



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2025
"All the News That Fits We Print"



Volume 2025 | Issue Number 3 | April 5, 2025

Pollinators: The Birds and the Bees Need the Flowers and the Trees

CAROLYN ACKER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In the words attributed to Chief Joseph Seattle, a Nez Perce chief, "The earth does not belong to man. Man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." As a community, Highland Lakes recognizes our part in weaving the web of our environment and works to make it stronger and healthier. In 2023, when Lisa Chiariello from the Rutgers New Jersey Agriculture Cooperative spoke at the Clubhouse, she discussed how to lessen run-off and improve lake water quality by creating rain gardens in our yards. We learned that our yards are essential to our community's ecology and a vital link in the web. Another critical issue facing us today is pollinator habitat destruction and pollinators' decline. The birds and bees, among other animal pollinators, need our help. By providing a habitat for pollinators, we will strengthen the web of life for us all.

Why are pollinators important?

Without pollinators, we would not have enough food to eat. Pollination enables plants to reproduce and produce seeds, nuts, and fruit. According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, an international non-profit organization, bees pollinate most of our food crops – about 80 percent. Similarly, they report that about 85 percent of all flowering plants rely on animal pollinators, primarily insects. New Jersey depends on pollinators to produce crops like blueberries, cranberries, peaches, apples, tomatoes, bell peppers, eggplant, and more. Without the insects pollinating our food, we would not survive.

What are examples of pollinators?

Pollinators are a diverse group. On its website, the USDA states that there are 3,600 species of bees in the United States and 450 species in the Mid-Atlantic region. Some bees, called specialists, rely on specific plants for food. Others, called generalists, are less picky about what plants they like. While bees are considered the most important pollinators, other insects like butterflies and moths help support the health of ecosystems and agriculture as pollinators, too. Wasps are incidental pollinators who carry and drop pollen as they move from plant to plant. Flies pollinate certain plants, such as apples, peppers, and cashews. Beetles, a large and diverse group that can trace their pollination work back to pollinating prehistoric flowers, still act as pollinators today. Bats and hummingbirds also play a role.

What do pollinators need?

While not all pollinators eat the same food from the same plants, they have similar needs. Pollinators need pollen for protein and nectar for energy. They need a variety of flowering trees, shrubs, and perennials to provide that pollen and nectar. They need food early in the Spring

when they emerge from their winter homes. They need a constant source of food throughout the growing season. Pollinators also need food sources that are nearby or easy to find. All pollinators need clean water sources, nesting sites, and winter shelters.

How are pollinators threatened?

Unsurprisingly, pollinators are in decline, given their needs and the threats they face. Habitat loss from land development threatens pollinators because it results in fewer resources and displaces pollinators, who must look for new habitats. Lawns threaten pollinators because, cleared of pollinator-friendly blooming weeds like clover and dandelion, they provide no sustenance to pollinators. The use of pesticides threatens pollinators because the chemicals they contain can harm or kill pollinators. Fall cleanups threaten pollinators by removing materials for nesting sites.

What can we do to help?

Fortunately, we can help remove or reduce threats to pollinators by keeping them in mind when managing our landscapes. We can make simple changes in our yards to improve pollinator habitat, such as leaving a section of lawn uncut or replacing a section of lawn with perennial flowers. We can be sure to plant native plants in our landscapes. We can also make more significant changes, like committing to managing our landscapes without using pesticides or committing to reducing our lawn areas by 25 percent, 50 percent, or altogether. No matter what we choose to do, we can help pollinators by keeping the following suggestions in mind:

- Grow pollinator-friendly flowers – helping pollinators can start with growing more flowers in your yard. Plant

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Upcoming Events

- April 4 – Rec Hall Open Game Night
- April 5 – GCOF Food Share
- April 13 – Q&A with the President
- April 13 – Easter Egg Hunt
- April 19 – Open Mic Night
- April 26 – NJCOLA Meeting
- April 26 – Earth Day Clean Up and Presentation



HIGHLAND LAKES
Special appearance from
The Easter Bunny!
Easter EGG HUNT
Grab your baskets and hop on over to the Clubhouse for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Bring the family for a fun-filled spring celebration! Hunt for colorful eggs, enjoy games, win prizes and meet the Easter Bunny. A festive HLCC tradition for all to enjoy!
🕒 12:00 PM 📅 APRIL 13
HLCC.ORG #HLCCNJ
MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY
BADGES REQUIRED



FOOD SHARE
SATURDAY
APRIL 5
DROP-OFF & PICK UP LOCATION
HIGHLAND LAKES CLUBHOUSE
2240 LAKESIDE DRIVE W
HIGHLAND LAKES NJ 07422
DONATION DROP OFF: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Suggested items: Fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, chicken, meat, canned goods and all non-perishable foods, paper products, juice & snacks, Easter candy.
PICK UP: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
If you or your HL neighbor could benefit from these supplemental groceries, please come and take things you can use.
For members who could use supplemental groceries but are facing transportation challenges to the HLCC Clubhouse or those with specific dietary needs (allergies, low sodium, gluten-free, etc.), kindly contact the Goodwill Community Outreach Fund Food Drive.
Call us at 973-764-4488 or send an email to gcof@gcof.org for support. Your privacy and health are our utmost concern.

