



FHLA NEWSLETTER 2023



President's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

On behalf of the Fox Hill Lake Association board of directors, I'd like to thank you for your past support and hope that you will join (or re-join) the lake association in support of our efforts for the coming season. We need your help! Joining is easy – just return the enclosed membership form with your check, or use Venmo to pay. We have contracted with Pond & Lake to provide two treatments on about 10 acres to improve water flow and open up more of the lake areas, eliminating the overgrowth of pond lilies and other submerged nuisance weeds – all a part of our long-term plan. The treatments (at a cost \$7,897.68) will include the main channel through Fox Hill Lake, the cove and shoreline near Water's Edge Way, and areas south to Limestone Road, as well as a part of the north lake near Shady Lane. Treatments are scheduled for late May or early June, when the plants are fully emerged, with a follow up treatment in late summer. We are also hoping to be able to do an additional treatment for the invasive phragmites that have proliferated around the lake, but our funds are limited so we'll need additional help from lakefront homeowners for those treatments. We have a lot of social activities planned for the coming year – these events are a great way to get to know your neighbors and enjoy the natural beauty of our lakes! Facebook users can also find updates and photos of our lakes and wildlife on our Facebook page or on our website - <https://foxhilllake.com>

See you on the lake!

Manny Silva, FHLA President

FHLA Board of Directors:

Manny Silva, Bennett's Farm Road

Krenare Osmani, Rita Road

Ellen Burns, Great Hill Road

Janet Swift, Waters Edge Way

RoseAnne Nagle, Shady Lane

Bevin Carsten, Lookout Drive

Please Be a Good Neighbor!- A few guidelines to help keep our lakes and beaches beautiful!

Dogs-Pet waste should be picked up and put in your trash bins.

Beaches-There are two beaches for community use: Bennett's Farm Rd. and Rita Beach.

Please clean up after each use and be sure to dispose of all refuse in your trash bins. Take all trash and/or items with you when leaving.

Littering-Please do not litter in the lake. Leaves should not be dumped in the lake during fall or spring clean-ups. Remind your landscapers of this as well. Properly dispose of all refuse.

Boat Racks-In order to keep your boat, canoe and/or kayak properly registered, when returning your membership form let us know which beach it's stored at and the rack number. Ex: "B 10" for Bennett's Farm Beach or "R 5" for Rita Beach – the number is to indicate the space on the rack. For easier access and to avoid injury, we suggest that heavier watercrafts be placed on lower racks. If you keep your watercraft at home, you still need a boat sticker ! We need to prevent boats that have been used in other water bodies from bringing invasive plants into the lake.

Note: For proper maintenance of our beaches' grounds; boats, canoes and kayaks must be placed on racks and not on the ground.

Important: All boats stored on our racks must be claimed and tagged by the owner. Boats that are unclaimed and have no FHLA sticker will be auctioned by the association.



Fertilizers-If you need to fertilize please remember to buy **phosphorus-free fertilizer**. Phosphorus gets into our lake and it causes algae growth which reduces oxygen for our fish population. Only 1 pound of phosphorus allows for 1100 pounds of algae to grow. **Check the label on the bags, it should say 0 for the middle number (phosphorus).**

Septic tanks-Septic tanks should be pumped every two to three years. Maintained tanks keep nutrients such as phosphorus that cause algal blooms out of our lakes. Invasive plants also thrive with nutrients from septic tanks that are not working well.

Success with Scenic Road Initiative!

Thanks to many years of hard work by former FHLA Board members Dawn Hettrich, Alice Simon, Jean Linville and Liz Cope, as well as members of the current Board, in November 2022 our formerly “private” roads were adopted by the town as Scenic Roads! What does that mean for the residents of Madeline Drive, Lakeview Drive, Lookout Drive, Rita Road, Rustic Drive, Rustic Road, Water’s Edge Way, and Highview Road? Consistent with the Scenic Road town ordinance (§292), it means that the Town highway department will maintain the roads in good repair, including trimming of trees or brush that obstruct sightlines or affect utility wires, remove dead or dying trees (as determined by the Tree Warden), correct road drainage problems, maintain existing drainage structures, and repave or repair road surfaces. Prior to this change, the town did the absolute minimum of maintenance required for emergency services access.



Of course, improvement will not happen overnight – the town’s 168 miles of roads are in constant need of repair and budgets are limited. In any case, the roads will not be widened or altered to meet the standards of the town road requirements, in order to maintain their scenic character.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Town Meeting last November to ensure that we got this project over the finish line!

Fireworks

While we understand that many neighbors enjoy fireworks on the July 4th and other holidays, their use on our beaches, dams or from boats in our two lakes (Fox Hill Lake and the lake north of the dam) is prohibited. In addition to frightening wildlife, their use on lake property is an unacceptable liability risk to the Association. If you chose to use them on your own property, please be considerate of your neighbors (and their dogs!) and limit the length of your fireworks displays.

