



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

March 2009

Winter is almost behind us. The snow and ice on the lake has been recreational - a little skating, cross country skiing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, and just simple walks. Spring is around the corner.

If you were thinking that you had a possible Storm Water management project and didn't have time to apply last year, we have decided to reissue the Storm Water Assistance Fund applications this spring. The rules, forms, and the method for awarding the money will be the same as the ones we used in 2008. Plan what you will do, figure out the costs, and complete the application by end of June. The same matching requirements apply. That means that if you are awarded the money you will need to match by buying some materials yourself, by doing the labor yourself or by hiring someone to do the labor. You can find the information on our website at www.hamiltonreservoir.com. The new forms, instructions and new due date will be announced at the May meeting and in next newsletter. At the end of our May Meeting, we will have a presentation on possible storm water projects similar to the one we had last year.

Membership

A big push is needed in 2009 for increased membership. Talk to your neighbors and invite them to the May 30th meeting - let's all work to grow our membership. We will be posting lawn signs around town to increase awareness with hopes to increase our membership. We may need your permission to post signs on your property, please let us know if you're willing to help.

Tom Kayser has volunteered to chair the membership committee. He will be reaching out to members to participate in a membership drive this spring. The committee includes: Agnes Gallerani, Jim Kenney, Marti Tabb, Rich & Deborah Olewnik, Roy & Lorie St. Andre, Neil & Susie Callaghan, Cindi Harris, and Jim & Pat Iancale.

Membership is \$35 per year, per family. The membership year is from July 1st - June 30th. The membership form is on page 4 of this newsletter. A copy of the form can be printed from our website - www.hamiltonreservoir.com . Tom can be reached by phone at 781 316 7901 or email tjkayser@yahoo.com

The Lake Oversight Commission (LOC)

The Lake Oversight Commission (LOC) continues to work on the grant requirements, as well as lake health and safety issues. More about all of that at the next HRA meeting May 30th.

Remember we will continue to track homeowner work and costs over the next two years as matching for the 319 grant we received. If you have any projects that care for Storm Water management on your property please track the hours you worked and any costs and mail them to the HRA or email them to lfarnold2@aol.com. If you have done any cleanup on the lake or to the brooks that run into the lake that also counts - just track the date and hours you put in and submit a statement to Lynn.

Environment - Weed treatment - CoLap

Aquatic Management Program Update

Gerry Smith, president and aquatic biologist, with Aquatic Control Technology, Inc.(ACT) summarized the 2008 Management Program in a written report and at a presentation to the LOC on Thursday, March 12th. The program focused on controlling two invasive aquatic plants, variable watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) and watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*). According to Gerry, overall, the lake looked very good, after the June 20th chemical treatment for watermilfoil throughout the lake. The growth of native species (for the most part) appeared to be in reasonable balance. Maintaining native plant cover is important to maintaining the lake's ecological balance and providing cover and habitat for fish. The management of watershield or tapegrass (wild celery - *Vallisneria*) focused only in those areas of the lake where the plants are a significant nuisance for swimming or are encroaching on open-water. The complete report including maps and diagrams will be available at the HRA meeting in May.

Recommendations for 2009 include: (1) pre-treatment survey in May and again in Sept. (2) herbicide for milfoil control in June, (3) spot-chemical treatment of several areas of wild celery and watershield late in the summer (4) possibility of a base-line water quality sampling and analyses for the lake.

Safety issues

This winter the Department of Environment police were on the lake checking registrations of snow mobiles and all terrain vehicles. It is possible they will be visiting our lake this summer to inspect boat registrations. There are always complaints about the safety issues concerning reckless jet ski traffic, let's pitch in and be sure our recreational activities are safe for everyone. You can print copies of the boat and dock regulations from our web site. www.hamiltonreservoir.com

Fundraising

The November Wine Tasting at Yankee Spirits in Sturbridge, was successful, enjoyed by many and raised \$1500. for the "Save the Lake" fund. Thank you for your participation.

