



27 Sturbridge Road, Unit 17, Holland, MA 01521

July 2007

The spring meeting of the HRA brought out lots of members old and new. For those who weren't there - the current HRA Board Members are:

Chris McCooe – President

Chris Haller –Environment

Janet Lunig – Secretary

Bev Aube and Ray Perlioni- Fundraising

Ray Perlioni, Lou Aube - South Basin Harbormasters

Dave Sears - Membership

Kathy Perlioni - Treasurer

Lynn Arnold - Safety

Gerry Tabb – North Basin Harbormaster

Remember you can contact them directly by using the contact list on our website www.hamiltonreservoir.com. Thank you, Dave Bauchiero for always helping us to maintain our site.

The Holland Portion of the lake was treated for Milfoil on June 12th. The HRA contracted with a new company (A.C.T.) for the milfoil treatment for the Union, CT end - hoping for better treatment this year. The Lake Oversight Committee gave a proposal to the town for weed control for the next three years and the Town of Holland has awarded the contract for future milfoil treatment in Holland to A.C.T. The HRA will continue fundraising to pay for the Connecticut portion and other weeds that may need treating which the town does not pay for.

Robin Scott - Hamilton Reservoir property owner attended the latest COLAP meeting - Congress of Lakes and Ponds - a Massachusetts volunteer organization which represents all lakes and ponds within the state. The conference showcased some "Green" solutions to reclaim lakes and ponds from pollution and invasive weeds. These cutting edge systems show promise for eliminating or reducing the use of chemicals and other systems that temporarily treat symptoms but don't change the underlying problems of low water oxygen levels (often caused or worsened by pollution from runoff and septic tanks) and invasive weeds.

Canadian expert Danny Boudrais described how his Eco-Guide pond circulators, being tested on Dudley Pond in Wayland, move oxygen-rich water from the surface into the lower depths. More oxygen increases plant and animal diversity and the ability of native species to compete against invasives like Eurasian milfoil which tolerate low-oxygen conditions and drive the natives down. Water circulators (powered by wind or solar) ride on small rafts with a large, horizontal propeller just below the surface that gently moves the surface water down, where it spreads out in the lower depths. This is better than pumping air into low oxygen water which raises water temperature (which can be harmful). To see something similar: <http://www.pondmill.com/gallery/>

EnviroScience, a water quality consultant focusing on biology rather than engineering, described a native American weevil that finds Eurasian milfoil tasty but harms nothing else. After three two or three years it takes the weevils to get going, the weeds recede to a fraction of the areas they had infested. The weevils live in the remaining scraps of milfoil and maintain control year after year, at no additional cost.

After an up-front investment, there is no recurring cost, making these solutions both environmentally and financially sustainable.

Innovation has brought not only new technology and biological controls, it brings a reformulated "grass" seed -- actually a blend of native fescues which grows in sun or shade, needs no fertilizer, little or no watering (due to deeper roots) and mowing is optional because the fine blades just lie down as they get taller. Most fertilizer applied to lawns ends up in the runoff going into the lake, where it becomes a problem. Not only do the fescues in the Eco Lawn seed mix (see www.wildflowerfarm.com) not need fertilizer, but the longer blades slow runoff more and their deeper roots divert more of it, which means less erosion and less sedimentation of the lake.

Another high-tech approach using a plane equipped with five different bands of remote sensing equipment for pollution control was described by remote scanning expert Alan Cibuzar from AW Research of Minnesota. (<http://www.awlab.com>). There are two pamphlets that are available through COLAP - "More Than Just a Yard" and "Massachusetts Buffer Manual" which lists all native non-invasive plant species suitable to Massachusetts. We are always looking for members

to attend the COLAP events. The HRA covers the costs of attending. Please contact Chris Haller her email via the web site if you are interested. The meetings always cover interesting information that is relevant to Hamilton Reservoir.

Robin Scott also spoke at the HRA meeting about Biologs which he has used for the past 3 years to stop the wave erosion on his property. Biologs are cylindrical bundles made from coconut fiber and help with the vegetative buffer. You need a notice of intent for DEM (Department of Environmental Management) to use them – so if others are interested we might consider requesting a blanket shoreline permit for the lake. If there were others wanting the Biologs, Robin discussed a possible co-op purchase between everyone to help with costs. Please contact us if interested in pursuing Biologs for your property by writing Robin directly via email – robinscott427@yahoo.com – if you do not have email, contact Chris at 413 245 3666 – Deadline for orders must be in by the end of August and installation would be planned for the fall during the draw down.

At the HRA meeting, Dave Sears reported on membership and appealed to the attendees to promote membership by taking an enrollment packets and giving one to any neighbors who are not currently HRA members. Membership dues are used for making the lake a better place for everyone. Dave is also requesting e-mail addresses for all HRA members so that we have a more efficient way to disseminate HRA information. Dave has counted 400 houses on Hamilton Reservoir - we need to get everyone of these homes signed up as HRA members! Please insure that we have you current email address if you have one.

Our Fundraising Committee listened to what everyone had to say after last year's events and is hosting some fun activities this year. The Pig Roast was held on June 30th at the Holland Rod and Gun Club – it was a fun day for all, the committee did a great job organizing and working together to make it happen. The estimated profits were approximately \$2000. All money raised is used for weed treatment, and other lake maintenance activities such as storm drains and other related projects. The following businesses donated raffle gifts – thanks go out to them and all who worked hard to make the Pig Roast a success this year.

