

HIDDEN LAKE

Aquatic Wildlife Management Committee

Summer Meeting Minutes 7/13/2023

Location: 75 Shore Rd

Meeting called to order at 56:15pm.

Committee Members Present:

Betty Barsevich bbarsevich@yahoo.com
Keha Esposito kwind159@yahoo.com
Mary-Beth Russo russm002@gmail.com
Kerri Wilson dragonfly747@outlook.com

Absent:

Karen Bullock kbullock65@comcast.net

Associate Members Present:

Linda Lamitola LCLamitola@aol.com
Mary Shea. Mshea47@aol.com

Board Member oversight:

Jay Cassella (HLA Pres.) hlapresident1@gmail.com

AGENDA:

I. Review of Summer to Date—Wildlife sightings

- Sightings around the lake
 - Kingfisher
 - Several families of Blue Birds with fledglings from Blue Bird boxes
 - Barn Swallow families
 - House Finches
 - Goldfinches
 - Red Tail Hawks
 - Great Blue Heron
 - Egret
 - Bald Eagle
 - Several varieties of turtles, even laying their eggs
 - Northern Water Snake
 - Hummingbirds (although late this year)
 - Several species of butterflies, including some Monarch eggs (late this year as well)
 - Possible 3 Blue-winged Teals

II. Discussion of Aquatic Species—Bryozoan

- Discussion about bryozoan and locations around the lake
- See article that Jay sent out to HLA members
<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/freshwater-bryozoan/>

III. Status of Butterfly/Pollinator Gardens

- Plants look good. Powdery mildew on the Beebalm, but that shouldn't affect the blooms.

- Need for more milkweed, awaiting availability of funds
- Mary & Kerri both have plants to donate, but will wait until fall when it is better to transplant

IV. Update on Butterfly Way Station

- Need to have between 10-20 milkweed plants of different varieties to qualify for the Butterfly Way Station
- Kerri had shared the application with Keha previously but will email it to all members
- Mary brought up the possibility of being designated as a Wildlife Habitat, below are links to learn more about this

<https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat/>

<https://nativebackyards.com/certified-wildlife-habitat/>

Mary-Beth (MB) mentioned Doug Tallamy's Home Grown National Park. See link below for more information

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

V. AWC Workshops

- MB will research the 5 invasive plants that will be the focus of the workshop in mid-August. The invasives are Mugwort, Multiflora rose, Garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, and Asiatic bittersweet (formerly Oriental).
- Topics for the workshop will include
 - Highlight plantings in the butterfly/pollinator gardens
 - Share information on Wildlife Habitat, Butterfly Way Station, Home Grown National Park
 - Share information on the detrimental effects of the 5 invasive species on our environment
 - Share information on the positive impact of planting native plants
- Linda suggested having visuals of beneficial gardens
- Jay will purchase coffee and munchkins for the event through HLA funds since the activity benefits all HLA members
- Betty will provide lemonade and ice tea
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VI. Update on Haddam Town Information for Signage

- No progress as of yet, Keha will go to Haddam Town Hall to check on this

Next meeting dates: Sometime in August before the workshop on invasive plants in order to prepare for the workshop.