



AND ... THE WINNER WAS ...



Louise Violette Congratulations!

The kayak raffle was very successful. We have saved the tickets and will be drawing some Consolation prizes at our August meeting. The prizes include Rain Barrels, shirts, hat, and a grand prize of a paid 2010 HRA membership. You must be at the August meeting to win. Thanks to all that helped sell tickets and to the Dennings for storing the kayak over the last year and letting us drag it in and out a million times.

We would like to thank Team Hoyt for letting us do the kayak raffle drawing at the Grand Opening of their Finish Line Restaurant. The restaurant passed out coupons at the opening and they have extended the offer to the HRA. You can cut out and use the coupon below for a free regular fountain drink with a sandwich purchase through the 12th of August.

For Those Who Missed The May Meeting

Holland's Assistant Tax Assessor, Joanna Higgins, addressed the members of the HRA - there is a mandatory assessment ongoing. Vision Company was hired to perform the assessment. She explained that CY2007 and CY2008 are used for market analysis. Spreadsheets for land values were handed out to attendees. Holland is changing how they tax. Beginning next year, the town will change from semiannual to quarterly billing. Joanne has notified us that she anticipates a drop in all values including the personal property assessment.

The Holland Police DEP Police will be at the meeting in August. Chris Haller has accepted the position as our new treasurer. Bev Aube cooked from the HRA cookbook and she and Lou provided the refreshments (THANKS)

ANOTHER REMINDER

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE GEESE and let anyone you see just how toxic they are to the lake. Also, members have seen others sweeping the duck droppings off of their docks and rafts right into the lake ... please do not dispose of the duck or geese waste in the lake.

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We are looking for Photos for the next printing of the HRA Calendar. Members are asked to submit seasonal photos of Hamilton Reservoir. Submit formatted landscape views (vs portrait in orientation) electronically on disk or in a file which you e-mail to Chris McCooe cmccooe@curtis1000.com and, if possible, submit a hard copy of your photo. Chris would prefer the photos on disk if you have more than one or two files to send. Although we don't want to discourage great summer shots, we need mostly Fall, Spring, and Winter since we get lots of summer.

Team Hoyt's COUPON

FINISH LINE

154 Mashapaug Road * Holland, MA 01521 * (413) 245-6043 H.R.A.

Regular Fountain Drink FREE

With Sandwich Purchase Coupon Expires Aug 12, 2009

Don't forget the Friends of HRA Cookbook for sale \$10.00 contact Bev Aube 412-245-0194.

2009 HRA Pancake Breakfast



The 2009 HRA Pancake breakfast was also a huge success. Thank you to Jim and Pat Iancale for heading it up and to all of the other cooks, servers and helpers for their hard work.

The proceeds from the kayak raffle, pancake breakfast, and the November 2008 Wine Tasting are being used for the pretreatment plant survey, chemical treatment of milfoil in CT, and the collection and analysis of lake water samples .

The lake was treated for Milfoil On June 23rd. A.C.T. was on the lake from about 10:45 AM until 4:30 PM. They treated the north basin first and then the south basin. Below is a letter from ACT.

UPDATE ON AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AT HAMILTON RESERVOIR

By Gerald Smith; President/Aquatic Biologist, Aquatic Control Technology, Inc.

In 2008, Aquatic Control was awarded a three year contract from the Town of Holland, to manage nuisance aquatic vegetation at Hamilton Reservoir. Prior to 2008, the Hamilton Reservoir Association (HRA) had contracted with us to perform vegetation management and chemical treatment of invasive variable watermilfoil (*M. heterophyllum*) throughout the CT portion of the lake. We were also retained by HRA to conduct more detailed aquatic plants surveys than had previously been performed, in order to guide and direct the treatment program. The direction for the management program that we've been following, after discussions with HRA and the Lake Oversight Committee, has been to aggressively manage the non-native and invasive watermilfoil weed throughout the entire lake and selectively treat other nuisance submersed plants where it reaches densities or abundance that would be a significant nuisance or impairment of recreational uses. Treatment is focused primarily along the developed waterfront areas of the lake. As professional Biologists and sportsmen as well, we are highly cognizant of the important role that native plants play in maintaining a balanced ecosystem and to provide the required cover and habitat for the lake's fish and wildlife populations. We ask that the lake residents be cognizant of these needs and constraints when they see some lesser weed growth other than watermilfoil. A number of the more common, native submersed plants found in Hamilton Reservoir, along with the invasive watermilfoil. (A description and copies of these plants are available at the August meeting.)