2025 Badges and Stickers

DAVE MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Available for Pickup April 15

Starting Tuesday, April 15, members who have paid their dues and assessments in full or are on time per their payment plan, may pick up their 2025 membership badges and permits at the Club Office. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm, and on Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Please pay particular attention to the information section on your badge pick-up form. Having emergency contacts, email addresses and telephone/cell numbers on file at the Club Office makes it much easier to contact you, especially in an emergency.

Parking permits are given only for those vehicles with current registrations on record with the Club. If you have replaced any vehicles, please bring copies of the appropriate vehicle registrations.

Any member who applied for a boat dock will receive their assignment upon pick up.

Office Hours

The office will be closed on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, in observance of Easter. We will reopen on Monday, April 21. Our normal business hours are as follows:

The office is available to take your calls from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday and from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday. However, it is only open to members from 10 am to 3 pm, Monday to Friday and from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday. Thank you.



About Changes in your Recorded Deed

In planning changes to your ownership of property that would be reflected in the recorded Deed, contacting the Club Office before you do so for guidance is advisable and will eliminate any misunderstandings.

The Club's By-Laws, in part, define Active Members as those who own property in Highland Lakes. When persons take title to property in Highland Lakes when they do not own other Highland Lakes property at that time, even when they join in the ownership of property with someone who currently owns property in Highland Lakes, they automatically become an active member and are required to pay the Initiation Fee. If you are considering adding anyone to your Deed, a wife, parent, child, friend, etc., please be aware of these By-Law requirements.

Sometimes members form a living or family trust as part of their estate planning. However, even this type of trust is a different, and therefore new, owner of property, and the payment of the Initiation Fee is required.

Road Sweeping

KEVIN ARAHILL, MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT

Road sweeping started the week of March 31 and will continue weekdays, weather permitting, until all roads are done. Please do not park on Highland Lakes' roads during the hours of 7 am and 4 pm in order to not impede operations. Thank you.

Voting Board Roster

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

Officer	Name	E-Mail
President	Ray Zimmerman	president@hlcc.org
First Vice President	Patty Thompson	firstvp@hlcc.org
Second Vice President	Mark Heftler	secondvp@hlcc.org
Treasurer	Lou Iannucci	hltreasurer@hlcc.org
Secretary	Jennifer Ziegler	secretary@hlcc.org
Section	Trustee	E-Mail
1	Sue Buruchian	trustee1@hlcc.org
2	Joe DeLorenzo	trustee2@hlcc.org
3	Heidi Fuhrmann	trustee3@hlcc.org
4	Joe Sweeney	trustee4@hlcc.org
5	Julia Campbell	trustee5@hlcc.org
6	David Lagas	trustee6@hlcc.org
7	Stuart Blank	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Joan Danaher	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	James Schriener	trustee9@hlcc.org
10	Michael Gunning	trustee10@hlcc.org
11	Eric Card	trustee11@hlcc.org
12	Robert Reffelt	trustee12@hlcc.org

Upcoming Meetings

Buildings and Grounds – Tuesday, May 6 - 7 pm
 Clubhouse Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
 Communications Committee – Saturday, April 12 - 10 am
 Ecology Committee – Wednesday, April 23 - 8 pm
 Fish Committee – Thursday, April 17 - 7 pm
 Road Committee – Thursday, May 1 - 7 pm
 Rules and By-Laws – No meeting scheduled at this time
 Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, April 9 - 7:30 pm
 Voting Board Meeting – Friday, April 17 - 8 pm

Since all meetings are subject to change/cancellation, please confirm meeting times by contacting the chairperson of the committee or the Club Office prior to the meeting time.

The Highland Lakes Newsette

Highland Lakes Country Club
 and Community Association

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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant

Janice O'Neill, Editor

Special Thanks to the


Communications Committee and
 all our contributors

PO Box 578 - 2240 Lakeside Drive West

Highland Lakes, New Jersey 07422

973-764-4366 / Email: info@hlcc.org

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
		1 9:30 AM Playgroup 7:00 PM Artists' Group 7:00 PM Bldgs. & Grounds Mtg.	2 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Scouts 5:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Darts	3 8:00 AM -9:30 AM Yoga & Meditation 11:00 AM Guitar Club 7:00 PM Chess Club (T) 7:00 PM Road Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM Stitching 7:00 PM Teen Council	4 10:00 AM Pickleball 6:00 PM Open Rec Hall/Pool & Ping Pong 7:00 PM Bunco	5 GCOF Food Share (9 am Drop; 1 pm p/u)																																																																																																																
6 6:00 PM Game Night Private Member Rental	7 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Ceramics	8 9:30 AM Playgroup	9 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Darts 7:30 PM VB Workshop	10 8:00 AM -9:30 AM Yoga & Meditation 11:00 AM Guitar Club 7:00 PM Chess Club (T) 7:00 PM Stitching	11 10:00 AM Pickleball 8:00 PM Section 2 Check In	12 10:00 AM Communications Comm. Mtg.																																																																																																																
13 10:00 AM Q&a with President 12:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt	14 1:00 PM Art Class 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Ceramics	15 9:30 AM Playgroup	16 12:00 PM Sr. Club Lunch 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Scouts 5:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Book Club 7:00 PM Darts	17 8:00 AM -9:30 AM Yoga & Meditation 11:00 AM Guitar Club 7:00 PM Chess Club (T) 7:00 PM Fish Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM Stitching 8:00 PM Voting Board Mtg.	18 10:00 AM Pickleball Office Closed (Good Friday)	19 9:00 AM Running Club 8:00 PM Open Mic Office Closed																																																																																																																
20  Happy Easter	21 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM Camera & Cinema Class 6:00 PM Leather Crafting 6:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Ceramics	22 9:30 AM Playgroup 6:00 PM Seedling Social	23 2:00 PM Pickleball 5:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM Games & Floats Night 7:00 PM Darts 8:00 PM Ecology Comm. Mtg.	24 8:00 AM -9:30 AM Yoga & Meditation 11:00 AM Guitar Club 6:00 PM Bounce House & Movie Night 7:00 PM Chess Club (T) 7:00 PM Stitching	25 10:00 AM Pickleball 6:30 PM BBQ on the Lawn	26 9:00 AM NJ COLA Mtg. 9:00 AM Running Club 10:00 AM Earth Day & Clean Up																																																																																																																
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Recreation Scene – April