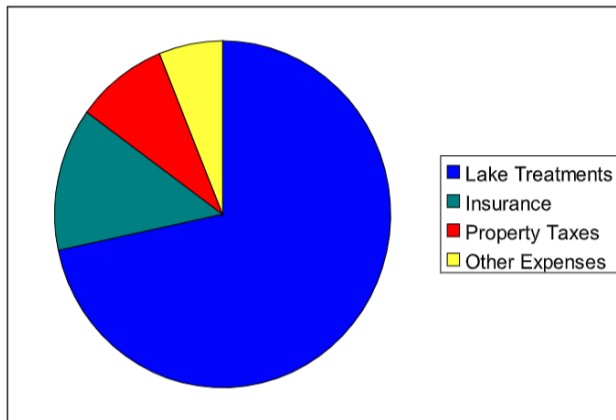
Buffer Areas to Protect the Lake



Waterfront property owners could help improve the health of the lake by not mowing their lawn all the way to the shoreline. Allowing plants to grow in these areas helps filter the runoff from your yard (and beyond) that goes into the lake. Native plants, rather than turf grass (which is essentially a monoculture), also help feed bees and other beneficial insects. Some of us started following the “No Mow May” effort to allow early weeds such as dandelions to provide food for bees during the early part of the growing season. **Please consider allowing your lawn to go unmowed within 10 or 20 feet of the lake, or replacing your lawn adjacent to the lake with plants.** We also ask that all homeowners in our lake watershed (and if you received this newsletter, your home is in the watershed) refrain from using fertilizers on your lawn – it all eventually winds up in the lake, encouraging unwanted nuisance weed growth.

Treasurer's Report

Our fiscal year ended September 30, 2022 showed revenues of \$10,367, including \$7,200 in membership dues, \$2,975 in extra contributions. An additional \$1,600 was received after the fiscal year end. Membership included 62 households. Our expenses were \$9,767 for lake maintenance and treatments, \$1,829 for insurance, \$1,206 for property taxes, and \$824 for all other expenses.



For the new season, we have maintained the dues at last year's level, which is \$250 for lakefront, \$150 for lake view, and \$50 for all others. Please fill out and return the membership form, along with your check as soon as possible. Your membership dues include one boat sticker at no charge, and additional boat stickers are \$15 each. If you prefer, you can pay on VENMO (@foxhilllake). If you pay on VENMO, please be sure to include your street address and the details of

your payment (dues, contribution, boat stickers with location of storage, etc).

Thank you in advance for your support!



Upcoming Events

JUNE

3rd- Full Moon Float and Fire Pit-8PM. Fire Pit will start at 9PM after the moon float- 10 Shady Ln.

14th-Bike/Walk/Run Meetup-10AM

19th-Sandcastle Contest-10AM-Rita Beach

JULY

3rd-Full Moon Float-8PM

4th-BBQ-3:30PM Adults and Kids, 8PM Adults Only-10 Shady Lane

AUGUST

11th-Community Fire Pit-8PM-10 Shady Lane

30th-Full Moon Float-August 30, 8PM



Do you need a Wetlands Permit?

If you're planning to do any work on your property that will involve disturbance of soil, filling or removal of soil within or adjacent to designated inland wetland areas (designated by soil types) and watercourses (lakes, ponds, brooks & streams), you may need a permit from the Inland Wetlands Board. The IWB is a 7-member elected board dedicated to preventing unwarranted intrusions into fragile wetlands and watercourses or adjacent areas, and to protect the waters of our town. They are assisted in these efforts by the town's Wetlands Agent, Caleb Johnson, who can be reached at (203) 431-2383 or by email to wetlands@ridgefieldct.org. Caleb is available to answer any questions you may have about any planned activities and whether or not a permit is required.

For example, the installation of an attached dock is normally considered a regulated activity and requires a permit. Some activities that have minimal impact on wetlands or watercourses or occur entirely outside of wetlands or watercourses may be permitted by the Wetlands Agent without review by the IWB. If you have any questions on how the wetlands regulations impact your property, please contact Caleb. The "upland review area" for wetlands and watercourses is 100 feet. The biggest impact of these regulations would be on lakefront properties, but non-lakefront owners may also need a permit under certain situations. Waterfront property owners should also know that parts of their yards may be wetlands, even if it appears to be lawn.

The Wetlands Board is dedicated to protecting the town's natural resources, and works with homeowners to ensure that your project, whether it includes an addition to your home, a new structure or outdoor amenities such as a shed, patio or deck, is done in a way that minimizes the impact on our lake and surrounding wetlands.

Stay in Touch!



1. Join the Facebook page-search for [Fox Hill Lake Community](#) to follow all events, activities, news and picture posts of our lakes.

2. Be sure to provide your **email address** on the membership form. It's how we mainly communicate important information about our lakes throughout the year.

3. Check our website regularly for updates and other pertinent info. relating to our lakes Foxhilllake.com

4. For questions/concerns about our lakes, please email: fhlainfo@gmail.com



A BIG SHOUTOUT TO SARAH PATTERSON FROM RITA RD. FOR GIFTING US WITH COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER!

