



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

**July 2008 – Summer Newsletter**

It's Summer on the lake!

The May meeting of The Friends of HRA was well attended. Thank you for joining us. The next HRA meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2008 at the Holland Elementary School – 8:30 am refreshments, 9:00 Business Meeting – Please join us and bring your neighbors.

The presentation on Storm Water management techniques by our guest speakers from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) was excellent. Visit the [www.hamiltonreservoir.com](http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com) web site for more information. PVPC also explained how to go about applying for the Storm Water grant money. The application deadline was June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Helpful websites are:

*Conservation Practices for Homeowners Fact Sheet Series*  
<http://www.pwd.org/news/publications.php#Brochures>

*Rain Gardens: A Design Guide for Homeowners*  
[http://www.sustainability.uconn.edu/landscape/05-rain\\_gardens.html](http://www.sustainability.uconn.edu/landscape/05-rain_gardens.html)

*The Clean Water Toolkit and the National Menu of Storm water Best Management Practices*  
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/nonpoint.htm#megaman>

*The Massachusetts Storm water Handbook – Vol.2 Chapter 2 Storm water Best Mgmt Practices*  
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/policies.htm#storm>

The engineering work has begun on the four areas selected for improvement using the 319 grant money. We are hoping to begin work this fall.

Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. (ACT) is our new aquatic environmental company. The north and south basins were treated for Eurasian Milfoil on June 19, 2008. ACT spent approximately 4 hours on each basin extensively covering the shoreline and all the coves. ACT was contracted to come back on July 1st to treat the milfoil on the small pond off Mashapaug Road that feeds into the South basin. Both treatments were completed and done very well.

ACT also did a survey this spring as part of their contract to help us assess the current situation as far as other invasive species that we may need to address. ACT will be back on the lake at the end of July to do a post treatment survey of the Milfoil. They will also conduct another survey a little later this summer to evaluate the Watershield and Vallisneria (Tapegrass - Wild Celery). Please contact Chris Haller, VP Environment with any questions at [chrishaller@cox.net](mailto:chrishaller@cox.net).

When you see weeds floating on the water, please pick them up and dispose of them – don't throw them back into the lake. Broken off weeds floating on the water eventually will root and develop in other areas. Everyone can help by disposing of the weed fragments.

Since the Friends of HRA is a member of the Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) any interested members can participate in their meetings. The HRA will reimburse costs for our participants for gas for travel to the meeting.

**LAPA West 10th Annual Lakes & Ponds Symposium**

September 13, 2008 - Lee High School - Lee, MA (full details and directions – [www.lapa-west.org/events.html](http://www.lapa-west.org/events.html))

More info on the COLAP website: <http://www.macolap.org/index.html>

## Fundraising Update

**Pancake Breakfast** - The fundraising committee for the Friends of HRA is happy to announce that the first annual HRA pancake breakfast held on June 29th at the Holland Senior Center was a phenomenal success. The event was attended by Friends of HRA, their families and friends, as well as townspeople. Our thanks to the staff of the Holland Senior Center, Don Sanders (without whom there would have been no coffee or sausage), and the numerous volunteers who helped to make it a successful event that everyone enjoyed. Profits from the breakfast enabled the Friends of HRA to fund an additional weed treatment on the small pond off Mashapaug Rd. and to donate 6 much-needed folding chairs to the Holland Senior Center.

**Pasta Dinner** - In addition to the first annual HRA pancake breakfast, on July 12th, the HRA held its' first pasta dinner at the Pilsudski Polish Club in Southbridge. We'd like to extend a special thanks to the Frigo family, owner's of Frigo's Restaurants, for their generosity in donating all the food for the dinner. Friends of HRA received so many compliments on the delicious food. The dinner concluded with many attendees looking forward to our next pasta dinner. Not only was the food fantastic, so were the sounds of DJ Stormin' Norman and Lisa. The crowd was hoppin' to the rockin' tunes and the karaoke! Lou Aube, Ray Perleoni, and Bruce Hynes debuted the "talents" of their make-shift band, belting out a couple of crowd favorites. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the pasta dinner a success by selling 50/50 raffle tickets, setting up, great desserts and cleaning up. And, finally, thanks to Dick and Rick Hoyt, who donated a copy of their autographed book and Tee shirt to the raffle - the name of the buyer: Santa Claus.

Because of the wonderful efforts of the Friends of HRA fundraising committee and all who donated their time and effort, this year's fundraisers were fun.