MELISSA HARDIN, RECREATION MANAGER

The following events are springing up in April:

April 4 - Rec Hall Night at the Clubhouse from 6 - 9 pm. Come play pool, ping pong, arcade games, giant Jenga and more.

April 13 - Easter Egg Hunt from 12-2 pm. We will be hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of our Clubhouse. There will be snacks, treats and a visit from the Easter Bunny with photo opportunities.

April 14 - Mature Art Class - 1-2 pm. We are currently working on cardinals.

Spring Break Week – April 21 – 25. Robin Williams said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's Party!" Come party with us the week after Easter as we celebrate Spring Break Week at the Clubhouse with the following fun activities. All starting at 6 pm or otherwise indicated.

Monday, 4/21 - Leather Craft Night

Tuesday, 4/22 - Beginner Seeding Social - paint a small terracotta pot and plant a basil plant to grow.

Wednesday, 4/23 - Open Rec Hall & Root Beer Floats

Thursday, 4/24 - Bounce House and Craft - 1-2 pm at Clubhouse

Movie Night - Wicked Sing-A-Long, \$6 pp; ages 3 and older

Friday, 4/25 - BBQ on the front lawn – serving hamburgers, hotdogs and sides; \$10 per adult/ \$8 per child.



HIGHLAND LAKES
Country Club and Community Association

GAME NIGHT & ROOT BEER FLOATS

Let's get together for a fun-filled Game Night with Pool, Ping Pong & Arcade classics, paired with delicious root beer floats! Come hangout at the Clubhouse for the competition and the sweet treats.

6:00 PM **APRIL 23**



HLCC.ORG @HLCCNJ MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY BADGES REQUIRED

HIGHLAND LAKES
Country Club and Community Association

\$6.00 per person
Snack Bar will be Open!

RSVP: WWW.HLCC.ORG/EVENT-REG

MOVIE Night

Grab your popcorn and get ready for a wicked good time! Join us for Movie Night at the Clubhouse as we watch Wicked. Sing along, enjoy the magic and relax with friends. Don't miss this spellbinding evening!

7:00 PM **APRIL 24**



HLCC.ORG @HLCCNJ MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY BADGES REQUIRED

HIGHLAND LAKES
Country Club and Community Association

POOL & PING PONG

Rack 'em up or grab a paddle for a night of friendly competition! Whether you're calling your shots at the pool table or smashing your way through ping pong matches, it's all about fun and bragging rights.

6:00 PM **APRIL 4**



HLCC.ORG @HLCCNJ MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY BADGES REQUIRED

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clusters of native perennials as pollinators are attracted to different flower colors, shapes, heights, structures, and fragrances. The same is valid for flowering native trees and shrubs.

- Plant native plants and remove invasive plants – Pollinators evolved by eating the pollen and nectar of native plants, so native plants are the most beneficial to pollinators. Liz Giannini, a long-time resident of Highland Lakes who incorporates environmentally friendly practices in her landscape, points out that "Pollinators are more apt to eat from native plants while they may bypass non-native plants altogether." Barbara Jaggi, a long-time Highland Lakes resident and member of the Ecology Committee, recommends planting native trees such as oak and cherry trees if you have the room. Native plants are more likely to survive and do well in our climate. Native plants require less maintenance, are less susceptible to pests, are more drought resistant, and offer better erosion control. A chart of Native Plants for Pollinators & Beneficial Insects in the Northeast, published by the Xerces Society, can be found on their website at <https://www.xerces.org/publications/plant-lists/native-plants-for-pollinators-and-beneficial-insects-northeast>.
- Plant a continuous food supply – Grow plants with overlapping bloom times throughout the growing season to ensure pollinators have food from spring into late fall. Another suggestion is to plant an abundant amount, or clusters, of fewer plant varieties rather than a small number of many varieties.
- Include a diversity of plants – Different flower sizes, shapes, colors, and varying plant heights and growth habits support a greater number and diversity of pollinators. Don't be afraid to include herbs in your gardens. Liz Giannini finds that herbs such as echinacea, lemon balm, oregano, mint, basil, thyme, sage, and calendula do well in our area and are attractive to pollinators.
- Limit lawns – More and more, natural "wildscapes" are considered beautiful. While we have more woods,

wetlands, and water in Highland Lakes, our lakes, wildlife, and pollinators would benefit from fewer acres of lawn. One change we can make is to mow less frequently to allow flowering weeds like dandelions and clover to feed pollinators. No Mow May is an initiative to encourage people to leave lawns uncut in the Spring. If you are interested, see the Bee City USA website at <https://beecityusa.org/no-mow-may/>. Another idea is to allow a section of lawn to grow wild or to plant it as a perennial garden.

