



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2021



Volume 2021 | Issue Number 1 | February 6, 2021

From the President's Desk

MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

Club Announces New General Manager

I'm pleased to announce the hiring of David Martin as the new General Manager of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association. A special search committee made up of Officers and Trustees from our Voting Board—as well as two former Presidents of the Voting Board—worked together with an executive search firm over the course of many months to identify qualified candidates. Following an exhaustive process, the Voting Board unanimously accepted the search committee's recommendation to hire David.

David joins us following a successful 15-year tenure as the general manager of Saw Creek Estates in the Poconos. (Saw Creek Estates was recently voted the "community association of the year" in the large community category by the regional northeastern chapter of the Community Associations Institute, and is also recognized by the CAI as a gold star community.)

David and outgoing General Manager Jack McLaughlin will be working closely through the end of March to ensure a seamless transition. Please join me in welcoming David and thanking Jack for his 33 years of tireless service to our community.

Fox Activity Spotted on Lake 4

SUE ROSS, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Know Your Fox Facts

These pictures were sent to us by @chastityco via Instagram on January 11. The foxes were on Lake 4 at the time. When I saw them, I was reminded of how surprised I was to spot foxes at the Lake and realized I knew next to nothing about these wild creatures. Here is what I have learned about them since then.

- Red foxes have long snouts and red fur on the face, back sides and tail. Their feet are black as are their large and pointy ears. Their long, fluffy tails are white-tipped. Red foxes are about three feet long and two feet tall.
- Red foxes can be found throughout the continental US and as we see in these pictures, even in Highland Lakes. They like open areas in woodlands, rural and suburban neighborhoods, wetlands and brushy fields.
- Red foxes like to eat rodents and rabbits, but they will also eat birds, amphibians and fruit. Like bears and raccoons they are efficient scavengers and will steal food from garbage cans (another good reason to keep your garbage locked behind doors until the morning of garbage pick-up).
- They mate in the winter. In New Jersey their mating period is in January-February. (Perhaps this is why they are sitting so close together.) After mating, the female builds a den and can deliver

between 1-12 pups per litter, though the average litter totals about 5 pups. Both parents care for their offspring until the following fall. At that point, the young foxes are on their own.

- They have excellent hearing. For example, they can hear low-frequency sounds and rodents digging underground. They make an unbelievable screeching sound. I'm not kidding. I was walking with a friend on a moonlit night out to the peninsula on the Main Lake last summer when we heard something in the distance and could see shining animal eyes when we shined the flashlight in that direction. As we backed off the fox came into full view, scurrying over the causeway and darting into a neighbor's back yard. (Google "red fox scream" ...you'll see what mean.)
- Foxes typically move about during the evening, at night and in the early morning hours.
- Male foxes are called "dogs" while females are known as "vixens."
- While they can pose a danger to small domesticated animals, they are not known to be of danger to humans

Find us @hlccnj on Instagram and @HighlandLakesNJ on Facebook. Send us your best pics so we can share them with the whole community!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHASTITY CORTIJO

Voting Board
Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association
October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Officer	Name	Telephone	E-Mail
President	Michael Gelfand	973-764-8758	president@hlcc.org
First Vice President	Judith Norton	973-764-2495	firstvp@hlcc.org
Second Vice President	Raymond Zimmerman	973-766-3359	secondvp@hlcc.org
Treasurer	Michael Gillooley	973-764-4366	hltreasurer@hlcc.org
Secretary	Climeen Wikoff	973-764-5604	secretary@hlcc.org
Section	Trustee	Telephone	E-Mail
1	Louis Iannucci	973-764-7042	trustee1@hlcc.org
2	William Beardsley	973-764-7730	trustee2@hlcc.org
3	Patricia Thompson	973-271-9566	thompsonpatty208@gmail.com
4	Janice Fajardo	917-572-5449	trustee4@hlcc.org
5	Julia Campbell	973-670-4539	juliakaichercampbell@gmail.com
6	Melissa Hardin	973-764-1433	trustee6@hlcc.org
7	Lee Eisenberg	201-787-8772	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Dominick Beninati	917-566-3136	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	Thomas Castiglione	973-764-4366	trustee9@comcast.net
10	Chris Kaas	-----	section10hlcc@gmail.com
11	David Cartier	973-534-2039	trustee11@hlcc.org
12	Len Bogdon	973-764-7136	trustee12@hlcc.org