So far this year, we've performed a pre-treatment aquatic plant survey on June 2nd and the chemical treatment on June 23rd. Water quality sampling and testing was a new component added to the management program this year. Two samples

from each the north & south lake basins were collected on June 2nd and analyzed by a MA certified testing laboratory for a suite of common water quality parameters that as Biologist we use to gauge the condition or relative "health" of a pond or lake. We're happy to report that the test results were generally quite favorable, with no test result, so abnormal or out of a typical range of value that would cause alarm. Tests for E. Coli Bacteria were well within an acceptable range for swimming, Nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations, which are the two nutrients that stimulate aquatic plant and algae growth, were generally quite low as well. One needs to bear in mind that while these results are generally good, these results are but a "snap-shot" look at the lake's water quality at that point in time. Water quality can change drastically with the time of year and usage of a pond or lake. A second water quality sampling round is also planned for late summer. A more detailed discussion of these test results will follow in our year-end report for the project, which is typically submitted in the fall.

Our chemical treatment on June 23rd proceeded smoothly and without incident. Once again, I oversaw and performed the chemical treatment from our Panther Airboat, along with help from one of our Field Technicians. There was somewhat less watermilfoil this year than last year requiring treatment, which is a good sign, however, we still thoroughly surveyed and treated all required areas. We'll be back to check the lake again in August and will perform our more encompassing year-end plant survey in late August or September.

I hope you find this information helpful. I'd like to thank HRA, the Lake Oversight Committee and the lake residents for your active involvement with our work as well as your continued business.

Department of Fish and Game Takes Action

Department of Fish and Game Takes Action to Prevent Possible Spread of Invasive Zebra Mussels - Responding to local concerns, agency authorizes municipalities to restrict use of public boat ramps on water bodies susceptible to infestation; temporary, emergency measures to remain in place no longer than 45 days.

BOSTON - In the wake of last week's discovery of zebra mussels in Laurel Lake in Lee and Lenox - the first confirmed presence of the invasive species in Massachusetts - and in response to concerns from local officials in nearby communities, the Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) today authorized municipalities to enforce limited restrictions on the use of boat ramps at other Berkshire County water bodies deemed at-risk to infestation by the highly destructive species.

The purpose of Friday's action by DFG's Office of Fishing and Boating Access (OFBA) is to reduce the risk that boats that have recently been on Laurel Lake will transport zebra mussels to other Berkshire County lakes, ponds & rivers. Coming on the heels of OFBA's emergency closure of the state boat ramp at Laurel Lake on July 8, it authorizes local boat ramp managers to bar the use of boat ramps at susceptible water bodies by vessels ramp managers determine have been on Laurel Lake within the last 30 days unless boats in question have undergone specific cleaning and disinfection. These measures include thoroughly draining, flushing, cleaning & drying the boat - including the engine, bilge, ballast water, recreational equipment and anything else that has come in contact with lake water; using a bleach solution & high pressure hot water; and allowing the boat to dry for at least one week in dry weather & up to 30 days in cool, wet weather.

Under MA regulations, both today's OFBA action and the July 8 Laurel Lake boat ramp closure cannot remain in effect longer than 45 days without public notice and opportunity for public comment. The OFBA has authority to close state boat ramps, or authorize municipal officials to restrict access, for not more than 45 days if it finds that the immediate establishment of

management measures is necessary for the public health, safety or general welfare. Zebra mussels, which significantly alter lake ecology and can harm native animals, humans, and boats, can be unknowingly transported from one lake to another by boaters.

In addition today's emergency action, DFG and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced that they will host a public meeting at 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 15, at Pittsfield City Hall to present information on the status of zebra mussel infestation at Laurel Lake and boat ramp issues, provide background on zebra mussels and DCR's ongoing public awareness program in western Massachusetts, and discuss future actions such as what citizens can do to prevent the species from spreading.

The Commonwealth is committed to maintaining public access to these bodies of water as required under existing law, & its long-term zebra mussel mgmt. plan is focused on containment through public education & enforcement of rigorous boat cleaning rules. But restricting boat access on a temporary basis provides additional safeguards while state invasive species experts determine the scope & severity of the zebra mussel infestation in Laurel Lake, the possible infestation of neighboring water bodies, the level of risk that exists regarding transport of the mussels by boats from one water body to another, and appropriate management measures going forward. Temporary boat access restrictions will reduce the chance of accidentally spreading the species while state officials make the boating public aware of preventive measures.