- Avoid using pesticides – eliminate pesticide use on lawns and in pest control. More extensive and healthier pollinator habitats will naturally reduce the need to spray for weeds and pests.
 - Provide nesting and overwintering sites – Leave dead trees and logs, brush piles, and various crevices, and supply bat or bee houses for pollinators. Keeping some leaves for pollinators under bushes or trees rather than clearing them all in the fall provides good nesting material.
- What other benefits can we expect?**
- When asked how increasing the habitat for pollinators benefits our lakes, members Barbara and Liz quickly recognized positive connections:
- Reducing or eliminating fertilizers and pesticides would lessen nutrient run-off into the lakes and improve their health.
 - Planting a garden creates a healthier and more diverse ecosystem – the more varied the landscape, the healthier the soil. The healthier the soil and plants in a landscape, the less water runs into the lakes.
 - Limiting lawn areas and using less fertilizer limits the toxins that enter our groundwater and lakes.

Adding habitats for pollinators will beautify your landscape while also making it healthier. It will reduce your maintenance and increase your enjoyment. Our community will also benefit from recognizing our connection with the birds and the bees when we plant our landscape's flowers, shrubs, and trees. You can take a pledge to protect pollinators at <https://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-protection-pledge>.

HIGHLAND LAKES
Highland Lakes Community Association

BBQ on the Lawn

\$10/ADULT
\$6/KIDS

Let's fire up the grill for a classic BBQ with hot dogs, burgers and good company.

Grab a plate, find a spot on the lawn and dig in!

6:30 PM **APRIL 25**

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MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY
BADGES REQUIRED

HIGHLAND LAKES
Highland Lakes Community Association

BOUNCE HOUSE fun!

Jump, bounce and soar into a fun-filled afternoon at the Clubhouse! Join us for Bounce House Afternoon, where kids can burn off some energy, laugh with friends and have a bouncy time.

1:00 PM **APRIL 24**

HLCC.ORG @HLCCNJ

MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY
BADGES REQUIRED

Pump Your Tank!

septicmart
www.epa.gov/septic

Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional and/or local permitting authority. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

EPA
United States Environmental Protection Agency



Voting Board Meetings – March 2025

CAROLYN ACKER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

A summary of the February Voting Board meetings follow. These are not the official minutes of these meetings. All official minutes of our meetings can be found in the documents section of the membership portal once they have been approved by the Voting Board and posted to the portal.

Special Meeting of the Voting Board - March 12, 2025

A special meeting of the Voting Board was convened on March 12, 2025, to fill the position of Second Vice President pro-tem of the Board. With the resignation of Lisa Entwistle from her position as First Vice President, Patty Thompson, Second Vice President, automatically became the First Vice President per our By-laws. Mark Heftler was nominated to fill the position of Second Vice President. At the Special Meeting, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Heftler as the new Second Vice President, pro tem.

Voting Board Workshop - March 12, 2025

The Club's General Counsel reviewed the obligations of trustees and board members. Trustees and board members must act according to NJ Law and in the Club's best interest. They have a duty of loyalty to the Club, according to counsel. Once the Voting Board decides, the Board should speak as one voice on an issue. Board Members can express their own opinions during Voting Board Workshops. In reviewing the authority to act, the General Counsel stated that no individual trustee or board member has the right to reach out to vendors, state agencies, or regulatory bodies unless given express authority by the Board.

The Voting Board reviewed the potential membership survey question by question and either approved the question for the study or voted to remove it altogether.

Voting Board Meeting March 21, 2025

Minutes from the February 21 Voting Board Meeting were unanimously approved. Trustees reported on the activities of committees they were assigned to attend.

Boat Dock Committee – all applications for the boat dock lottery were submitted and the drawing for dock spaces occurred on Saturday, March 22. The effort to have all freeways accessible to the membership is ongoing, as the Hemlock Lane and North Cove freeways still have private docks that need to be removed. All kayak and canoe racks have been checked, and members can claim a rack(s) once they have their 2025 boat sticker(s). A discussion regarding NJ State law requiring all pontoon boats to be registered with the state led to the clarification that members must register any vessel with a motor. Buildings and Grounds Committee – there was no report from the committee, but a discussion ensued to clarify how to handle a situation where a trustee refuses to fulfill the liaison role. The President stated that it has been past practice for trustees to act as liaisons between committees and the Board. However, a trustee is not compelled by the By-Laws to do so. The President will ask the By-laws and Rules Committee to consider the matter. Communications Committee – the New Member Party will be held Memorial Day weekend. Ecology Committee – discussed the Princeton Hydro report, cattails, and carp removal. Earth Day is planned for April 26, and Lake Appreciation Day for July 27. Fishing

Committee – carp removal was also discussed. They have contacted Space Farms to take the fish after they have been removed from the lake. The committee is looking for nets that will prevent carp from accessing streams in the spring and traps to keep the fish from getting back into the lake if they do make it upstream. Road Committee – discussed paving and speed bumps.

