



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

September 2007

After many years of applying we have been awarded tax exempt/non profit status as the Friends of HRA. That means the checks to our organization are tax deductible and we are in position now to raise more money in new ways to benefit our lake. Thanks to Carolyn Reardon for her guidance and hard work helping us reach this goal.

A.C.T., the company that the town has hired for the next three years to do the spring milfoil treatment, was out on the lake Tuesday September 4th. The HRA hired them to spot treat the watershed that they identified in a visit earlier this summer as needing treatment on both the North and South basins. They also treated the Phragmites on the North end of the North basin. They will be back on the lake later in the month to do their fall evaluation.

DRAWDOWN – Pending the Conservation Commission approval, the drawdown will begin October 9th. While it is weather dependent, typically the lake goes down approximately 2 inches per day until a total of two (2) feet below it's normal level is reached.

Fund Raising and FUN

The H.R.A. Fund Raising Committee is happy to report we raised \$2,825.00 - (\$2,250.00 from the Pig Roast and \$575.00 from the Mohegan Sun trip). This year Certificates of Thanks, which can be framed and hung at the business, were given to all who donated gifts for our raffles. Without these donors the events would not have been as successful. Many thanks to all who helped with the planning, selling tickets, working the events, and getting raffle gifts. Continue to watch our newsletters for upcoming events.

We are moving forward with the Hamilton Reservoir Association 18 month Calendar that we told you about at the meeting. We would like pictures for each month in a combination that really represents the lake whether they are fun, funny, beautiful, etc. Please email any digital pictures that you think we might like to use to Chris cmccooe@curtis1000.co by November 2nd or call 413 245 3666 if all you have is a print of the photo.

Also- There are over 100 workshops, conferences (local, state and national) and events, including over 30 hands on/outdoor events that you can share with your children or enjoy just on your own over the next 2 months listed on Townboard.org. These run the gamut from national conferences on such issues as land conservation, stormwater runoff and land use (this is international in scope) to local walks dedicated to learning about the flora and fauna of our region. There is something there to interest everyone. Please go to Townboard.org and click on "calendar" and check out the offerings for September, October and November.

Holland Lake Oversight Committee (LOC)

The work was completed on the Draft Final Report for the 604b grant that we received and submitted to DEP for review. As the community outreach portion of the 604B money the town received, Bob Levite of the UMASS extension gave a very informative presentation, at the last HRA meeting on how to reduce peak flows from residential sites by implementing on-site storm water infiltration and storage systems such as rain barrels, drywells, rain gardens and vegetated swales. Parts of his presentation are on our website as well as a list of good and bad plants to use in rain gardens and around our lake.

Here are some additional websites:

From Brooklyn Botanical Garden -<http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/design/2004sp_raingardens1.html> with long list of plants you can access from the site or go directly to it from the link on our website http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/design/2004sp_raingardens.html for rain gardens

The MA Low Impact Development site doesn't have much for plant lists but has some design details that may be helpful.<http://www.mapc.org/regional_planning/LID/bioretenion.html#D>

Check out the Website of a Non-profit org. out of the Chesapeake Bay Area - "Rain Garden Design Template for list of plants - mountain selections might be best of N.E.<http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/home.htm>

<http://www.appliedeco.com/Projects/Rain%20Garden%20Design%20Sheet.pdf> from a Wisconsin company but many of the plants work here.

Rain Garden Plants for Well-Drained to Sandy Soil

SPECIES NAME/COMMON NAME

Aster laevis - Smooth blue aster
Carex scoparia - Pointed-broom sedge
Echinacea purpurea - Purple coneflower
Elymus canadensis - Canada wild rye
Eupatorium perfoliatum - Boneset
Helenium autumnale - Dog-toothed daisy
Monarda fistulosa - Bergamot
Parthenium integrifolium - Wild quinine
Ratibida pinnata - Yellow coneflower
Rudbeckia hirta - Black-eyed Susan
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little blue stem
Solidago rigida - Stiff goldenrod
Sorghastrum nutans - Indian grass
Tradescantia ohiensis - Spiderwort
Veronicastrum virginicum - Culver's root

Rain Garden Plants for Poorly Drained Clay Soils

Asclepias incarnata - Red milkweed
Aster novae-angliae - New England aster
Carex hystericina - Bottlebrush sedge
Carex scoparia - Pointed-broom sedge
Carex vulpinoidea - Fox sedge
Elymus canadensis - Canada wild rye
Eupatorium maculatum - Spotted joe pye
Eupatorium perfoliatum - Boneset
Helenium autumnale - Dog-toothed daisy
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal flower
Lobelia siphilitica - Great blue lobelia
Pycnanthemum virginianum - Mountain mint
Rudbeckia subtomentosa - Sweet black-eyed Susan
Silphium perfoliatum - Cup plant
Solidago graminifolia - Grass-leaved goldenrod

