



# Waves

The Newsletter of Hickory Hills Landowners

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978-582-6365  
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Summer 2009



## HHL Beach Party

**Sunday, July 5th — Free to all HHL residents**

**4:00 PM at the Island Road Beach \*\*\* Rain or Shine**



Help “kick off the summer” and celebrate our independence! The Lake Management Group is hosting a party to build community and have fun! Meet your neighbors and come together to enjoy our beautiful lake. We’ll provide free hot dogs, hamburgers, cold drinks, and toasted marshmallows (first come, first served!), a live band, Chinese auction, 50/50 raffle and more!

Bring chairs, blankets, etc. (No glass please.) If you would like more information, contact Phyllis & Mario Andella at 582-4078 or [mandella1@verizon.net](mailto:mandella1@verizon.net).

### Annual Shareholders Meeting

**September 19, 2009**



The Hickory Hills Landowners 31st Annual Shareholders Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at the Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley. The meeting is open to all shareholders in Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.

Any property owner interested in become a shareholder can do so by contacting the office. There is a one time cost of \$240 to purchase a share. A share qualifies an owner to have a voice in the management of the lake.

A meeting notice and Shareholder Packets will be sent out on July 15. If you plan to attend the dinner and/or meeting please complete and return the registration form in your July packets and if you are not attending please sign the proxy box on the registration form and return to our office.

### Hickory Hills 2009 Annual Boat Parade

**July 4th, Saturday at Noon**

**From Island Road Beach**





## Lake Security Team

Welcome back to Calyn Jones and Ryan Spain !!

Both Calyn, for her third year, and Ryan, for his second year, have returned as our lake security for the 2009 season. They are experienced in their security duties and are well known and liked by the Hickory Hill Community. Both are recent college graduates with degrees in criminal justice. They are valuable assets in maintaining the security, safety and privacy of our pristine lake.

Security's duties include, but are not limited to:

Lake patrols in the security boat to check for boat stickers, horsepower violation, enforcement of safe boating practices, boater assists and no wake violations.

Daily security checks of the three association beaches by boat and road to insure that use is by residents only.

Non-residents are asked to leave.

Security checks of the roadways.

Inspections of the islands for trash removal, removal of rope swings and resident use only.

Checking cars in the parking lot for parking stickers and tagging non-resident vehicles to leave.

All action taken by the security team are documented and reviewed by the board of directors.

Cooperation by the residents with our security personnel has been outstanding and Calyn and Ryan's sincere dedication to our lake greatly adds to our overall sense of safety, security and privacy. Make sure you wave and smile at the people in the noisy red boat wearing the bright yellow tee shirts.

If you have a safety or security concern, please call the office at 978-582-6365 and leave a message with your name, address and a phone number. If you have an emergency situation call the police directly.

## Youth Program to Begin on July 7th...

Again this summer we are very excited to be able to offer a Youth Program.

We have hired Amanda Bertram as our Youth Director. This year we are charging a minimal fee of \$12 per week in order to cover the costs of running the program.



The program will run five weeks from July 7th to August 6th on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday from 9:00 to 12:00. The program is open to all children or grandchildren ages 5 through 12 of Hickory Hills residents.

A variety of activities are planned for each day including arts and crafts, nature walks, and sports, etc. We are looking forward to some great fun and weather!

If you would like to register a child for the program please go to our website [www.hickoryhillslake.com](http://www.hickoryhillslake.com) and print out the registration form. Send the completed form and check to Hickory Hills Landowners, P.O. Box 298, Lunenburg, MA 01462. Or place it in our drop box by the office door.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**For Sale:** 67 Sandy Cove Rd. We've done all the work, now it's available for you to enjoy. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, energy efficient Little House chock full of amenities. \$208,000. 315 -391-4439 cell

**2004 Bass Tender** - 17', 8hp, plus electric motors, fish finder, live well, trailer. Asking \$3300 or B.O. Call 978-582-9542.