Manager's Report

Dave Martin, General Manager, addressed Lake Management efforts. Dave presented a proposal to purchase a device that continuously monitors lake conditions to react more quickly to emerging lake water issues using a device created by a company called In-Situ. In-Situ's device is a cylindrical sensing device that provides real-time data of variables such as (but not limited to) lake temperature, oxygen saturation, pH, chlorophyll, and blue-green algae levels when installed in a lake. The immediacy of information would help to prevent or control algae blooms. Princeton Hydro, which currently monitors the lakes by testing lake water samples twice a month, could act on the information we receive from the device. Dave recommended the purchase of one unit to install in Lake 4. If successful, the Club will consider installing a device in each of our lakes. A motion to vote on purchasing one Model 700 In-Situ monitoring device for Lake 4 was seconded, and the Board voted to approve the purchase 9 to 4 with one abstention.

Dave then discussed Clarity Resources Group's proposal to purchase its Oxygen Saturation Technology or OST. Dave stated that the Club's use of OST goes hand-in-hand with the other lake management items the Board has discussed. OST, or Oxygen Saturation Technology, created by Dr. Paul Ganzer, PhD, Civil Engineering, is a water treatment technology where oxygen-depleted water is circulated into a chamber and enriched with 94% Hospital Grade Oxygen before being sent back into the bottom of the lake. Increasing the oxygen saturation level of the water prevents the release of phosphorus from the sediment in lakes. As Dave explained, the sediment tends to release phosphorus when the lake water becomes oxygen-depleted. Phosphorus is detrimental to lake water quality because it is a nutrient that feeds algae, so limiting the amount of phosphorus in the water is essential to preventing HABs (Harmful Algae Blooms). While all of our lakes have sediment and sources of phosphorus, studies of our lakes have determined that

the single largest source of phosphorus in Lake 4 is the sediment in the lake. Dave stated that the technology would be used to combat HABs in Lake 4. Further discussions with Clarity Resources Group are scheduled.

Benthic Mats, weed-blocking tarps, are being installed at all of the beaches. They are an inexpensive way to prevent weed growth on the beach and in sandy, shallow water areas. These mats will be on the beaches until they open. Members of the Board expressed concern about alerting the membership to the presence of these mats. The Board agreed that notices will need to be posted at the beaches and in the Newsette.

The Princeton Hydro contract is unchanged for 2025. Lake Management Systems has been out to look at the lakes and is prepared to begin treatment as soon as April 1 if the water is at the appropriate temperature. Next, the Club Manager presented Melissa Hardin's proposed recreational area on Beach 2. Developing a recreational area on Beach 2 could beautify and improve the use of Beach 2, facilitate members' use of Club-owned kayaks and paddleboards, and create additional recreation options for members. The initial design shared with the Board includes volleyball, tetherball, and other games, picnic tables, an area for storing kayaks and paddleboards, and a shed for storing paddles, life preservers, and other supplies. The Board welcomed the idea. Two members of the Board will work with the Recreation Director.

The Board discussed the quotes from two vendors, Court Unlimited and Sport-Tech, to repair and resurface the tennis courts at Beach 1. Dave Martin recommended the services of Courts Unlimited because of its use of superior materials, which prevents cracks from surfacing, extending the life of the courts' surfaces. The Board voted to engage Courts Unlimited to repair and resurface the two tennis courts. The Board also discussed the need to resurface the Pickleball and Basketball courts and agreed to pick up the discussion of these items in April. To end the Manager's report, Dave Martin stated that Road Paving bids are due on March 31 and informed the Board that the Maintenance truck, which is being serviced, should be operational in two weeks.

New Business

President Ray Zimmerman reported that the Club's purchased weed harvester is coming in September. In an effort to obtain a weed harvester for this summer season, the Board has located one in Saugerties, N.Y., which will be dropped off to us soon. The only expenses to the Club are the insurance and shipping of the machine, while the benefits of having a Harvester this season are significant.

The Board did not choose a vendor for the membership survey. After much discussion of the three vendors and their corresponding quotes, the three successive motions presented - one to hire Eureka, one to hire Tag Corp., and one calling for the Board to create the survey - were tabled.

The Board President provided an update on the Clubhouse project. A committee of Club members is working on the project. The repairs/renovations that the Committee is discussing include renovations to the



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

electrical and audiovisual systems and the installation of handicapped-accessible bathrooms in the Clubhouse, as well as renovations to the Porch and the black-top walkway by the main lawn/Clubhouse Entrance.

Floor Open to Members

A member asked the Board how the In-Situ systems would be backed up. A member thanked the Board for their hard work and said he was happy the tennis courts would be done and that the Club was moving forward with Lake Management solutions. He pointed out that he does not want chemicals used to remove the Cattails and would rather they be cut. A member asked if any progress had been made on the drainage issues near his home on Tranquility Lane. The President promised to follow up with him in person.