As part of this effort, the DCR, which confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Laurel Lake last week, has provided guidance to officials of the Laurel Lake association, urging them to contact lakefront property owners and request that they not remove their boats from the lake. The association was also asked to distribute zebra mussel educational materials and post additional signs alerting boaters and others that Laurel Lake contains zebra mussels. Volunteer boat ramp monitors trained by area lake associations in cooperation with the DCR will help to enforce the boat ramp restrictions,

along with DCR ramp monitors trained by agency biologists. The DCR plans to hire two additional ramp monitors within the next two weeks to assist with this effort.

In addition, to determine the extent of the infestation, DCR will conduct surveys of Laurel Lake and downstream areas next week. Surrounding lakes in Berkshire County are being surveyed by DCR-trained volunteers and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The DCR's survey will target lakes with calcium concentrations and other water quality characteristics necessary to support breeding populations of zebra mussels. In addition, the OFBA's authorization for municipalities to restrict use of other Berkshire County boat ramps is limited to water bodies determined by DCR to have the water chemistry necessary to support zebra mussel colonies.

Ramps in Massachusetts that could have limited restrictions under this emergency measure include: Laurel Lake, Lee; Windsor Pond, Windsor; Stockbridge Bowl, Stockbridge; Richmond Pond, Richmond; Onota Lake, Pittsfield; Pontoosuc Lake, Pittsfield; Goose Pond, Tyringham; Shaw Pond, Otis; Big Pond, Otis; Lake Buel, Monterey; Thousand Acre Pond, New Marlborough.

A freshwater bivalve mollusk that looks like a small clam with a yellowish or brownish shell shaped like the letter "D," zebra mussels have been found in numerous lakes, ponds and rivers in the United States, including the entire Great Lakes region and Connecticut, New York, and Vermont. Nationally, taxpayers spend billions of dollars a year to control zebra mussel infestations, which, once established, are usually impossible to eradicate. Considered among the country's most significant invasive species, the mussels out-compete juvenile fish for food and cling by the thousands to virtually everything in a water body - including docks, boats, other aquatic organisms, and various water intake pipes and instruments. Microscopic juvenile zebra mussels can get into boat cooling systems and other water intakes and grow, completely clogging these systems. Found in numbers as high as 750,000 individuals

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Department of Fish and Game Takes Action

continued

per square meter, their razor-sharp shells wash up on shore, creating a safety hazard for beachgoers.

In 2005, DCR developed a Rapid Response Plan for The Zebra Mussel, which focused on public education, and preventing and/or slowing the spread of the mussels from one body of water to another. The plan directs the state to take steps to minimize the transport of the mussels when infestation is extensive. Steps may include "screening of outlets, curtaining of interbasin channels and preventing human use of the body of water." To view DCR's Rapid Response Plan go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/lakepond/downloads/rrp/zebra%20mussel.pdf>

DCR's Lakes and Ponds Program conducts ongoing zebra mussel education, outreach and monitoring, and has trained volunteers to collect samples to monitor the species. It was a DCR-trained volunteer who first detected zebra mussels in Laurel Lake. The DCR program includes informative boat ramp signage and an educational brochure on zebra mussels. DCR and DFG recommend that boaters who have boated in an infested lake thoroughly drain, flush, clean and dry their boat and all recreational equipment before launching it in any other lake. This includes the boat engine, bilge, ballast water, or anything else that has come into contact with the water. Boaters should use a bleach solution along with high-pressure hot water, and dry the boat for at least one week in dry weather and up to 30 days in cool, wet environments. For more information on zebra mussels,

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/lakepond/factsheet/Zebra%20Mussel.pdf>

Holland Has A New Board Of Health

This board is working with LOC to nail down testing of Hamilton Reservoir water. Testing will be done on a weekly basis in the areas where people swim and results will be posted on the HRA web site. To date results indicate that all measures are well within acceptable levels. If a homeowner has a legitimate concern about specific water quality issues they should contact the Holland Board of Health who is required to investigate all complaints.

The Army Corps has closed Lake Siog until further notice. No e-coli present. What they do have is cyano-bacteria contamination (purple/blue algae) and others. No one knows what is causing this.

The next HRA Meeting will be held Sat., August 29, 2009 at 9:00AM at the Holland Elementary School with refreshments at 8:30. Elections will be held at the August meeting. Please consider running for an office and making a difference.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - Please note: the date above your address label indicates the last year paid.

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 -**



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

**Next Meeting:
Aug. 29, 2009
8:30 Refreshments
Meeting at Holland
Elementary School**

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