No Parking on Roads During
Snow and Ice Operations



Please be aware that Rule No. 16 of the Club's Rules and Regulations, adopted April 22, 1994, reads as follows:

Whenever snow has fallen or roads become covered with ice and

the accumulation is such that it covers the roadway, an emergency shall exist and no vehicle shall be parked on any roadway or portion thereof. This parking prohibition shall remain in effect after the precipitation has ceased until the roads have been plowed and/or sanded sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

Any unattended vehicle in violation of this Rule will be deemed to be parked without the consent of the Club and may be summonsed and towed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.6 and Vernon Township Ordinance 99-12.

Your cooperation is needed to make the winter as easy as possible on your neighbors and the Club. Thank you.

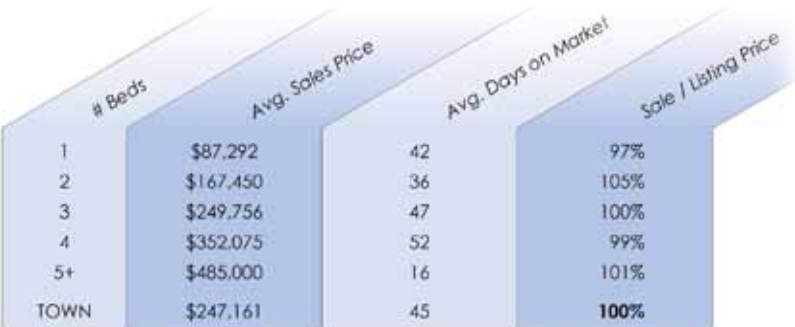
Office Hours

NO ACCESS is being permitted to any portion of the Clubhouse and Club Office, all scheduled meetings and activities are canceled. The Club Office will continue to operate, Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm, though the Office will be closed on Saturdays.

Reminder:
The Club is not entering into new contracts for family event rentals, though please feel free to call to "hold" the date for any family event planned to take place after Labor Day 2021.
The Club continues to evaluate COVID-19 guidance. We will continue to closely monitor news and updates from relevant health organizations and government regulators, and will share all relevant information as necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

Vernon Township Housing Market Report - December 2020

"Having grown up in Highland Lakes, I understand the value in this thriving, active community. Contact me today to discuss a no-cost comparative market analysis for your property."



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Carly Ebers

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Highland Lakes Specialist

The Highland Lakes Newsette

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and Community Association
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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant
Sue Ross, Editor

Special Thanks to the
Communications Committee and
all of our contributors

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Voting Board Approves Steeper Assessment For Failure to Remove Boats

Special Assessment Increased to \$500



In February 2019 the Voting Board adopted a series of amendments to Rule 25 which included the transport of boats to residences for improper storage, or storage in violation of the applicable

removal deadline of October 15 each year. This amendment also provided for the imposition of a special assessment of \$100.00 for removals to the residence. In response to claims from some members that they were unaware of the removal requirements, the requirements to remove boats by the October 15 deadline were printed on the boating permit. Additionally, the boat removal requirements were posted on the Club's website, repeatedly in the Highland Lakes Newsette, and posted on the sign along Breakneck Road by the Clubhouse.

Despite all of these efforts more than 100 boats remained on docks and racks on the west side of Highland Lakes after October 15. Boats which were identified by membership number on the boating permit were transported to the member's residence. For this reason, the Voting Board agreed to increase the special assessment for all boat removals to **\$500.00 per boat**. This special assessment of \$500.00 is prominently highlighted on this year's boating permit.

Members who wish to use the Club's docks and boat racks assume the responsibility to know the Club's rules and to comply with them. While the vast majority of members comply, this special assessment is designed to ensure that members who leave their boats on the docks and racks after the deadline do not do it again.

