



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

August 2010

We are always tracking weeds in the lake. If you have new ones that you don't recognize, please bag in a zip lock bag and contact Jim Duzsa at 245 7501 or Chris McCooe at 245 3666. We need the location on the lake that the weeds were found, address and date. You can send the sample directly to Aquatic Control Technology Inc, 11 John Rd., Sutton, MA 01590. Please be sure to include Hamilton Reservoir, Holland, MA and where the weeds were located.

You may remember that at every meeting we hold up pictures of a very invasive yet beautiful plant that you see along the highways etc. Purple Loosestrife.

We have noted a couple patches of purple loosestrife on the North Basin, around 72 and 74 Sturbridge Road, down by the dam. We contacted ACT, the firm that has been treating the lake. Here is their response.

Relative to purple loosestrife: "if there are only small patches, you can carefully hand-pull the plants or dig them out (trying to get as much of the root material as possible). Bag the plants you've removed and permanently dispose of them in a way so that they cannot re-grow. You should do this soon, while the plants are still in flower (over the next week or two) and before the seeds mature."

We will have color pictures of this invasive weed at our next meeting.

Lake Oversight Committee (LOC)

The Lake Oversight Committee (LOC) working with the Highway Department and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, has finished the work on the Mashapaug Rd; at Fenton Rd., Mashapaug Rd at Stevens Brook and Kimball Hill projects for the current 319 grant. There was also an additional stormwater management project on Mashapaug near PJ's that was done as part of this grant. The LOC has been working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission on the next 319 grant which was submitted this June.

At the last Lake Oversight Committee meeting the Police were asked about responding to calls. If it is a real emergency they want everyone to dial 911. They also have an administrative non emergency number 413 245 0117, where the calls are not recorded.

BUT if you have a situation that requires officer assistance you should call the dispatch number 413 245-7222 instead. It is manned and recorded and a police officer will respond. They ask for your name etc but it is a confidential call.

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

2010-2011 Photo Calendars are still available call Chris at 245 3666. They are also available at Holland Market and at the HRA August 28th meeting. These calendars are good thru August 2011.

The HRA needs VOLUNTEERS to organize and help with fundraising – please let us know if you are interested in helping out. Call 413 668-6851, let us know your ideas and availability.

Pancake Breakfast – the Pancake breakfast in June was fun and delicious. Thanks to Jim Iancale and all his helpers for a good job.

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 year 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.

While Massachusetts is one of the remaining states that does NOT require a boating license, knowledge of the rules is important. We are subject to all of the Mass General laws regarding boating, jet skis, Recreational vehicles, etc. The Holland bylaws reiterate some of them but not all. The Holland bylaws also add some of our own that are specific to the Hamilton reservoir such as " traffic on the lake must be counterclockwise. A lack of knowledge does not exempt anyone. Regardless of where the boat is registered, if it is in Connecticut waters those laws apply , if it is in Massachusetts the Mass General Laws apply. A good example of a difference is the age of jet skier drivers. In Massachusetts, anyone 18 or older can drive a jet ski.

Those who are 16 or 17 can drive only with a Mass boating license NO ONE under 16 is allowed to drive a jet ski in Massachusetts. The Connecticut law is different. Copies of jet ski rules will be available at the meeting.

If you would like to see what is available for boating courses, laws, etc the website is:
mass.gov/dfwele/dle/bostrvsafe.htm

You will find

IMPORTANT LINKS Massachusetts Boating Handbook: [Boat Massachusetts Boat and Recreation Vehicle Frequently Asked Questions](#) **Boat Massachusetts:** [Boating Safety Course](#) **MASSACHUSETTS BOATING AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLE LAWS** [Motorboats, Recreation and Snowmobile Laws \(Chapter 90B\)](#) [Summary of Boating Laws](#) [Recreational Vehicle Safety Information](#) [Summary of Personal Watercraft Laws](#) [Boat and Recreation Vehicle Regulations \(323 CMR\)](#) As well as **Additional information on Massachusetts boating and recreation vehicle laws.**

BITS AND TIPS

The Holland Seniors are sponsoring some activities in August that you might be interested in:
August 9th @ 12:45 **Grand Trunk Railroad** presentation with local historian and author Larry Lowenthal and Howie Fife . Christian Peterson will discuss hiking trails to the Grand trunk locales in Holland
August 16th @ 12:45 the **Lost Village of East Brimfield** presented by Lary Lowenthal and Howie Fife

Someone has illegally dumped pieces of trash in the Holland Elementary School dumpster. (a boat that had broken up small enough to fit) They are investigating and will prosecute. If you have trash or items that need to be disposed of, property owners in Holland can use the dump in Wales either Wednesday night 6-9 or Saturday morning .9-12.We have the price list on the website.

Also as the leaves drop this fall rake them and get rid of them. PLEASE- Do not blow or rake them into the lake.

Mark your Calendar

Remember the Friends of Hamilton Reservoir Association AUGUST meeting is August 28, 2010 - 8:30 coffee and 9:00 business meeting at the Holland Elementary School. This is the meeting where we elect officers. You do not have to be present at his meeting to run. If you are interested in running for President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, or Membership Chairman and won't be able to attend contact Chris McCooe at 413 245 3666

The 2011 HRA meetings are Saturday, May 21, 2011 and Saturday, August 27, 2011 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.

The Friends of HRA has a new telephone number 413 668 6815. It will probably roll over to voice mail but the officers are checking and returning your calls or forwarding them on to the proper person. So leave a brief message and PLEASE remember to include your name and the phone number if you want to be called back. You can still visit the web site www.hamiltonreservoir.com to get the personal phone numbers of officers.

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 August 28th meeting. All seed must be paid for in advance. For order questions call Chris at 413 245 3666. **Please get your order in by Aug. 23, 2010. The profits from grass seed sales will go towards weed control in June 2011.**

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 ft)at \$34 each (no tax)

____ Number of 5 lb. bags of "Shady" Mix for Full SHADE to Partial Sun- covers 800 to 1000 sq ft) 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. 2011 memberships are due July 1st. Please mark your check with the year you are paying for. Bring in a new member and receive \$5.00 off your membership dues. If you would rather receive the HRA newsletters by Email vs mail, either let us know at the August mtg or check YES below next to your email address on membership form. Also, please confirm that we have your correct 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.

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 # _____

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