the winter as well the summer. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Fund Raising

As a non profit, The Friends of HRA continues to donate money to projects that help stormwater management around the lake. This year we donated money for materials for a project to stop the stormwater and sediment from Chandler and Chaffee Roads from running into the lake.

And after the water was drawn down in the fall, it was apparent that the sediment at the South Basin Boat Launch was so bad it would have made using the ramp next spring questionable. Friends of HRA donated the money to fund the project to dig out and remove the sediment.

We have also donated flowers and plants to the Holland Senior Center.

The HRA NEEDs VOLUNTEERS to organize and help with fundraising – please let us know if you are interested in helping out.

The Deadline to submit photos for the **Photo Calendar** is March 31, 2010 – The winner will win a **Free HRA** membership for the best photo. The best photos will be featured in our next 18 month HRA calendar (available at the May 22nd meeting) and the photographer submitting the VERY BEST picture will get a free membership. Send your photos in an electronic file to cmccooe@curtis1000.com

Pancake Breakfast – a date in June has not been decided on yet– If you are willing to help at this event contact Jim Iancale at 413 245 0016 or email jiancale@embarqmail.com

The First **HRA GOLF TOURNAMENT** will be held at the Hemlock Ridge Golf Course in Sturbridge on Saturday, July 31st starting at 1 pm. The first 70 golfers will play and compete for some prizes and a day of fun. Proceeds will go to the Save the Lake Fund. Bill Garrett has volunteered to Chair this fund raiser and needs a committee. If you are interested in helping please contact Bill at bgarrettnyc@gmail.com or Chris at 413 245 3666. If we don't get enough interest the event will be cancelled.

HRA GRASS SEED FUNDRAISER

The HRA is pleased to offer a new grass seed blend called "Pearl's Premium Ultra Low Maintenance Lawn Seed" or "Pearl's Premium" for short. Growing this blend of native & adaptive fescue grasses can save dramatic amounts of money, time, water and effort on your lawn. It's also much **safer for you, your family and pets**, as it requires no chemical fertilizer or pesticides to thrive. This grass grows 12 inch roots & is **drought resistant**. It crowds out most weeds when grown to 3+ inches tall & **stays greener all year**. Best of all, it grows slowly, **you'll only have to mow it once a month**. This is a fine-bladed, very soft dark green grass; perfect for lawns at your home or workplace, and **can easily be used to over seed your existing lawn**.

Through a special fundraising arrangement, we are able to offer this grass seed without taxes or shipping charges, and will get to keep a significant portion of all sales to support our lake. Jackson Madnick, spent 6 years researching, testing and developing this unique seed with a team of three PhD's who are turf experts, Mr. Madnick is an environmental expert & recipient of the AltWheels Regional (Environmental) Hero Award. His work has received commendations from two presidential administrations, the U.N. and Al Gore among others. Pearl's Premium has been called "the Holy Grail of Grass" because it is so low maintenance. This Old House Magazine June 2009 issue verified "Mow only once per month!" It received a rave review from the Globe, ABC, FOX & Chronicle TV.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, some lawn care chemicals and fertilizers contain neurotoxins, carcinogens, and have many increased health risks for children (learning and behavioral disorders), the elderly (for Parkinson’s disease) and our dog friends who are at 4 times the risk for cancer. This grass requires none, saving you money and reducing chemical runoff in to our lake.

An interesting fact is that in the last three recessions , macaroni and lawn fertilizer sales actually went up (that means more chemicals to run into our lake and more weed growth in the summer.)

Planting Time is IMPORTANT: Ideal planting time is when the ground temperature is between 50 and 70 degrees F., usually mid to late April thru first two weeks of May for sunny lawns and until end of May for shady lawns in the North East, then also Month of September to first/second week in October in N.E.. It is really easy to install over your existing lawn. Simple instructions come with the seed. For details, Frequently Asked Questions, & other information, go to www.PearlsPremium.com, the company's website. **Please see the order form on page 4**

BOAT RULES AND WINTER RECREATIONAL VEHICLE RULES

We have had many questions this winter about recreational vehicle rules both on the lake and on the roads around the lake. At this time, the town has no winter rules but, as with the boating rules, the Mass General Law (MGL sections 89 and 90B) rules for motorized winter vehicles apply on Hamilton Reservoir.