**Free:** Four large barrels to be used for a swim/floating dock. These are free for the taking. Call Vivian at 978 -582-0809

**Land For Sale:** Large 2.75 acre wooded corner lot on beautiful Hickory Hills Lake. Approved 3 bedroom septic design, water view and lake rights, \$119,900. Please contact Linda Marble or view at [www.LinMarble.com](http://www.LinMarble.com)





## **HEALTHY LIVING- HEALTHY LAKE**

### **Protecting Hickory Hills Lake, its neighbors, and neighborhoods from chemical pollutants.**

Organic gardening and lawn care, which began as a grass roots initiative, is rapidly increasing in popularity as concerns deepen about the effect chemicals are having on people's health, the environment, and the overall quality of life.

The problem with growing and maintaining the "perfect lawn" and garden is the havoc it wreaks on both your wallet, and the environment. Products that are marketed to "help" grass and flowers grow do so in a very superficial way. It is a fact that many commercial products actually degrade soil, pollute water, and pose serious health threats to people, pets, and wildlife.

Becoming aware of the facts related to the use of fertilizers and pesticides, will hopefully contribute to a change of attitude in the way we maintain our lawns and gardens.

The information below was obtained from the MA Bureau of Farm Products and Plant Industries, as well from several websites especially the website of [www.organiclawncare101.com](http://www.organiclawncare101.com). It is hoped that you will seek more understanding about these concerns by contacting these resources.

### **FRIGHTENING FACTS ABOUT THE USE OF FERTILIZERS & PESTICIDES**

- Excess nitrogen and phosphates, (2 key ingredients in fertilizer) may cause water to become overgrown with unsightly, foul smelling algae, causing fish kills and lowering property values.
- 2,4-D, the pesticide in most Weed and Feed products is a neurotoxicant and contains half the ingredients in Agent Orange. Studies show that exposure to 2,4-D is associated with neurological disorders, reproductive problems, kidney/liver damage,



non Hodgkin lymphoma, and other cancers especially in children.

- Herbicides can be tracked inside the home, where they may remain up to 1 year, at levels 10 times higher than pre application exposure.
- Dogs exposed to herbicides and pesticides are twice as likely to develop malignant lymphoma. Exposed birds have reduced hatching success and birth defects. 60-70 million birds die each year from pesticide use. There is also a negative impact on earthworms, honey bees, and lady bugs.
- Because pesticides and nitrogen can dissolve in water, they have the potential of contaminating ground water-a source of drinking water.
- Herbicides and pesticides can damage healthy lawns by harming micro organisms, kill soil microbes, 60-90% of earthworms, and ruin soil structure.

### **ABOUT LAWN MAINTAINENCE**

- Lawns use 30% of water consumed each year.
- Gas powered mowers emit as much hourly pollution as 11 cars, and as many hydro carbons as a car driven 20 miles. A riding mower as much as 34 cars. Mowers use 580 million gallons of gas each year in the U.S.
- Garden equipment emits up to 5% of the VOC's (Volatile organic compounds) that cause health problems, and contribute to the formation of ozone.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR A "DRUG FREE" LAWN AND GARDEN**

- Use organic or slow release fertilizer.
- Fertilize in the fall. Be aware of weather patterns that may cause run off into drains and waterways.
- Keep lawns mowed high (3"- 3.5"). Longer grass retains water. Never cut more than 1/3 of height at a time, and mulch grass clippings to prevent most crab-grass seed from germinating. A healthy application of corn glutton in the spring will also help.
- Don't "freak out" over a few weeds. To crowd out weeds, reduce watering, and improve overall appearance, raise the height of your mower to 3.5".
- Clover in the lawn is not all bad. It is drought tolerant, stays green, fixes nitrogen from the air, (helps feed grass) and earthworms love it.

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- Aerate every couple years to eliminate thatch and allow air and nutrients to penetrate the root zone.
- Water in early morning to prevent the growth of fungi and minimize evaporation.
- Water deeply and infrequently to encourage root growth and help lawns survive droughts, and save on water bills.
- Mow grass only when dry.
- Sharpen blades at least once a year, or after 10 hours of mowing.
- DO NOT dispose of grass clippings in nearby water. They break down quickly and encourage growth of algae which can negatively impact fish populations.
- Consider using native grass seed. One example is "Pearls Premium". Pearls is a product that claims to be environmentally safe and will save the homeowner significant amounts of water, time, money and energy. A test site is being conducted at 163 Island Rd. Stay tuned for updates on progress.
- Shop around; there are plenty of good organic products available locally.
- If you have had experience with organic products, please let others know.
- For step by step instructions for growing an organic lawn, either from scratch or over an existing lawn, see info. @ Pearls premium website [www.pearlspremium.com](http://www.pearlspremium.com) or go to <http://www.organiclawncare101.com>.

