



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

October 2011

From the President:

Hard to believe isn't it, another summer gone, so quickly? We are indeed lucky to have this wonderful resource. With warm days and crisp nights, the smell of dried leaves, and October skies, enjoy your time with the lake as the seasons change. This is a wonderful way to live.

This lake has played an important role in my life. I grew up here on the lake and I am happy to return home. I have enjoyed my first year as your president. I have met many of you, talked about more situations, and had more questions asked of me than I could have imagined. I hope my input is helping you. Thank you all.

My Comments on Erosion

Sediment loading into the lake is our top problem. Erosion is one of the top problems for any lake or pond with a mountainous watershed. My opinion and message is simple: be mindful of shoreline erosion and plane your boats rather than causing a huge wake as you drive close to shore; as you add ballast for wakeboarding and now surfing off the back of your boats; and, as you evaluate the size of your next boat purchase. Please be considerate of the lake and our resource.

DRAWDOWN

At the last HRA meeting we discussed a later date and a slower rate for the drawdown. Due to the short notice for such a change the Conservation Commission has decided to lower the lake on the same day as in the past. The drawdown will begin on Oct 11th, at a rate of 2 inches per day until the water level is down a total of 24 inches from its normal height. This typically takes about two weeks but that depends entirely on how high the lake is or isn't when they start and how much rain we have during that time. The drawdown is a non chemical attempt to control some of the weeds in the lake and also an opportunity for homeowners on the lake to work on their waterfronts before winter. The lake is allowed to freeze solid and after the hard freeze left down for at least another month. In order to accommodate downstream wildlife's preparation for winter, the state Department of Conservation recommends starting drawdown November 1 and letting it down at only 1 inch per day over the course of a month. We will keep you posted of any changes for the 2012 drawdown.

LAKE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (LOC)

The Chief of Police, Brian Haughey, and Officer Jeff Forcier attended the September LOC meeting to discuss 2011 lake patrols, as well as what we can expect for 2012. They had planned to be on both basins at least 12 weekends this year but due to a number of issues with the police boat, the tornado, and the hurricane, they were out only 4 times. They did do some additional patrolling from the shore and were able to identify violators. They were also out on the lake undercover and experienced more violations. They indicated that they have noted a drop off in phone calls reporting problems. Please call them when you see infractions either winter or summer. They are committed to responding to each call. The police dispatch number is 413 245 7222. The Police administration number is 413 245 0117. If it is truly an emergency - Call 911. It is recommended to take photos, note the date and time of incident, the infraction and the address or description of area on the lake when reporting any lake issues to the Police. While it is a town bylaw that docks have addresses, many do not. If you can describe the house or property it would make a big difference in the effectiveness of police follow up.

Selectman Michael Kennedy attended the September LOC meeting to insure that the LOC understood that any and all matters related to the dam were entirely the responsibility of the Selectmen. If you have any dam or lake/water level questions or concerns please direct your calls to the Selectmen. Their number at the town hall is 413 245 7108, ext. 101.

COLAP, the Massachusetts Congress of Lakes and Ponds

The 24th annual COLAP workshop will be held at Worcester State University on Saturday January 29, 2012. It begins at 8:00 a.m. and runs to 3 p.m. It is very informative with many topics to choose from and a great way to meet some very interesting people, see what is happening with other lake associations around the state, and learn a lot. If you would like to attend as a representative of FHRA, please contact Jim @ 245-7501. We usually sponsor two people. If you would like more information visit the web site is www.macolap.org

Weed Treatment

Last year we were unable to complete the Watershield Treatment due to the weather. This fall, the water shield and water lily were treated on September 26. The day was very calm and we expect excellent results. We will watch for any new growth and report on the results..

We also have a test patch going for manually pulled watershield on the south basin. We realize hiring a professional to vacuum harvest is expensive and we were curious about how much work was really involved and how successful it would be. Roughly 95% of the patch was cleared, all by hand, to get a feel for the effort and degree of success. Free diving and pulling root leads by hand with simple garden tools, it felt effective as we worked for it. There was a lot of fine root material, broken free and left floating. It will be interesting to see if this creates a new outbreak in the vicinity. We are comfortable this will be a good test and look forward to seeing the results next year and hearing the landowner's opinion.

Speaking of excellent results, we have had no major re-growth of milfoil this year. In years past we have seen a strong resurgence of growth late in July and August. This year, we have not seen it.

With each weed requiring different chemicals at different times of year and new types of plants showing up, aquatic weed management is a constant challenge for us. We have found another alternative that does not require chemicals, **Benthic barriers**. "Benthic" is a term used to describe something that happens at the bottom of a body of water. This term also describes a new approach to aquatic weed management. **Benthic barrier** products are usually sold in the form of flexible mats that are placed at the bottom of a lake to remove aquatic weeds. By blocking out the sunlight in a relatively shallow area of water they can remove the weeds from that spot in just a few weeks. The results last throughout the year. Plus, if removed and washed (away from the lake) the benthic mats are reusable, ensuring that weeds can be safely and quickly removed from multiple areas year after year. The fall is a great time to install these mats as there will be less methane gas created from decaying weeds or you can wait until spring and install them. There are many products available with different prices. Since we haven't tried them yet we can't recommend any one. Some companies provide installation and all give great directions for do it yourselfers. If you want to read more here are a few websites to get you started or you can Google benthic barriers. <http://www.lakebottomblanket.com> , [http://www,waterweedmat.com](http://www.waterweedmat.com) , <http://www.lakemat.com>.