If October 15 seems early, keep in mind that Highland Lakes has experienced heavy snows and desperately cold weather late in October, and staff must dismantle docks and secure them for the winter. Mid-October through early November is the time frame for these activities to occur safely by our staff, and to conduct the necessary inspections of the boat racks.

On-line Payment Option Now Available



An option has been created for Members who wish to make payments online through their debit or credit cards. You will find the information and instructions you need in the [Make A Payment link](#) on the far right in the blue ribbon, immediately above

the HLCC logo. Note: a convenience fee is applicable to credit card transactions.

While the Club Office has now been closed during this continued Covid-19 pandemic, payments may be made by mailing a check or money order to HLCC, PO Box 578, Highland Lakes, NJ 07422. For your convenience payments (NO CASH) may be dropped through the mail slot in the Club Office door. We no longer accept CASH.

Like us on Facebook [highlandlakesnj](#) and follow us on Instagram [@hlccnj](#)

Next Newsette: March 6, 2021

Newsette articles should be submitted on the Friday before the week of publication at noon. Under no circumstances will submissions be accepted after noon on Monday of the week of publication. Typed submissions must be emailed to the Club office at hlcc@warwick.net. Sorry – we can only print photographs submitted as .jpg files with a minimum of 150 dpi. Thanks!



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Ecology Corner

BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Teenage Stewards Pitch In to Clean Up



Josh, Jacob, Nick, Julian and Kai, teenage members of our community did a clean-up on November 27. They cleaned all around the Clubhouse and then along the road from the Clubhouse to the dam. Then Josh and Nick did the other end of the lake but they didn't take pictures. They had a signup sheet and kept track of their hours, too. Another clean-up is planned for the spring.

Anyone interested in joining this enthusiastic group should contact Jennifer Pellet at jennifer.pellet@gmail.com. Thanks to all involved.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BABARA JAGGI

Ecology Committee Report

BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Annual Water Quality Report by Princeton Hydro

Chris Mikolajczyk, Sr. Aquatic Scientist from Princeton Hydro, gave the 2020 Annual Water Quality Report to the Ecology Committee. Jack McLaughlin hosted the meeting and several members of the Voting Board were present.

Chris recommends planting aquatic plants along the shoreline of all the lakes. These native plants will help absorb nutrients that contribute to algae blooms. The Ecology Committee will look into purchasing such plants and will organize a planting endeavor and get our members involved.

- Destratification (aeration) systems in Lake 2 (Highland Lake, the Main Lake) and Lake 3 (East Highland Lake) will be checked to ensure that they are fully functioning by late April.
 - Lake 3 will be monitored for invasive milfoil growth and treated where necessary.
 - Lake 4 (Upper East Highland Lakes) continues to be of concern and will be carefully monitored and treated as necessary.
 - Lake 1 (Upper Highland Lake) and Lake 5 (Upper West Highland Lake) are in good shape.
- However, stormwater sampling is recommended to help determine possible nutrient sources in all the lakes.
- Weather is the biggest factor in lake management. Heavy rainfall followed by a period of hot sunny weather will contribute to algae blooms. The following information has been published in previous issues of the Newsette,
 - Algae occurs naturally in all fresh and marine water environments.

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) HAB webpage (www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/HABS.html):

"A bloom is a rapid increase or accumulation in the population of algae and algae-like bacteria in a waterbody.

These "blooms" often result in a thick coating or mat on the surface of the water, which can also result in lowering

the dissolved oxygen in the water column. In turn, low dissolved oxygen can be detrimental to aquatic organisms, particularly fish. Certain environmental conditions, such as sunlight, high nutrient concentrations, warm temperatures and calm water can favor the development of a bloom.

A harmful algal bloom (HAB) is an algal bloom that can be dangerous to people, animals or the ecology. Some, but not all, HABs produce chemicals that can be toxic to humans and animals if ingested, inhaled, or if contacted by skin or mucous membranes. These toxins can also accumulate in fish and shellfish which can cause illness when either are consumed. Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are responsible for the majority of freshwater HAB occurrences. These are called CyanoHABs. Cyanobacteria are naturally present in lakes and streams and, can form both toxic (harmful) and non-toxic blooms. The toxic blooms can cause health effects when people and animals come in contact with them. However, not all algal blooms are harmful. Some are merely called "nuisance blooms" because they result in discolored water and/or offensive odors. While they are not dangerous, they can result in people choosing not to swim or recreate in water that is experiencing the bloom.