Helping to keep our lake beautiful and Hickory Hills neighborhoods healthy. We are your neighbors...

**Kerry Sullivan and Betty MacDonald**

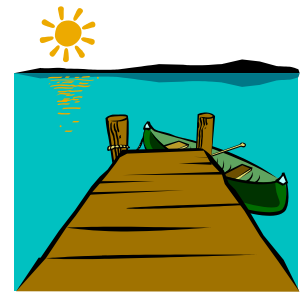
[kerrysullivan163@comcast.net](mailto:kerrysullivan163@comcast.net)

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We look forward to meeting and talking with you at upcoming lake events this summer.



## Lake Management Group Update



The Hickory Hills Lake Management Group (LMG) has been extremely active since it was formed in the late fall of 2008. The group has identified some major concerns which include:

- ◇ overgrowth of vegetation, limiting boat access to several coves
- ◇ dramatic increase in built-up silt and sediment at the mouth of Mulpus Brook
- ◇ storm runoff of seeding silt, debris, and pollutants into the lake at several locations
- ◇ erosion of shoreline on private property and islands

After the initial meetings, the group decided that education should be their first objective. Over the past six months, several focus groups were formed in an effort to divide the task of collecting information on causes and remedies related to the concerns identified. This research resulted in focus group reports, which have been posted on the HHL website. All residents are encouraged to review these documents.

Now that the LMG has accomplished its initial objective, attention needs to be turned to communicating the information gathered, and expanding the dialogue to include many more residents of the HHL community.

The LMG is planning several activities with the intent of raising awareness and igniting interest among all HHL residents. See the announcement of our July 5th Party on the front page of this newsletter.

We hope that you will join these activities to meet and interact with others who have a vested interest in preserving and protecting this incredibly beautiful and unique lake community.

We look forward to meeting you and working with you.



### Loosestrife Vigilantes

If you see folks in a small boat or canoe or kayak, wearing rubber boots or waders, carrying a shovel and black plastic bag, slogging along the shoreline of the lake, it will be the Loosestrife Vigilantes pulling the invasive plant to slow down its spread around the lake. This has to be done annually and we ask for residents to help us in this venture by digging out the loosestrife on their own shorelines. It needs to be pulled before the flowers go to seed and spread millions of seeds for next year's crop. Loosestrife is an invasive plant, which very quickly can take over an area, pushing out native species which provide habitats for birds, fish and other animals.

If you are unable to pull loosestrife on your property, please call or email the office, and we will be glad to help you.  
-Anne Davis



### Summer Office Hours

Mon., Wed. & Thurs.

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Please call the office before arriving to make sure someone is there, 978-582-6365. If necessary, appointments may be made for a more convenient time. Remember you can always leave payments in the drop box or reach the office by email.

### Beach Hours

The beaches are open from dawn to dusk. Please make sure your vehicles are not in the parking lot after 8:00 p.m. Exception: The parking lot is open for volleyball on Thursday nights.

### Beach Clean-up Day May 9th

Beach Clean Up on Saturday, May 9th was a HUGE success! You probably noticed the big pile of brush at Island Rd. Beach which the town recently removed. With Jay Simeone and his handy tractor, along with Chris Albert and family and their trailer we were able to get all the leaves picked up and brush piled up. It all looks great! Thanks to all who helped!

We have a great turn out with lots of help from residents in the area, including: Chris and Tammy Albert and family, Christine and Connor, Janet Biery, Susan Lozier, Walt Parquet, Anne Davis and Arnie Shattuck, Pat Lastella, Sue Andrews, Jay Simeone, Bryan, Karen, Riley, Nina and Shea Sanderson, Carol Higgins, Patrick McColl and Betsy and Brennon Kenerson. There were a lot of folks helping so we are sorry if may have missed listing your name, but the thank you is for you too!

It is always very much appreciated that residents take an active role in keeping the lake property clean. Thanks to all the residents of Hemlock and Brookview Beaches who have helped clean up their neighborhood beaches.