Some (not all) of the Mass Gen’l Laws pertaining to snow and recreational vehicles are:

- Snow and recreation vehicles must be registered except when used on land owned by the owner.
- Each snow or recreational vehicle shall be equipped with one or more headlights, a red rear light, a red rear reflector, and an adequate muffler.
- No snow or recreational vehicle shall be operated which makes an unusual or excessive noise or which emits obnoxious fumes.
- Operator and passengers must have protective headgear.
- The operator may not be under the influence of intoxicating liquor, or narcotics, barbiturate or marijuana.
- Age limits.
 - No one under the age of 10 years may operate under any circumstances.
 - 10-12 year olds - only if directly supervised by a person 18 years or older AND on the land on which the operator is domiciled.
 - 12-14 year olds on the lake if directly supervised by someone older than 18.
- No person shall operate within 150 feet of an occupied residence without the permission of the owner or when operating on the property of another for which permission was granted.
- Can’t drive on private property.
- When approaching a skier, snowshoer, hiker or other foot traveler shall immediately slow the vehicle and shall not accelerate until there is a reasonable distance of no less than 50 feet.
- Can’t drink in front of anyone
- After coming to a complete stop a snow or recreational vehicle may cross directly as possible a public way, except a controlled access highway providing that such a crossing can be made in a safe manner and it does not interfere with the free movement of vehicular traffic. No snow vehicle or recreational vehicle shall be operated on the main traveled portion of a way, or on that portion of a way that has been plowed or on a snow bank immediately adjacent to the plowed portion of the way.

Mark your calendar

The 2010 HRA meetings are Saturday, May 22, 2010 and Saturday, August 28 at the Holland Elementary School. Refreshments start at 8:30 and the business meeting starts at 9 am. We will have some interesting new information for you at the May meeting.

ORDER FORM

Sale! Price of \$34 per 5 pound bag (This Special price offer saves \$9.00 shipping & handling and tax). **Please pre-order your seed using this form.** Send this form Chris McCooe, 13 Lakeridge Dr., Holland, MA 01521. Include a check made out to Friends of HRA. Orders can be picked up at Hoyt's Finish Line parking lot on Mashapaug Rd on April 10th from 11-4pm. For order questions call Chris at 413 245 3666. **Please get your order in by April 2, 2010 – profits from grass seed sales will go towards weed control in June 2010.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Address _____

Pearl's Premium comes in 5 pound bags that cover 1,000 square feet; or it can be seeded heavily for a thicker lawn and fewer weeds. Seeded heavily, approx. 1.5 bags or 7.5 pounds covers 1,000 sq. ft.

___Number of 5 lb. bags of "Sunny" Mix for SUN to Partial Sun, covers 800 to 1000 sq feet)at \$34 each (no tax)

___Number of 5 lb. bags of "Shady" Mix for Full SHADE to Partial Sun- covers 800 to 1000 square feet) at \$34 each (no tax)

MEMBERSHIP

Check the date printed above your address label – that date is the last year you have paid your membership. 2010 memberships are due July 1st. You can pay in advance. Please mark your checks with the year you are paying for. Your membership matters – bring in a new member and receive \$5.00 off your membership dues. See new membership form

**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 : _____

To get a \$5.00 discount off your membership complete the New Member info below and include their \$35 membership fee along with your \$30.00 discounted membership. Thank you for getting a new member to join!

Referral Name: _____
Referral Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Holland Phone: _____ Home Phone _____
North Basin _____ South Basin (CT side) _____ Neither _____ YEAR PD _____ Check # _____
Holland Address: _____ Email : _____



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