Data collected by Princeton Hydro are used to guide the HLCC and Solitude Lake Management, Inc. (the contracted herbicide/algaecide treatment company) in the day-to-day management of the lakes. The objective of the monitoring program is to use the data in a proactive manner to maximize the lakes' recreational usage, aesthetic attributes, and ecological services and functions. For this reason the monitoring program is focused on the collection of water quality data from May to September, commonly referred to as "the growing season".

The ability to effectively control most of the lakes' problems and minimize lake user impacts is the direct result of the HLCC's proactive management approach, which is guided by the lakes' water quality data and a strong line of communication between the HLCC, Princeton Hydro, and Solitude.

Reminder From the Ecology Committee

BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Rule No. 27

As a reminder, please keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris. The following is taken from our Rules and Regulations posted on our website:

No branches, leaves, snow or other materials shall be placed beyond any individual property line so as to extend into the road right of way. Members in violation of this rule shall be contacted by telephone using all telephone numbers provided by the member on the most recent badge pickup form on file at the Club Office. The member shall be provided two hours from the time contact has been made to clear the right-of-way. Failure to reach the member by telephone shall not absolve the member from

their responsibilities. After two hours, the Club shall clear the problem, and the member shall be subjected to a special assessment of \$250.00 and a charge of \$100.00 per hour or part thereof, or the Club's actual cost, whichever is greater for labor and equipment, and the Club's actual disposal costs.

Special assessment for violations: First: \$250.00 and a charge of \$100.00 per hour or part thereof, or the Club's actual cost, whichever is greater for labor and equipment, and the Club's actual disposal costs. Second and Subsequent: Special Assessments as for first offense and Rule 22 disciplinary complaint. (Amended September 23, 2009)

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Local Artist Creates Works of Art

ROE HALL WITH EARL COVINGTON AND DEBBIE AHOKAS

Emmy Award Winning Ice Sculptor

If you’ve spotted the sea dragon and other works of art on the Main Lake down by the dam, it is the work of local ice sculptor Earl Covington. Earl has been sculpting ice for 45 years. He had his own business for 22 years before selling it to Arctic Glacier where he is employed and works selling ice equipment to restaurants around the tri-state area. He moved to Highland Lakes recently after finding a modest home on the lake. This year the weather became perfect to harvest ice on the lake. He started by creating a flying hawk after spotting a hawk in the area. Earl then created a sea dragon and Lock Ness Monster with the help of his neighbors Greg Aker, Whitey Winter, Greg Decker and wife Debbie.

He received a 2004 Sport Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Production, Design and Art Direction for the World Figure Skating Federation. Earl has traveled the United States and Canada participating in world sculpting competitions and ice sculpting festivals.

You can view the hawk, sea monster and dancing bears and many others from the dam or even venture out on the lake. Last weekend crowds were spotted on the lake as word spread of the fantastic show happening on the Main Lake.





Tom Watson

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Winter Activities on the Lake

ROE HALL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/EVENTS COORDINATOR

January has brought cold temperatures and frozen lakes. We've spotted a lot of fun activities on the Main Lake from ice skating and ice hockey to fishing and ice boating.

Please remember safety first. Here are some tips to help make being on the ice a little safer this winter:

- Always check the thickness of the ice, although that does not always guarantee safety. Ice should be at least five to seven inches thick to support a group of people.
- Beware of holes left by ice fishermen, especially if ice is snow covered.
- Check the ice for cracks.
- Carry along precautionary equipment such as a cell phone, ice awls, floatation device and/or a life preserver. Also take along some rope at least 150 feet long. Other good ideas include a two-way radio, whistle or a strobe

light.

