



August, 2012 Newsletter

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

OUR NEXT FHRA MEETING IS AUGUST 25, 2012 – Holland Senior Center -8:30 am Refreshments, 9 am Business

Weed Treatment

People are asking why we are chemically treating the weeds in the reservoir. Chemical treatment remains the most cost effective method of invasive weed control. We do have alternative methods researched and in trial at different properties around the shore and we'll share results and expectations at the August meeting.

This year's milfoil treatment went off without a hitch and, has been very effective. Thank you to the posting and unposting crew. We understand there is some late season growth on the north basin. This should be caught at our end-of-season survey, set to take place later in the month. We would like to know after treatment if you see any issues, give the treatment 15-20 days and please report to FHRA board. Below is an update report from ACT.

WEED TREATMENT UPDATE FROM AQUATIC CONTROL TECHNOLOGY, INC. (ACT)

ACT chemically treated the lake on June 14th. Prior to treatment, the lake had been surveyed by one of ACT's Biologist's to identify the different aquatic plants and to locate and map the areas of invasive Variable watermilfoil weed. Milfoil is the primary target plant for the June chemical treatment although the lake has also been "spot-treated" later in the summer to control the expanding growth of waterlilies and watershield. We're happy to report that the area of the lake requiring treatment of the watermilfoil this year was somewhat less than last year. That's a good sign that the ongoing management and treatment program continues to work. Water quality sampling in both the north and southern lake basins was also performed by Aquatic Control on May 31st. The water quality in both lake basins was generally good. No E. Coli bacteria were detected in any of the four samples that were collected. The presence of E. Coli at elevated levels may indicate the presence of potential harmful bacteria should people swim and ingest the lake water. The pH of the lake water was between 6.5 and 7.0 or well within the general range of 6.0 -8.5 which is desirable to support a healthy warm water fish population. The color content of the water was low to moderate. Nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) levels in the lake were also desirably low and especially so for Total Phosphorus which was less than 0.01 mg/l at all four sampling sites.

ACT will be back again later this month or in early September to assess the lake's plant community and to collect a second round of water samples for testing. A Project Completion Report will follow in the fall.

Water Level

This year has seen a significant low water level. As we've driven by the dam, we've seen water being let through the gate and asked why this is when the water level is so low. We are required by the MA DEP to keep water flowing downstream (which for us is actually north) for maintenance of wildlife habitat. The gate has been maintained at its minimal outlet rate. In addition, and more significant, is the draught we're experiencing. Excessive evaporation coupled with minimal rainfall is the driver behind our water loss. After the August 5th rain, we are back to nominal levels on the south.

Dam Integrity

The town is taking steps to maintain the property surrounding the dam. Saplings and seedlings have been cleared, grasses mowed, fences cleared. This is the beginning of maintenance actions outlined in a series of recommendations made to the town. More will be done this fall. The state requires that we have an engineering report filed every two years so another will be done this year. The maintenance will improve the dam's functional integrity.

Friendly Reminder on a Couple of Regulations ... please review regulations for more details ... will discuss more at meeting.

- No power propelled craft may operate at greater than 5 mph or headway speed, whichever is greater, within 150 feet of any shoreline being used as a swimming area of any wharf, dock or float. While this isn't always possible or practical, we understand the message. Be safe and keep the traffic off shore.
- Except in emergency, no person shall enter the waterfront area of a waterfront lot by means of any watercraft or otherwise without the permission of the owner or legal occupant of such lot.

Lake Patrols

The town has hired two part-time officers whose initial responsibility it is to patrol the lake. With these officers in place, the town no longer acknowledges a Volunteer Boat Patrol. They should be out each weekend for the remainder of the season. Take time to stop and introduce yourselves. Let's help them help us.

Draw Down

Although not yet approved by the Board of Selectmen, expect the drawdown to begin the Tuesday following Columbus Day.

Dates to Remember: Mark your Calendars – 2013 NEW FHRA CALENDARS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MEETING

FHRA Meeting – August 25, 2012 – Holland Senior Center, 8:30 am Refreshments, 9 am Business Meeting

FHRA Meeting – May 18, 2013 – Holland Senior Center, 8:30 am Refreshments, 9 am Business Meeting

FOXWOODS TRIP – Bus trip from Wal-mart, Sturbridge, to Foxwoods Casino – OCT. 20, 2012, SATURDAY ... TICKETS are available by contacting BEV AUBE - 413 245 0194, or FHRA Board member and AT OUR NEXT FHRA MEETING.

Tickets are \$25.00 per person, includes bus travel, food and gambling voucher and 50/50 raffle on bus trip down.

NOTE: if the date printed above your name and address below is not 2012 – 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'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.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP FHRA BOARD W/REFRESHMENTS OR FUNDRAISING.



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