Floor Open to Voting Board

Stu Blank, Section 7 Trustee, thanked Melissa Hardin for coordinating a fantastic Saint Patrick's Day dinner event. Dave Lagas, Section 10 Trustee, asked how a member's complaint regarding debris left on Breakneck Road should be handled. Dave Martin told Lagas to contact the Club's Compliance Officer. Jim Shriner, Section 9 Trustee, asked the Board to clarify the rules for using the dry docks and when members can put stickers on the docks. The President responded that members can claim a dock with their 2025 stickers. Jim also asked if there is a limit to the number of kayak spots a member can claim. No was the answer. Jim also suggested that a spreadsheet of members' complaints in each section and the resolution of said complaints be created and maintained.



Dock Lottery Done! Thanks to the volunteers from Boat Dock Committee for assigning Club docks for the 2025 season. Pick up dock assignments with your badge packets. Photo courtesy of Sue Buruchian

HIGHLAND LAKES
 Clubhouse Community Association

RunningClub@hlcc.org

RUNNING CLUB

Looking to run with a group?
 Join us for scenic runs around the Main Lake.
 Open to runners pacing 8-13 min/mile.
 Let's hit the road together!

🕒 9:00 AM 📅 SATURDAYS

First Meet April 19

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🔊 Avoid the Fine. Pump in Time! 🔊

Members have until September 2025 to take advantage of the one-time \$50 account credit for septic pumping.

To claim your credit, email a copy of your septic pumping receipt to accounting@hlcc.org.

Keep in mind, septic pumping is now a requirement. As of April 2023, the Board approved a rule requiring all members to provide proof that their septic systems are pumped at least once every three years.

Regular septic pumping is the #1 recommended step we can take as individual homeowners in our community to ensure we're doing our part to help protect our lakes.

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I am excited to announce the launch of Ridge & Valley Real Estate, an independent real estate brokerage based in Highland Lakes, serving Highland Lakers.

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Annual Boat Auction

NANCY EISENBERG, CHAIR

Spring is in the air! The 5th Annual Boat Auction will be conducted by the GCOF (Goodwill Community Outreach Fund) in May. If you have a boat (canoe, row, sailboat, paddle boat, wind surfer) and are not using it, we hope you will consider donating it for the auction so that others might enjoy. If interested, take a photo of your watercraft, and email photo and info to gcof@gcof.org.



Chit Chat

SUE BURUCHIAN, SECTION 1 TRUSTEE

Highland Lakes on Broadway! Tom and Loryane Castiglione's family are singing and dancing all BOOP songs as their son, Dan is starring on Broadway! He has trained his whole life for this amazing opportunity in this David Foster musical hit. Dan, over his dancing and music career, had always dreamed of the big stage and now he's on it playing at the Broadhurst Theatre NYC. (He's even featured on the Stage Door poster!) He's come a long way from those HL lifeguard chairs, dance competitions and dancing on the downwind in junior sailing. Go see Dan in BOOP! You'll leave smiling!

Save the Date
Blood Drive Coming to
Highland Lakes
Friday, June 27, 2025

Thinking about a renovation or addition?
Talk to an Architect!
Free no obligation consultation



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COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY.
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A one-time \$500 scholarship awarded to a graduating High School senior that resides full time in the Highland Lakes Community, has been involved in a volunteer activity and plans to continue their education at a Vocational/Trade School, College or University. Submissions due May 1.

FOR MORE INFO

www.gcof.org/scholarship
gcof@gcof.org



HIGHLAND LAKES
 Game Night

Stop by and challenge your mind with fellow members as we explore thought-provoking board games. Each meet-up we'll try a different game so you'll never run out of fun, strategic adventures.

🕒 4:00 PM 📅 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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HIGHLAND LAKES
Golf and Community Association

Seedling Social

at the CLUBHOUSE

Learn the basics of starting seedlings, swap gardening tips, and connect with fellow plant lovers.

🕒 6:00 PM 📅 APRIL 22



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BADGES REQUIRED

Join Us!

HIGHLAND LAKES
Golf and Community Association

10:00 AM
Roadside Clean Up

12:00 PM
Lunch at the Clubhouse

1:00 PM
Presentation: Pollinators

12:00 - 2:00 PM
Kids Crafts

Immediately following the presentation:

Prizes and Giveaways

Rain Garden Guided Tour

RSVP ecology@hlcc.org

Special Guest:
Ann Kinney
Xerces Society

Earth Day

AT THE Lake

📅 APRIL 26

🕒 10:00 AM

📍 CLUBHOUSE

www.hlcc.org

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Concert for a Cause

MARDEE REED-ULMER

Sunday, June 22

Come join us on Sunday, June 22 at 2 pm at the Clubhouse for CONCERT for a CAUSE! You're invited to hear Highland Lakes resident Mardee Reed-Ulmer and fellow flutist Susan Graham perform beautiful music from several centuries and genres to support the HL Goodwill Community Outreach Fund. It will be topped off with a wine and cheese reception. A \$15 donation is suggested. All proceeds will go to the fund.

Mardee Reed-Ulmer holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Performance from East Carolina University. Mardee has been an active soloist and freelancer and is currently principal flutist with The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea.

Susan Graham holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory and a Masters of Music degree from the Mason Gross School of the Arts. She is an active soloist and private instructor and plays flute and piccolo in The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea.

Please join these two fun flutist friends (say THAT 3 times fast!) for a delightful hour of music followed by wine, cheese and conviviality, all for a great cause!