Our Big fundraiser for 2009 is that great Kayak we showed you at the meeting. Tickets are \$2 a piece or 3 tickets for \$5.00. This is a recreational kayak with paddles and is worth over \$500. The drawing will be July 1, 2009. Tickets are included in this newsletter - for you to sell and return sold stubs with payment in the enclosed return envelope to Chris McCooe. Let's all work to make this a success.

Clearwater Design NUNU – MSRP \$549.

Length: 9 ft. 6 in.

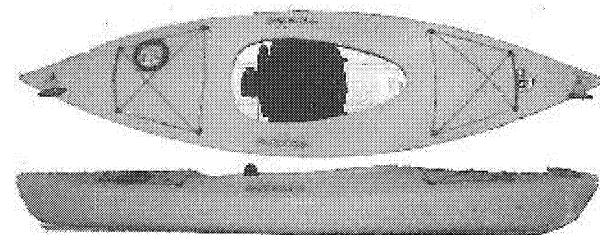
Width – 28 in.

Weight – 43 lb.

Capacity: 250 lb.

Cockpit Size: 34" in. x 16 inc.

Color: Aqua Blue

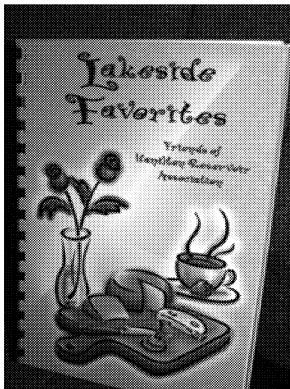


www.clearwaterdesignboats.com

Tickets for the Kayak Raffle will also be on sale at Walmart, Rt. 20 in Sturbridge on April 4 and June 20, 2009, and at Shaws in Sturbridge, Rt. 131 on May 23rd. Tickets will also be available at the HRA meeting May 30th. You can contact Chris at 413 245 3666 if you'd like to sell any tickets.

2008-2009 Photo Calendars are still available - \$10.00. The calendar dates go out to August 31, 2009 - Contact Chris McCooe at 413 245 3666 or email cmccooe@curtis1000.com. We are starting to search for pictures for 2010 calendar. If you have great photos for all months of the year and would like to compete for a spot in the calendar send them to Chris McCooe.

The 2009 Pancake Breakfast - at the Holland Senior Center, is set for June 14th - 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Ticket prices in advance of event are \$7.00 per person. They will be available at our May Meeting. Add \$1.00 for tickets purchased at the door. Contact Jim Iancale at 413 245 0016 or email him if you are interested in helping or for tickets - jpiancale@embarqmail.com for tickets.



The HRA Cookbook - has been completed and is for sale - \$10.00 per book. The cookbooks will be available at our May 30th meeting. Contact Becky at thehilbigs@cox.net or call Becky at 245 8339. Contact Bev at 413 245 0184

Attention North Basin Residents - July 4th Boat Parade. Celebrate the Fourth of July this year by joining in the 2009 North Basin Boat Parade on Saturday, July 4th (rain date Sunday, July 5th) Time and meeting place to be determined. All boats are welcome. So mark your calendars and watch for more information. Any ideas, comments or questions, contact Cindi Harris at 413 245 6892.

We are still in need of two HRA officers: a Treasurer and a Fund Raising chairperson. Jim Iancale volunteered to head up the Pancake Breakfast at the Senior Center but we are looking for someone to chair the committee and/or to chair the other events.

If you are interested in the Treasurer position or helping with the fund raising please contact Chris McCooe at 413 245 3666.

We also have new HRA golf shirts and HRA caps for sale at the meeting or by contacting Chris McCooe.

Please remember that if you make a donation to Friends of HRA, that donation is tax deductible. Some donations can also be matched by various organizations and companies we work for. Please look into the possibilities. The more funds we raise, the more we can contribute toward preservation projects around the lake.

If you have time to volunteer your services or if you have any ideas that would help, please let us know.

The next HRA Meeting will be held at the Holland Elementary School on May 30, 2009.

REMINDER your membership is due for 2009

MEMBERSHIP FORM - Please note: the date above your address label on this newsletter 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 -**



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Next Meeting: May 30, 2009
8:30 refreshments
9 am Business Meeting
Holland Elementary School