

Logging Muddies Highland Lake

By Elizabeth Walters
Concord Monitor staff

Condensed from the Concord Monitor.

A logging operation in East Andover has muddied two brooks and sent sediment flowing into Highland Lake, endangering its wildlife and water quality, and the state Department of Environmental Services is taking enforcement action.

The logging has caused either Tilton Brook or the Maple Street inlet stream to run brown four times since early May. DES officials said that because the investigation into the situation is still active, they cannot comment on what measures the department is taking.

But the state Division of Forests and Lands, which regulates logging, has fined one of the operators \$300.

Doug Miner, a forest ranger for Forests and Lands, said his department first got a call about the problem on May 4. When he went to investigate, he found that the logger, Richard Lyons Jr., had laid logs across the bed of an intermittent stream to create a crossing for his skids.

"Under normal weather conditions, that would work fine," Miner said.

But it had been raining heavily, and the water in the stream rose up and flowed over the surface of the logs, washing the mud and sediment on top of them downstream, Miner said. Those intermittent streams flow into the larger brooks, which flow into the lake.

"You see the brown coming out into the lake," said Bob Welch, who lives on the lake and tests its clarity as a participant in the state's volunteer lake assessment program. "It just comes out, and it just covers a whole huge area."

Miner issued a cease-and-desist order to Lost Cloud Forest Management, the company that had contracted Lyons to do the cutting. He told the company to place hay bales and silt fencing to catch any further runoff. He also fined Lost Cloud \$300 for not having the

proper stream-crossing permit from DES; Shaun Hathaway, who runs Lost Cloud, paid the fine, Miner said.

After the initial complaint, Miner referred the case to DES. Because letting soil flow into wetlands qualifies as a type of illegal filling, the Wetlands Bureau took charge of the case. Because the brooks affect the quality of a lake, the Lakes Management and Protection Bureau also got involved.

An excess of soil flowing into any water body is harmful because it clogs the breathing membranes of fish and other underwater creatures, said Jody Connor, the state limnology director.

"They probably killed off most of the invertebrates in that stream, because they breathe with gills," he said.

The soil that has been deposited in the lake is also problematic simply because it is foreign to the lake environment, Connor said. Highland Lake has a sandy bottom, whereas soil from a forest contains decaying leaves and pine needles. The decay produces phosphorous. When phosphorous gets into water, it can increase the growth of algae and cyanobacteria, which can make people sick.

When it settles to the bottom of the lake, the forest soil could prove hospitable to plants that shouldn't be growing there, Connor said. Connor and Linda Magoon, a compliance specialist for the Wetlands Bureau, said DES will keep an eye on the situation.

Neither Lost Cloud nor Lyons nor the property's owners, Barton and Elizabeth Green, could be reached for comment. But Miner said the loggers began putting up hay bales and silt fences the evening after his visit, and Magoon said she has found all three parties cooperative.

"Either . . . Mr. Hathaway or Mr. Lyons has been on the phone with me daily to keep me updated as to their efforts," Magoon said.

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Kate Goodin of Kayak Country Paddlesports (pictured above) will be teaching a "Women's Introduction to Kayaking" class on Sunday, August 6, from 1 PM to 3 PM. Instruction for paddle techniques, self rescue information, and equipment selection will be part of the class. Call Kayak Country in Andover at 735-5000 or visit KayakCountry.com for more information.

Photo: Bob Bussey

Andover Snowmobile Club

By Allan Houle
Andover Snowmobile Club

We would like to thank everyone that supported our Fourth of July food booth. The food crew was kept quite busy serving up burgers, sausage grinders, and beverages. Thanks for a job well done.

We even sold some raffle tickets for our Raffle Sled. This year's raffle sled is a 2006 Ski Doo MXZ 550X with electronic reverse, a very sharp looking sled.

It is also that time of year to be thinking about ordering your Andover Snowmobile Club Community Events Calendar. Order a calendar for \$5 and

you get four listings (birthday, anniversary, or "in memory") on the calendar. There are also a few advertisement spots available at this time. They do fill up quite quickly.

If interested in an advertisement or in ordering your calendar, please contact Sue Nelson at 934-9972 or Karen Brule at 735-5007. We like to have the orders in by September 17. You can also find out more about the Community Calendar, Raffle Sled, and other club events by checking out our Web site at AndoverSnowmobileClub.com.

Thanks again for all of your support, and have a great summer.

Andover Fish & Game's Beef Barbeque

By Rich Gross
Andover Fish & Game Club

The Andover Fish And Game Club's Annual Beef Barbecue with corn on the cob and all the fixings, plus strawberries and ice cream for dessert, will be held on Saturday, August 19 from 5 PM to 6:30 PM at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Chef Murray Smith will be doing the cooking. A Chinese auction will follow.

The cost of the barbecue is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. We use the money raised for a kids' fishing

derby in the spring, a kids' ice fishing derby in the winter, and to send three kids to the Barry Conservation Camp in the summer. We also donate to local charities and maintain our clubhouse in East Andover.

There is always plenty to eat and drink, and the auction is always fun. So come on down and enjoy a fine meal and a good time.

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