Goodwill Community Outreach Fund

NANCY EISENBERG, CHAIR

Please visit our new website to follow information on programs and services available to the community:

<https://www.gcof.org/>

Questions? Email gcof@gcof.org for more information on the Goodwill Community Outreach Fund.

Earth Day – Focus on Pollinators

MIKE O'NEILL, CHAIR, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Join us on Saturday, April 26, to celebrate Earth Day at the Lake, sponsored by the Ecology Committee. This event offers Highland Lakes' members a chance to participate in a day that promises to be informative, fun and fulfilling. This year's presentation will focus on pollinators (butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and others) that help us sustain a healthy ecosystem in our beautiful lake community.

The day will begin, as it has for many years, with our semi-annual roadside clean-up led by Barbara Jaggi. This activity brings people of all ages together with one goal in mind: to beautify our roadways and protect our lakes by picking up litter and debris. Bring your clean-up crew to the Clubhouse at 10 am to identify your clean-up location and pick up gear to assist with your efforts.

Afterwards, around 12 noon, organizers are urging all crews, as well as those in our community who were not able to participate in the morning clean-up, to come back to the Clubhouse for lunch, crafts for kids, and presentations about caring for our plant and pollinator populations.

Remember to bring your kids to help with clean-up and participate in craft making from 12 to 2 pm led by Karen Dolci.

At 1 pm, our main presenter will be Ann Kinney from the Xerces Society. Ann will talk with us about the importance of pollinators to our lake ecosystem along with specific actions we can take in our own yards.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation is an international nonprofit organization that protects the natural world through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats. Their name (which is pronounced Zer-sees) comes from the now-extinct Xerces blue butterfly, the first butterfly known to go extinct in North America as a result of human activities. Ann is a Xerces Ambassador and a Master Gardener Volunteer in Rockland County, as well as a Master Gardener Volunteer in Ocean County where she spends her summers. Ann has a degree in Horticulture from Oregon State University and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Montclair State University.

After the presentation, we will raffle off pollinator prizes and give away wildflower seed kits for starting your own pollinator garden. Our final activity will be a guided tour of the rain garden located at the Clubhouse. Christine Alber from the Conservation Club will be your guide and will focus on trees and shrubs as most plants in the garden probably will not have sprouted yet.

This event is free and open to all Club members with an interest in educating themselves on how best to beautify our yards while encouraging a healthy pollinator population. It's a wonderful way to celebrate Earth Day. Please register your intention to attend by emailing us at hlcc.org/event-reg so that we will be able to plan lunch and activities accordingly. See you there!

Next Newsette: May 3, 2025

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 info@hlcc.org. Sorry – we can only print photographs submitted as .jpg files with a minimum of 150 dpi. Thanks!

Open Mic is Back

CAROL DIORIO, COORDINATOR

After a lengthy hiatus, The Highland Lakes Open Mic is back in full swing! We have professional musicians hosting and there to back you up (or not) and for your listening pleasure, performing multi-genres of music. We have professional sound engineers onboard working with our excellent (and complicated) sound system.

We hope you'll come and support live music, while you relax in our beautiful Lake Room, share food and drink with your neighbors, appreciate and/or share your talents.

If you'd like to volunteer, we always need help to set up and break down. Just show up at 5:30 on the day of. We usually meet on the third Saturday of the month unless there is a prior commitment. Check the Newsette and website for upcoming dates.



Guitar Club News

TERRY GRIFFIN, COORDINATOR

As we hope for spring and warmer weather to arrive, let's keep the music alive. We are looking forward to sitting on the deck, soaking in the sun and strumming away. If you love music as much as we do, grab your guitar and join us in the Lake Room every Thursday from 11 am to 12 pm. It's the perfect chance to connect, play, and share the joy of music with fellow enthusiasts. See you there! For more information, please text me at 973-903-8145.

The Mighty Seniors

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT

Welcome Spring! We're all anticipating warmer temperatures, beautiful sunny days and lovely blue skies.

Here's our update from the St. Pat's Day luncheon with 57 guests:

We enjoyed Shepherds' pie, bangers and mash, chicken pot pie, salad and desserts. Sincere thanks to ALL the volunteers who shopped, cooked, served, decorated, and cleaned up. You are the BEST! The afternoon brought us Elliot Gordon, a wonderful guest speaker relating film clips and very funny stories of classic comedians of years ago. We loved his presentation.

Our next luncheon on April 16 at noon, brings us Det. Grogan of the Sussex County Sheriff's Dept. Remember to call text me to sign up to attend.

Our evening meetings will begin Tuesday, May 13 at 7 pm in the Lake Room. We'll be meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of the month.

We're planning our Annual Memorial Day Ceremony and All-American Lunch on Monday, May 26 at 11 am at the Clubhouse.

All seniors of our community are welcome to join our S/C (Senior Cub).

I've found a great piece entitled: Made To Do Good by Leslie Koh. At first, I ignored the card fluttering to the ground. The father and his little girl who dropped it were just twenty feet away, and I was late for work. Surely they would have realized it, I told myself. But they kept walking. My conscience got the better of me, and I went to pick it up. It was a prepaid bus ride pass. When I gave it to them, their effusive thanks left me feeling unexpectedly satisfied. Why do I feel so good about doing such a small thing? I wondered.