**The photos of Pancake Breakfast and Pasta dinner by Steve Proko and collage design of the photo insert was done by Jackie Proko. Thanks Steve and Jackie.**

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

**Lotto Calendar** - Thanks to a few years of effort by members of the Friends of HRA, we are now a non-profit organization with the ability to expand our fundraising efforts to include opportunities such as the Lotto Calendar. The drawing for our 1st Lotto Calendar is just around the corner. Each day in September, a name will be drawn with a monetary prize that corresponds to the amount shown for that day. Winners' names will be put back into the drawing, giving everyone numerous chances to win. Tickets are \$10, contact Becky Hilbig at 413 245 8339. Tickets will also be on sale at the HRA August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**HRA Cookbook** - The HRA cookbook will be available shortly. It's full of recipes from Friends of HRA members, their families and friends. There is still time to contribute a recipe! The recipes can be for just about anything - homemade doggie biscuits, cleaning products, plant food - surprise us! Please e-mail your recipes to Bev Aube at [bevaube@cox.net](mailto:bevaube@cox.net) or bring your recipes to the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The Can Drive** - Becky Hilbig has arranged with Harrington Hospital for Friends of HRA to receive proceeds from all of the hospital's bottles and cans redeemed in the month of August. She provided the hospital with a letter explaining the purpose of the Friends of HRA fundraising events and the hospital chose us to receive their bottles and cans for redemption.

**November Wine Tasting** - The wine tasting will be held at Yankee Spirits in Sturbridge. For \$5, you will taste a variety of wines and foods that compliment the wine selections. The exact date will be announced.

**The HRA 2008-2009 photo calendar** was such a success that we had additional calendars printed. We still have some left for sale - \$10 each. If you or someone you know would like a calendar filled with wonderful pictures of the lake contact Chris McCoee. We are already planning for the next one so if you have some great pictures that depict the lake throughout the year - please enter the contest. Please keep in mind that when taking digital the photos that they will be enlarged to an 8x10 format and submit only electronic color files. The calendar is printed in 4 color digitally - include in the subject line of your email "HRA 09 photos" - any questions, please call Chris at 413 245 3666. Email address: [cmccoee@curtis1000.com](mailto:cmccoee@curtis1000.com) - you can also save your photos to CD and contact Chris to arrange an exchange.

HRA Caps and HRA golf shirts have been ordered and will be available at the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***A BIG SPECIAL THANKS TO BEV AUBE, JACKIE PROKO & BECKY HILBIG for all their hard work on these events !!***

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We apologize to any members that did not receive the April 2008 – HRA Spring newsletter. Due to some changes in our membership, treasurer positions, and a change in the software we have used to track memberships in the past some information and addresses were lost. We are in the process of validating and updating member information. If you have any questions, please contact Chris McCooe, 413 245 3666 or email at [cmccooe@curtis1000.com](mailto:cmccooe@curtis1000.com). Remember the past issues of all newsletters and other information can be found on our website – [www.hamiltonreservoir.com](http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com).

We have decided to have the membership year align with the Friends of HRA fiscal year – July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Your 2008 membership is good through June 30, 2009. When sending in renewal membership or new membership forms, please indicate clearly on your check and/or membership form the current year you are paying for. If you are paying in advance for more than one year be sure to include current and future year.

Total membership to date is 139 families for 2008. There are at least 400 homes on the waterfront of Hamilton Reservoir. Although membership is not mandatory we need everyone to participate. Please ask your neighbors if they are current members, if not offer them information. Information can be found on our web site at [www.hamiltonreservoir.com](http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com). HRA membership funds the Milfoil Treatment in Union, other weed treatments, and the future plans to help Holland with other lake maintenance projects.

Please volunteer your time and recruit families on and off the lake to join the HRA. Ask your friends and neighbors to participate in fundraising events. We still have photo calendars and Lotto tickets for sale. Get involved and work with us to preserve our lake.

We are still in need of a volunteer for Membership Chair – if you are interested, please let us know.

**VERY IMPORTANT** - Please check the date printed above your printed address – if it DOES NOT say 2008 - your membership is due. Please contact Chris McCooe if there are any changes to your mailing address or with any questions. She can be reached by email at [cmccooe@curtis1000.com](mailto:cmccooe@curtis1000.com) (reference HRA in the subject line) or call 413 245 3666, be sure to leave your name and phone number when leaving a message.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Holland Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Holland Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

North Basin \_\_\_\_\_ South Basin \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Paid Fee for Year \_\_\_\_\_

**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 –**



If you see Purple Loosestrife (above photo) notify Chris Haller or any HRA board member. Purple Loosestrife, a showy wetland plant that many find beautiful, should be removed immediately when first noticed because it is almost impossible to exterminate.



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**Next Meeting: Aug. 30, 2008 8:30 am  
Holland Elementary School**

**Is your membership current?**