



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

October, 2010

### **The Drawdown**

The Town of Holland has indicated that they will begin the Annual drawdown on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The lake will be let down at a rate of two (2) inches per day until it has been drawn down 24 inches from its normal depth. Typically that takes two weeks but if the lake is high it takes longer. This year Union notified us that Mashapaug Lake will also have a draw down of three feet. They will begin Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Since the waters flow North into Hamilton Reservoir our lake will stay relatively level until they are done. It may add three weeks to our schedule.

### **ASIAN CLAM**

Jack Reed brought a couple Asian clams to our August meeting. The clams were plucked from the shore, north of the old Lodge on the Lake. These clams were introduced in 1938, into the Columbia River, Washington. They are found now on the East coast from Florida to Massachusetts, as far west as Southern California, on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Lake Erie, in Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Man is the major dispersant. Some states have taken steps to prevent the introduction of the Asian clam to their waters through legislation. In Massachusetts, for example, a 1987 regulation prohibits the importation, transportation or possession of the Asian clam anywhere in the Commonwealth. The biggest impact is fouling underwater intake pipes in power plants and water distribution systems. They are also known to cause problems in irrigation canals and pipes and drinking water supply pipes. You don't want these in your well. They do compete with native species for resources. Carp, large mouth bass, red ear sunfish, crayfish, raccoons and birds are its natural predators. We have no evidence our predators are keeping them in check. We need to keep track of its density and how it grows. Individuals are not bad but if they cluster like mussels they can be destructive. The Asian clam is likely to spread in North America until it reaches its lower temperature tolerance. Exotic species can be accidentally spread by boaters who travel from infested to uninfested waters. Some species (e.g., Zebra Mussel) can be picked up and transported on boating equipment, trailers, motors, tackle, downriggers, anchors, axles, rollers, and centerboards. This clam doesn't like cold water so hopefully the winter will help control our problem.

Things you can do to help eradicate these clams: As a boater, to avoid spreading exotic species, follow these easy steps before transporting your boat to another waterway or before any of your company or renters put their boats in our lake.

BEFORE leaving the boat launch:

- ▶ **INSPECT** your boat, trailer and equipment and remove any plants and animals.
- ▶ **DRAIN**, on land, all water from the motor, livewell, bilge, and transom well. Some exotics may not be visible to the naked eye.
- ▶ **EMPTY** your bait bucket on land. Never release live bait into a waterway, or transfer aquatic animals between waterways.

AFTER leaving the boat launch:

- ▶ **WASH** your boat, tackle, trailer, and other equipment to kill any exotic species not visible at the boat launch. This can be done with 104°F tap water, or a high-pressure sprayer. or
- ▶ **DRY** your equipment for at least five days-some exotics can survive for long periods of time out of water.
- ▶ **LEARN** what these organisms look like, and know which waterways are infested.
- ▶ **REPORT** any new infestations to any Sea Grant or your Department of Natural Resources.

## **DOCK LAWS**

Recently we have had some people ask "Why should I put an address sign on my dock?" Our lake has nine and a half miles of shoreline. Having an address on your dock easier to identify:

- 1) the location of an accident/injury for water rescue and police;
- 2) the location to report a fire, vandals, fallen tree, etc.;
- 3) the location of areas for weed survey and control;
- 4) your dock if we have another flood like we did in October 2005; and finally
- 5) It is the law and the right thing to do.

## **WEED TREATMENT STATUS**

It has been a challenging four attempts to treat the watershed over the last few weeks. That means putting up and taking down all of those required warnings signs only to find out that the weather had turned on us again and it was windy, pouring or both. Because it is a topical treatment, the water must be calm and rain free to be successful. ACT did spend part of one day on the lake attempting to treat the weed until the conditions made it impossible. A.C.T. completed 50 % of the targeted areas. They were out Oct. 5th to analyze the effectiveness. Overall, the initial treatment of watershed worked pretty well. They estimated that 60-80% control was achieved for the 50% watershed that they had previously sprayed. By the end of this summer many areas of the lake were seeing large patches of invasive Vallisneria or tapegrass. We decided to do a test patch to determine if anything could control this nuisance species. ACT inspected the pilot treatment area where they applied a tank mix of Reward (Diquat) and Nautique (Copper Carbonate) targeting nuisance Vallisneria (tapegrass). We are pleased to report that it worked well. Along with their visual inspection and 8-10 "rake tosses", they found NO viable tapegrass. They did however observe some low growing, seemingly new growth of Naiad. We will confirm the ID. We have not seen Naiad growing in higher densities at Hamilton Res in the past and we do not know if it will propose a nuisance or grow to problematic densities. The early season inspection in 2011 should indicate if a management plan targeting the Naiad will be necessary. **Thank you to the Carons, Martones, Andy Harhay, Mary Sears & Chris McCooe for all the work with those signs.**

## **ATV/Snowmobile law change**

On July 31, 2010 Governor Deval Patrick signed new ATV/Snowmobile laws into effect. There are now stronger, more specific, better definitions, and higher fines. The final version of the bill as signed by the Governor has been posted online. You can view it at: <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw10/sl100202.htm>. Unfortunately they don't rewrite a bill; they add and subtract. Below are only FEW of the changes:

-No person under 18 years of age shall operate a recreation vehicle unless he has successfully completed a recreation vehicle safety and responsibility course approved by the director of environmental law enforcement. Such course shall include, but shall not be limited to, notification of the potential criminal penalties and forfeiture process for certain violations of law relative to the safe operation of recreation vehicles. A parent or legal guardian of an operator of a recreation vehicle under 16 years of age shall participate in at least 1 session of the recreation vehicle safety and responsibility course. Proof of the successful completion of the course shall be carried on the person of the operator while operating a recreation vehicle. Proof of an operator's successful completion of another state's equivalent recreation vehicle safety and responsibility course, shall be valid in the commonwealth.