And thanks to John D. for putting the trash barrels out for pick up again this year!



## HHL Appreciates All Gift Donations!

The following residents have donated to the **Capital Asset Reserve Fund**;

Deborah Anderson	Erik and Meghan Arnold
Gloria Gerry	Paul & Dee Anderson
Joan Rose	Mark & Diane Erickson
Richard & Kate Kissel	John deBettencourt
Barbara Brown	Dave & Betty MacDonald
Helen Clapp	John & Judy Male
Rita Masciarelli	Shannon & Jim Leblanc
Imre & Eleanor Toth	Lorraine and Mark Stevens
Ken Franklin	Bill & Jane Blake
Katherine Herrick	Ken Takvorian
Pat & Frances Murphy	George Hudson
Charles & Dru Nason	Roy & Barbara Hansell
John & Kim Morse	Jack & Frances Kutarnia
Charlie & Sharon Kimball	
Neal & Martha Sullivan	
Harvey and Doris Larrabee	
Peter & Molly Popieniuck	
Kent & Deborah St. Vrain	
Andrea & Carl Strathmeyer	

These residents have donated to **the Harvester**:

Paul & Dee Anderson	Paul & Maureen Peltier
Bill & Jane Blake	Tom & Diane Nowd
Jeanette & John Biery	John & Judy Male
Mary Ellen Bertolini	Deb LeFreniere
Charlie & Sharon Kimball	Joan Rose
Lorraine & Mark Stevens	Ed & Pam Swain
Mark & Diane Erickson	David & Elana Feinberg
Roy & Barbara Hansell	Dennis & Susan Lozier
Tom & Janet James	Carol Phillips Rimpas
Evelyn Smith-Peterson	Ken Takvorian
Kent & Deb St. Vrain	Walt & Peg Parquet
Stanley & Valerie Spotkill	Ed & Diane Weksner
Kevin & Nancy Sullivan	Linda & Fred Malcomb
Michael & Barbara Meier	Anna & Bill Thompson
Danielle Thompson & Tom Reynolds	
James Shearer & Tracy Griffin	
Harvey and Doris Larrabee	
Mike Nault & Bernadette Progin	
Dayton Semerjian & Nanette Moss	
Michael Immerso & Elizabeth Campbell	

### Speaking of Donations!

For a \$5 donation we will send you one oval HHL Bumper Sticker

They are available at the Island Road office.

Or send your contribution along with a Self Addressed STAMPED Business Envelope to:

**Hickory Hills Landowners, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 298  
Lunenburg, MA 01462





## NATURES CORNER

### Have You Heard the Loon?

The call of the loon on summer evenings is a haunting and beautiful sound. A pair of visiting loons have been both heard and seen on the lake this year and are likely the Common Loon, one of five species of loons.

The loon actually has at least three different calls – a yodel, a tremolo, and a wail. The wail can be heard for miles and is used to keep in contact with other loons. Most frequently given at night, this call echoes across the quiet lake and consequently may be the easiest of the calls to hear. To hear an audio and find out if you've heard the wail or other



calls, visit the website <http://www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/loons/sounds/wail.au>.

To spot the Common Loon, look for such markings as a velvety black head and neck, a black-and-white necklace, and a boldly checkered back. Despite its name, these shy birds are less common than the ubiquitous geese and mallards, and hopefully will stay the summer at Hickory Hills, adding to the diversity of wildlife we enjoy.

## Final Notices for 2009 Annual Maintenance Fees

Your 2009 annual maintenance fees were due on May 1. We are using the same program as in the past, which will automatically assess interest on any bills that are more than 30 days past due. We have received payment from 90% of our residents – Thank you! Final notices have been sent out. Please send in your payment to P.O. Box 298, Lunenburg, MA 01462. Or place them in the drop box by the office door...Thank you.



## Our Condolences...

We express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of our neighbors...

**Richard "Rick" Sparks** of Townsend Harbor Rd died tragically in a car accident in Jacksonville, NC on April 9th.

**Joanne Parris** of Woodland Drive died on April 21 and was a long time resident of Hickory Hills.



## Bump – Set – Spike!

Meet your neighbors for **Adult Volleyball** at the Island Rd Beach on Thursday evenings, during the summer starting at 6:30 pm. Have fun!