It turns out the human body produces chemicals that improve our mood when we're kind to others. We're made to feel good when we do good! We don't have to be doing great things all the time. If we do something small to help others in our daily lives, we not only get the reward of satisfaction, but we also know that we're doing a pleasing thing in our world.

If you have questions about our S/C, give me a call or text. I'm happy to help. 845-544-3749. Love ya, Joyce H

HIGHLAND LAKES
Country Club and Community Association

Leather Crafting

at the CLUBHOUSE

Let's create something unique!

Whether you're a beginner or experienced, this is a great opportunity to learn new skills while making custom leather goods. All materials provided - just bring your creativity.

🕒 6:00 PM 📅 APRIL 21

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HIGHLAND LAKES
Country Club and Community Association

OPEN MIC

Night at the CLUBHOUSE

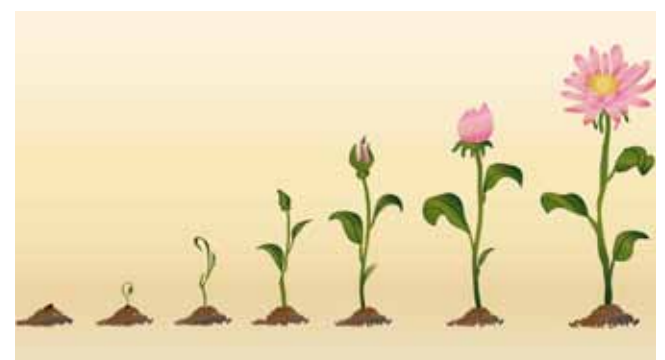
All levels of talent and music genres are welcome.
✉ Email openmic@hlcc.org with any questions. ✉

🕒 7:00 PM 📅 3RD SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH

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Classified Ads

BOATS/TRAILERS: Old unwanted boats and trailers taken away for free. Also, can move boats from home to dock and shore for reasonable rates. Call Al for details: 973-271-4282 7/8/25

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FOR SALE: Hobie Cat – 16' with aluminum trailer, 1980's model, stored in garage on main lake, complete w/upgrades, needs minor refreshing, \$3,200 for all -- Paul at 401-480-4588. 4/5/25

FOR SALE: Complete seldom-used full-size bed set. Includes a pullout twin size trundle. Mattresses included. \$450 - Call Kevin 845-893-2923. 5/3/25



Breaking News – Inaugural Meeting of the HL Running Club

ESTEPHANI SOLER, COORDINATOR

Saturdays, April - October (Weekly)

Hello Highland Lakers! My name is Estefani Soler. I am a dedicated long-distance runner with over six years of experience. Throughout this time, I have participated in various local races in NJ and NY and have achieved notable recognition, including several awards in my age group. My recent move to Highland Lakes inspired me to meet other runners and create a running club. Runners who can maintain a pace of 8 to 13 minutes per mile are welcome.

This running club aims to create an inclusive community for adult runners of all levels. It focuses on fitness, running goals, and a passion for running while enjoying the scenic views of Highland Lakes. Running can often be solitary; many individuals may feel isolated when training alone. By joining this running club, participants can connect with fellow runners, share experiences, and foster a supportive environment that enhances the running experience.

We will meet at the Clubhouse on Saturdays at 9 am and wrap up at 11 am. The starting distance will be 3 miles, with the option to increase the mileage based on the group's size and pace. We will run around the Main Lake.

Participants are required to wear appropriate running shoes to ensure comfort and injury prevention. We recommend athletic wear that is suitable for varying weather conditions, including layers for colder months and breathable fabrics for warmer weather. Additionally, understanding basic running etiquette will help ensure a smooth and safe run for all.

First Meeting: April 19, 2025.



Section 2 Quarterly Check-In Join the Conversation

JOE DELORENZO, TRUSTEE SECTION 2

Are you a resident of Section 2? If so, I invite you to our first Quarterly Check-In on Friday, April 11, at 8 pm at the Clubhouse. This informal gathering is a chance to share your thoughts, ask questions, and stay informed about what your trustee and the board are working on.

My goal as your trustee is to keep communication open, be proactive, and ensure transparency. By coming together a few times a year, we can address concerns, exchange ideas, and continue improving our community. I hope to see you there. PS - there "may" be cookies for all those in attendance.



We care about what you think.

We rely on feedback from members like you! Answer this quick survey to let us know what matters to you and how we can serve you better.



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VOTING BOARD MEETINGS

The Voting Board Regular Meetings are held on the **THIRD FRIDAY** of every month at 8:00 PM.

The Workshops are held the week prior on Wednesday at 7:30 PM.

www.hlcc.org/calendar

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Some scenes from the leprechaun traps making event and the St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Photos courtesy of Melissa Hardin and Priscilla Foglia.

Recreation Roundup – March

MELISSA HARDIN, RECREATION MANAGER

April showers bring May flowers and fun at the Clubhouse! We had a great March with a large turnout for making Leprechaun traps on March 15. Then on March 16 we had our Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Vinny from Family and Friends Catering prepared a delicious traditional Irish buffet. Everyone was welcomed in by the sounds of bag pipes from Colin of The Piper's Cove, and he played some additional songs to get people in the mood during dinner. Attendees were also treated to watching Irish dancers from the Lenahan School of Irish Dance. (See pictures within this Newsette)