Village Pizza	Holland Market	Stone Fish
Paoletti's Farm	Wild Bird Crossing	Adventure Sports, Unltd
Melina's Menu	Rom's Restaurant	Fender's Drive-In
Empire Village	The Handmaiden	Jamie's Nu-Du Hair Salon
Bark & Bubbles	Curves of Sturbridge	Sturbridge Coffee Roasters
Sentimental Florist	Mid-State Auto	Robert's Auto
Annie's Country Kitchen	Soup to Nuts	Traveler's Restaurant
Curtis 1000, Chris McCooe	Aube Precision, Lou Aube	Morin Jewelers
Fred's Package Store	George's Pizza	Café of Life
Angelz Design Hair Salon	Sturbridge Baking Co.	

The Mohegan Sun Bus Trip was so successful last year that we have scheduled another for Saturday, Sept. 15th. The bus trip cost is \$25.00 and includes motor coach travel, \$10 voucher for food and \$10 voucher for gambling – all proceeds go to the "Save the Lake" fund. The bus leaves from Wal-Mart parking lot at Hobbs Corner, Sturbridge at 4 pm and will return around 11 pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance (only 54 tickets available) – contact Bev at 413 245 0194 or Jackie at 413 245 7035.

It was decided since our last meeting not to have the Poker Run and Boat Parade – due to lack of volunteers to plan and work those two events. If we can get a few more volunteers – maybe we can work on them for 2008.

Safety continues to be an issue on the lake. We all need to do a better job of getting information to homeowners. Please review the boating regulations with your guests and renters. There are many offenders of boat regulations on both lake basins. It is everyone's responsibility to enforce the regulations and help make our neighbors aware of them Existing rules are actually taken from the various chapters in the MASS General Law 90B and apply to all boats, snow mobiles, jet skis etc. in Massachusetts. For more information on Snowmobiles/ATV see Mass General law 323 CRM 3.00, especially for PWC. (CRM stands for Code of Mass Regs.) While the DEP (actually the Environmental Law Enforcement Agency) admits that all of the rules are not in one place, here is a website for *most* of the MASS boating rules: www.MASS.GOV/dfwele/dle/BOATRVSAFE.HTM - For ATVs etc: www.MASS.GOV/dfwele/dle/ATVSAFETY.htm. In addition to these, Holland laws include: all lake traffic is counterclockwise, only two people skiing or tubing behind a boat (not two tubes each with multiple people on them), and only steerage speed until 11:00 am on Saturday, Sundays and holidays from Memorial day until Labor day. Steerage speed is considered 6 MPH. Jet Ski safety was discussed at our meeting. It was noted that we have a 12 mph rule on all Jet skis, jet skis need to be 150' from shoreline, the driver must be 18 years old or at minimally 16 years old and have passed Mass. Safe Boating Law Exam and that the NO towing of anything (skier or tube) behind PWC (personal water craft) is a Mass law. Also noted was that all boats must go 5 mph by the shoreline. The Holland police will be patrolling the lake on various days this summer.

PIG ROAST – June 30, 2007



The Town of Holland officially recognized the Lake Oversight Committee (LOC) two years ago. Recently, an RFP was completed for lake management and the group also was awarded a grant for \$30K for surveys of watershed and the hiring of an engineering firm. The firm took assessments and did presentations with recommendations for the lake. This gave us current data needed in order to write for the next grant which we have submitted to the DEP in the amount of \$380K. This grant would give us funds to do address the Maybrook, Stevens Brook, and Brandon areas –using grassy dams with channels that will keep sediment out of lake. The LOC is also asking for money in the grant for materials to fix old catch basins, Holland will build and care for them. If we are awarded the grant money this kind of work would not start before January, 2008. Last year's \$50,000 grant that Senator Brewer tried to get us was cut from the budget in Massachusetts.

The LOC revised the dock laws over the winter and created the following new dock law - for safety reasons, all owners need to affix a permanent, readily visible label at least 3" high with their Holland street address to the end of each dock. The changes also cleared up the language including definitions about dock placement.

Winter safety on lake was discussed - the LOC committed to looking at Mass. laws and to determine if we need to put any additional laws into effect in Holland.

Please visit our HRA web site - www.hamiltonreservoir.com – there is information on the lake, boating laws, dock laws and fund raising info as well as membership forms.

We are hoping for non-profit status by mid August. There have been some delays and questions needed to be answered and re submitted. We can operate as a non-profit prior to receiving status for tax exempt. The non-profit company is called "Friends of HRA, Inc." – we will keep you posted on the details.

There has been some discussion among some individual property owners interested in pitching in together to hire the Lake Management company (A.C.T.) to treat some of the other invasive weeds on the South basin. If you are interested in participating in this – please contact Chris McCooe at 413 245 3666 – before July 12th - She will be arranging a meeting with the environmental company for July 12 at the LOC meeting. The timing on any weed treatment is important. The Watershield (the plant that looks like lily pads) is one of weeds that is being discussed. The estimated costs are \$1000 to put the boat on the water and \$550/acre.

The next HRA meeting will be held August 25, 2007 at the Holland Elementary School – starts at 8:30 for refreshments and the Business meeting will begin at 9 am. Enjoy the summer.

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 the properties surrounding them. Whether you attend our meetings or not -we need your support, more importantly our lakes deserve to remain clean, safe and enjoyable for all.



**27 Sturbridge Rd. Unit 17
Holland, MA 01521**

**Next Meeting: Aug. 25, 2007
Holland Elementary School
8:30 a.m. Refreshments**