- If you live in a lake community, keep some rescue items in your vehicle in case you come upon someone who has fallen through the ice. Some rope, dry clothes (sweatpants, T-shirt, socks), and a blanket are just a few things that can help in a pinch.
- If you fall through the ice, kick your feet to stay afloat and try to perch yourself on the ice. Then try to pull yourself out and roll away from the hole. If trapped under the ice, remember the ice will appear white underwater and the hole to the surface will appear as a black area.
- If you spot someone who has fallen through the ice, call 911 immediately.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF
ROE HALL AND SUE BURUCHIAN



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Winter Pickleball

KATHI TAYLOR

Our Highland Lakes pickleball players are a hearty group of people. Because of the virus, our normal indoor play facility has been closed, but that has not stopped us from playing. Many of us have been playing every chance we get through wind, freezing temperatures, and yes, even snow. Special thanks to Helen Carlson for shoveling off the court. We will review the COVID 19 pickleball requirements once our spring time play begins. Hope to see you on the courts. Questions? Call Kathi Taylor 973-303-2689.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHI TAYLOR



On-line Payments

Have you paid on-line yet? It's fast and very easy. Go to HLCC.org and find the top blue ribbon and click Make a Payment.

Visit www.hlcc.org for the Latest Highland Lakes News

For the most current news on Highland Lakes Events, activities and items of interest, visit the Club's website: www.hlcc.org. Here you will find current calendar of events, the most recent edition of the HL Newsette, as well as archived editions, board and committee news, informative articles, photos and so much more.

Go to the website to join the Club's email list, too. Once your membership is verified, you will receive our e-blast and all emergency notifications.



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OnLine Imprints, LLC (formerly OnLine Embroidery) is still the official company for your HL apparel. (Yes, we've changed our name but all else is the same, serving HL customized needs since 1997). Highland Lakes Country Club apparel will be stocked at the Activities Center or the Beach Hut when the Club opens up. In the meantime, call us for your HLCC T-shirts, onesies, sweats or order up your special requests. Sizes: Youth to 3XL.

We thank you in advance for supporting the HL Apparel program which helps our members via the Goodwill Fund. Custom orders always accepted. Call 973-271-0227 or best, email at onlineimprints@ptd.net.



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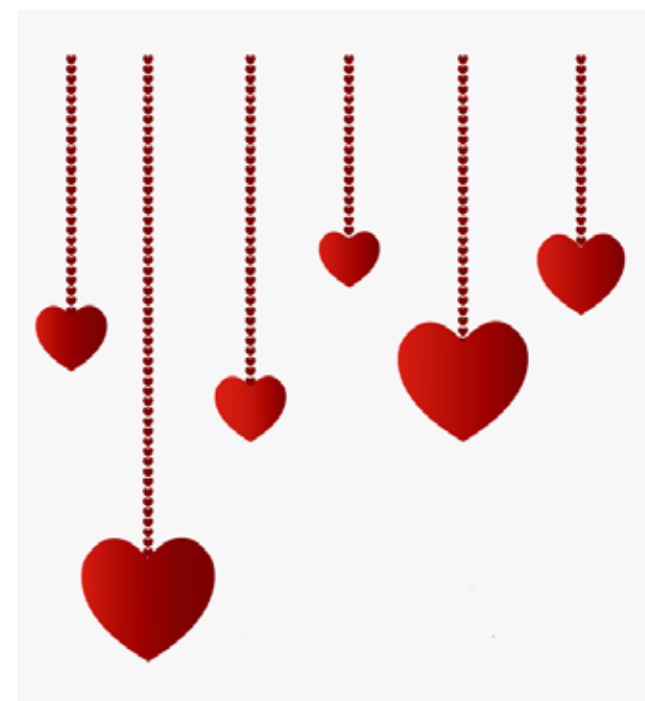
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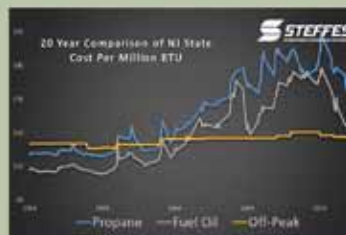
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