-No person shall operate a snow vehicle or a recreation vehicle unless the vehicle has been registered in accordance with this chapter and a registration number assigned by the director is displayed on the vehicle. The registration number shall be painted or by means of a decal or sticker which is firmly attached to both sides of the cowling of the vehicle and located so that both are clearly visible and not obstructed. The registration number displayed shall be not less than 3 inches in height and not less than one-half inch in width and shall be in a color that is in marked and distinct contrast to the background to which the number is applied. The registration number shall be maintained in a legible condition at all times.

-No person under 14 years of age shall operate an all terrain vehicle or recreation utility vehicle. This doesn't apply to a person operating a recreation vehicle or snow vehicle in preparation for, or while a participant in, a sanctioned race, rally or organized event which is supervised by a person aged 18 or older and which has

been authorized or approved by a municipal permitting authority within 21 days before such sanctioned race, rally or organized event or while a participant is in such a sanctioned race, rally or organized event.

-No person between 14 and 16 years of age shall operate an all-terrain vehicle or recreation utility vehicle with an engine capacity greater than 90 cubic centimeters.

-No person aged 18 years of age or older shall knowingly permit another, who is under the age of 18, to operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle in his custody or under his control in violation of this chapter. Lack of ownership of the vehicle or mistake as to the age of the operator shall not be available defenses to a violation of this section.

-No person shall operate or ride in or on a snow vehicle or a recreation vehicle or ride in or on a sled, inflated tube or similar article attached to such vehicle and which is pulled by such vehicle, without wearing protective headgear that conforms to minimum standards for construction and performance

No person shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle on publicly-owned property except on trails marked and designated for use by such vehicles, or without the express permission of the owner.

-Whoever being 21 years of age or older operates a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle: (1) with a percentage, by weight, of alcohol in his blood of .08 or greater, as determined by a chemical test or analysis of his blood or as indicated by a chemical test or analysis of his breath pursuant to section 24 of chapter 90; or (2) while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, or of marijuana, narcotic drugs, depressants or stimulant substances, as defined in section 1 of chapter 94C, or the vapors of glue, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.

-Any person age 18 or older with custody or control of a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle, who knowingly permits another, who is under the age of 18, to operate such vehicle shall be held liable, jointly and severally with the operator, for any damage or injuries caused by such operator's operation of the vehicle and for any fines, penalties or restitution resulting there from.

-An owner of a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle or other person who knowingly permits a person 18 years of age or older to operate a snow vehicle or a recreation vehicle in violation of this chapter shall be held liable, jointly and severally, with the operator, for any damage or injuries caused by such operator's negligent operation and for any fines, penalties or restitution resulting therefrom.

-Lack of ownership of the vehicle or mistake as to the age of the operator shall not be defenses in an action filed pursuant to this section.

-Upon conviction of, or adjudication of delinquency by reason of a violation the registrar shall immediately suspend the operator's license or right to operate a motor vehicle and shall revoke the registration of any snow vehicle or recreation vehicle issued to such person.

### **HRA Meetings and dates to remember in 2011**

- *January 2011* is the Congress of Lakes and Ponds (COLAP) meeting. We are looking for two of our members to attend. All of your expenses are paid including reimbursement for gas. These meetings have a tremendous amount of information. If you are interested in attending please call the FHRA phone number **413 668 6851**.
- *May 21, 2011*- HRA Mtg.-With the HRA recently becoming a non-profit organization (Friends of H.R.A. Inc.), it's required that we update and provide more detail in our governing by-laws. It is a larger effort than first thought! A six-member committee continues to work on refining the by-laws so that they can be presented and voted on at the Spring meeting.
- *June 21, 2011* is our annual Pancake breakfast. To volunteer to help that morning please call FHRA 413 668-6851 and leave your name and phone #
- *August 27, 2011*- HRA Meeting including Election of Officers

WE NEED SOMEONE TO BE IN CHARGE OF REFRESHMENTS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING. IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL THE FHRA CELL # AT 413 668 6851.

Fund raising ideas being discussed for next year: Mohegan sun trip; lotto calendar; and paddle boat raffle. Please call Chris 413 245 3666 to help with fundraising.

**Membership info**

At the August meeting we discussed raising the membership fee. The Executive Board decided that these are tough economic times and many of our members may not be able to afford an increase at this time. Membership will remain at \$35.00. However, we are asking for those that can afford it to please consider making an additional donation. Remember we are a nonprofit and your membership and donations are tax deductible.

We had a trial to see if reducing a membership by \$5.00 would act as an incentive to bring in new members. Since it did not work, and it was an accounting nightmare, we are no longer offering that program.

**NOTE: if the date printed above your name is not 2010 or 2011 – YOUR MEMBERSHIP is not valid. Every membership makes a difference. Please make sure we have your current email address if you'd like to receive email updates and/or newsletter via 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.

If you'd like to make an additional donation to our membership, please do so. \$ \_\_\_\_\_. All donations are tax deductible.

The FHRA phone number is 413 668 6851 – you can leave a message and one of the board members will return your call. If you need additional information visit our website at [www.hamiltonreservoir.com](http://www.hamiltonreservoir.com).



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