From a company in Minnesota : http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/NR/rdonlyres/A1EF9F87-887C-4C56-96EF-BDCAF71CF895/6883/HowToBrochure_Revised20July07.pdf

New England Aster Cardinal Flower Fireweed
Blue Lobelia Yellow Cone Flower Blazing Star
Black-eyed Susan Big Blue Stem Little Blue Stem
Swamp Milkweed Boneset Kalm's Brome
Awl Fruited Sedge Smooth Blue Aster Butterflyweed
They also suggest at least 60% grasses and/or sedges

From Georgia http://www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox/other/cwc_raingardenbrochure.pdf

One particularly beautiful but **BAD** plant that Bob mentioned was the purple loosestrife and there is an equally bad but less numerous white loosestrife. Purple loosestrife has been spotted on the north basin of our lake at the boat ramp and in the pond across the street from the boat ramp.

You must pull out the plant before it spreads.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation says Purple Loosestrife is:
Capable of rapid growth and spread and, filling in of wetland;
Traps sediment, causing the water body to become increasingly shallow;
Displaces native species; Chokes waterways; and
Does not provide an ideal food habitat for native wildlife populations

Check out these web sites for information on this invasive weed:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/lakepond/factsheet/Purple%20Loosestrife.pdf>
<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/unitedstates/ma.shtml>

GRANTS

We were awarded the 319 grant that the LOC has been working so hard on. The local paper implied we need further EPA approval before we get the grant, but we have been told the EPA essentially rubber stamps DEP's recommendations and EPA reps are on the proposal review board. It's a done deal.

We expect a contract from the DEP in December or January at the very latest. The contract will be between Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and the DEP as it says in the grant application. We received the entire amount we requested and the project will be exactly what was spelled out in the grant application. The work will reduce the sediment runoff into the lake at the end of Brandon St., Stevens Brook on Mashapaug Road and two places on Maybrook Rd. As soon as the contract is in place we will schedule a kickoff meeting, hopefully at the January 2008 LOC meeting. Our first steps will be to issue an RFP (Request for Proposal) for an engineer to develop the Best Management practices (BMP) schematics we have from the 604B grant project into 100% design plans. Our goal is to issue the RFP in February/March 2008, hire the engineer, have design and permitting done by end of Summer/Fall 2008, issue the construction bid January 1, 2009, and build BMPs in the Spring of 2009. Simultaneously, we will also be doing the technical outreach to homeowners.

PROJECT GOAL(s)

The project goals are: 1) reducing sediment loading and associated pollutants; 2) continuing to decrease invasive aquatic weed populations, 3) reducing sediment loading from targeted subwatersheds, 4) insuring that watershed residents are knowledgeable about residential landscaping techniques and maintenance protocols for a healthy lake and, 5) the Holland Highway Department implementing an effective maintenance program for stormwater facilities.

In addition to these BMPs, the Holland Highway Department is committing to the construction of six new deep sump catch basins and the replacement of two shallow sump basins with deep sumps, street sweeping, and catch basin cleanout on roads in the watershed as a match to this project. Additionally, the Holland Highway Department has committed to the long-term maintenance of these BMPs once constructed. The Holland Conservation Commission is committing the treatment of milfoil in the North and South Basins of the reservoir as a match to this project. Additional funding for the aquatic weed treatment program is being committed by the Hamilton Reservoir Association.

The education and outreach component of the project will seek to reduce peak flows from residential sites by implementing on-site storm water infiltration and storage systems such as rain barrels, drywells, rain gardens and vegetated swales. Implementation will be offered on a cost sharing basis. For example, the grant might cover the cost of materials such as rain barrels and plants and materials for a rain garden and, the homeowner would be responsible for its installation.

Additionally, the H.R.A is committing to support this project through publication of education and outreach information in their newsletter and participate in annual lake and stream cleanups.

Total Project Budget \$380,380 (60% grant/40% matching)

The PVPC, working with the project advisory committee of the LOC, will solicit homeowners with erosion problems to receive technical assistance and recommendations. Residents will be solicited through notice in the local newspaper, the Hamilton Reservoir Association's newsletter, posted fliers at public locations, and a public workshop to be held in the early Spring (March). The workshop will discuss watershed dynamics and storm water management techniques for residential settings. The HRA will also participate in two annual lake and stream cleanups. We hope to have more information available for you at the Spring HRA meeting.

The next HRA meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2007, Saturday at the Holland Elementary School. Please mark your calendars.



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

The year printed above your name on the address label indicates the last year your membership was paid. Please check if your membership is due.

**2008 HRA Membership Form – Membership Fee \$35.00 per year per family
Return to: Hamilton Reservoir Association, 27 Sturbridge Rd. Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521**

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Holland Phone: _____ Home Phone _____ North Basin _____ South Basin _____

Lake Address _____ Email Address _____

Your membership DOES make a difference in preserving our lakes and all the properties surrounding them. Whether you attend our meetings or not – the HRA needs your support – more importantly our lakes deserve to remain clean, safe and enjoyable for all.