FUNDRAISING

Trip to Mohegan Sun

In one word: Outstanding! Bev Aube arranged the bus trip on September 17th. Forty four people attended. We did a 50-50 raffle and the winner, Bev Aube, split the pot with the FHRA. Proceeds will go to the "Preserve the Lake" fund. It was voted to consider holding a casino trip annually.

Calendar sales are up but we still have some available. The 2011-2012 photo calendars include months from August 2011 through December 2012 (so don't be fooled). The calendar is a great holiday gift for your friends and family. Calendars are available at Holland Market and/or by calling Jim Dusza at 413 245 7501. Thank you to all that contributed photos. Please send your new photos for 2013 to Chris at mccooehanson@hotmail.com. Remember to take high resolution photos in landscape format. If you send your photo and would like your name attached to it for printing, please let us know.

The Annual Pancake Breakfast will be on June 10, 2012, the Sunday before Father's Day. Marti Tabb is organizing it for us this year please contact her if you are willing to help. Her telephone number 413 668 7881.

We also have some cookbooks left for \$8.00 Please contact the FHRA at 413 668 6851 if you are interested. Quantity discounts available.

If you have any interest in organizing a fundraiser in the future or any new ideas please contact the FHRA board by calling 413 668 6851 and leaving a message. You can also contact any board member by phone or email with your suggestions.

NEW SECTION - Advertising

The FHRA board is considering having others advertise their services in the newsletter. We are starting a trial in the Spring newsletter for advertising where members and other area businesses can advertise. The cost to do this can be made as a donation (tax deductible) and will help defer the cost of the printing of the newsletter. This Business Card Advertising is available for a donation of \$100 for one year in all issues. The ad must be submitted in a business card format and must be received by any board member as an electronic file or hard copy at least three (3) weeks prior to publication. You can scan in a real business card or set up the text in a business card size box that is 3 1/2 inches wide by 2 inches high. Ads can also be sent to Chris via email at mccoehanson@hotmail.com. All ads will be reviewed by board and approved prior publication. If this trial works we plan to make it a regular part of the newsletter. Below is a sample of a Business card ad.

INSERT Sample Add showing 3.5 x 2 dimension

<p><u>Sample Ad must be 3.5 x 2 inches</u></p>

<p>You can set up your add, send a file or scan in your business card save as a .jpg file and send to mccoehanson@hotmail.com</p>
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<p>Your ad will be reviewed by FHRA board</p>

<p><u>Call HRA if you have questions.</u></p>

Sad news – we had two members pass since our last newsletter.

Mary vandenBerg (Meime), who chaired the Holland Conservation Commission, served on the LOC since its inception, and was a long time member of the HRA, died in Michigan on September 2nd. Three of the Board members attended her memorial service representing the FHRA. Meime truly loved and cared about our lake.

Roger Wojnarowicz died Thursday, September 1st. In his obituary his family put "We also want to acknowledge Roger's family on the lake as well as all his friends at his piece of paradise that he loved. Roger loved his life on Hamilton Reservoir. Here he fished, swam, enjoyed evening boat rides with his family and friends, having long conversations by a late summer night's fire. A memorial contribution can be made in Roger's memory to the Hamilton Reservoir Lake Association, HRA, 27 Sturbridge Rd., Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521" We would like to thank his family and friends for the \$300 we have received in his memory.

REMINDERS

Just a reminder: It is a good practice to have your septic pumped every two years. With the hurricane and all of the rain we had the week following, the lake was up and flooding occurred, which is another reason to keep on top of septic and wells.

Mark your calendars: May meeting - May 19, 2012; August meeting - August 25, 2012; - Pancake Breakfast - June 10, 2012; and Ski club show is August 18, 2012. ****Please note-the HRA calendar says the HRA meetings are at the Holland Elementary School. The HRA meetings will be at the Holland Senior Center.**

We are looking for volunteers to coordinate next year's refreshments. If you can help please call the FHRA phone at 413 668 6851.

General Meeting Location has changed. We will be holding them at the Holland Senior Center.

A Trivia Question for you: Why is the water reddish?

A: The "tea" color of the water in Hamilton Reservoir is largely due to natural tannic and humic acids, derived from decaying plant and other organic material from the lake sediments. As the water warms during the hot summer months the color of the lake becomes darker, similar to water in a cup becoming colored as the tea-bag is immersed in hot water. This is a natural occurrence (Eutrophication) and common in ponds and lakes that tend to be shallow and have predominantly soft organic sediments.

NOTE: if the date printed above your name and address below 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.



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