

# Echo Hill South Association News

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## EHSA Picnic 2003

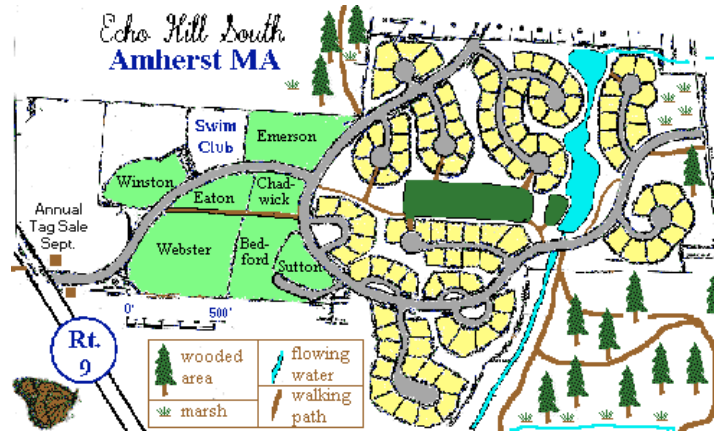
Come to our newly reinstated *E H S A Neighborhood Picnic!* Kathy Niedzielski has organized this years picnic for Sunday, September 21 between 1 and 4 PM on the east end of the Common Field. Details are given on page 4.

## Ponds Restoration Study Moves Forward

Our three Echo Hill South ponds are following a natural process whereby they are evolving into a swamp then a field, and finally a forest. This process comes about through soil and sand sedimentation and deposition of decaying plant material that together have gradually filled in our ponds so they are now very shallow with grass, lilies and other plants abundantly growing in them.

Minor steps to address this problem were approved earlier by the Amherst Conservation Commission: 1) removing encroaching branches, bushes, debris and saplings from all three ponds, the connecting stream and the entering stream up to the waterline, 2) cutting and thinning lilies and other vegetation in all three ponds, 3) offering advice to abutters to not use fertilizers on lawns or gardens that drain into the ponds or streams, and not to dump leaves in ponds, streams or near the shores, and 4) permitting small, hand bucket dredging by EHS residents. All items except #2 were completed.

Given the recent rapid degradation of our ponds, a new committee has reviewed a large range of more extensive options for restoration and recommended several actions to the Board of Directors: some dredging of the ponds, possibly raising the outlet heights by a foot, and measures to reduce sediment loading. Because there is dredging involved, the Amherst Conservation Department required that we hire an environmental consulting firm to prepare a formal plan and obtain the necessary permits. The



Visit our website: [www.geocities.com/echohill\\_2000/](http://www.geocities.com/echohill_2000/)

Board of Directors approved hiring New England Environmental Inc. Our consultants first checked for any obvious red flags and finding none are now preparing a formal plan for us to review. After input from the Board of Directors, the abutters and the Association membership, and subsequent formal agency approval of the plans, some work on the ponds may begin in late summer of 2004.

Since the restoration work will enhance the value of real estate with a view of the ponds, the Board of Directors felt that these primary abutters should split the expense of improvements with the other Association members. To this end 7 of the 9 primary abutters have chosen to donate \$350 each towards the cost of the preparation of a formal proposal by the consultants. Abutters have indicated a willingness to contribute to the ponds restoration contingent on the final plans. The Association funds for the project will come from a temporary \$10 increase in annual dues for three years, matched by significant voluntary contributions from members who want to see the ponds restored both for their own enjoyment and for that of the area children. The Board will be asking for your input and support as the plan develops.

### 2003-4 EHSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe Kunkel, Pres.	74 Stoneyhill Rd	253-3391
Bob Tuthill, Vice Pres.	12 Thistle Ln.	253-3638
Chuck, Gillies, Sec.	16 Cranberry Ln.	253-9232
Jackie Tuthill, Treas.	12 Thistle Lane	253-3638
John Donahoe	15 Red Fox Lane	253-5003
Eric Einhorn	11 Red Fox Lane	256-8258
Michael Malone	19 Hickory Lane	256-2353
Sally Malsch	12 Emerson Court	253-5250
Don Proulx	11 Laurel Lane	256-6751
David Triozzi	80 Stoneyhill	253-0647

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For Budget Year 4/01/03 - 3/31/04

***Summary Reconciliation***

<b>Cash Reserves</b> (checking acct. - 4/1/03)	<b>\$5,101.51</b>
<b>Estimated Income</b> (4/1/03 - 3/31/04)	<b>\$8,892.80</b>
<b>Estimated Available Funds</b>	<b>\$13,994.31</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>-\$10,994.31</b>
<b>Expected Cash Reserves</b> (checking acct. - 4/1/04)	<b>\$3,000.00</b>

***Detailed Breakdown*****Income Source**

Dues 2003 (247 units @ \$35 each, 1 prepaid)	\$8,645.00
Back Dues and Interest Owed	\$247.80
<b>Estimated Income</b> (4/1/03 - 3/31/04)	<b>\$8,892.80</b>

**Expenditure Items**

Liability Insurance	\$3,565.00
Real Estate Taxes - Amherst	\$90.00
Real Estate Taxes - Pelham	\$3.00
Post Office Box Rental	\$75.00
Association Fee to Commonwealth	\$25.00
Copy Service	\$200.00
Postage (Including Mailings)	\$300.00
Mowing Fields, Road Verges, Brush Hogging	\$2,500.00
Annual clean-up	\$1,400.00
Grounds and Tree Work (Including pond)	\$2,150.00
Street Grants	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$36.31
Welcome Committee	\$50.00
Legal Fees	\$300.00
<b>Estimated Expenditures</b>	<b>\$10,994.31</b>

## Are we not-friendly in Echo Hill South?



The answer is of course we are friendly! But have you seen the sign at the entrance to the Pond on Stoneyhill Rd? **Members and Guests Only?**

That sign has been made necessary by the recent raising of our liability insurance rates for our Common Land. Without our posting of that sign, our insurance rates would have skyrocketed more. In fact it is likely we would not have been able to find an insurance carrier who would insure us without that sign. We will just have to show our friendliness in other ways.

**NOTE FROM THE TREASURER**– Jackie Tuthill  
Thank you to all those people who have paid their 2003-2004 dues. The dues are spent for the maintenance, improvement and safety of the common land areas and for taxes and insurance regards the common land. Owners who have not fulfilled this year's obligation should comply as soon as possible and will be receiving a separate billing. Considering the small budget we operate with, your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. In case you may have forgotten the Board authorizes 18% yearly interest on in arrears dues. After 3 years in arrears properties will have a lien place upon them and collection will be made at the time of property sale with all associated legal and administrative fees attached.

### Join one of our Committees:

**Grounds Committee:** Manages our common land.  
Bob Tuthill, Chair.

**Architecture Committee:** Approves modifications to visible home architecture and trees (more than 6" in diameter 2 ft. above the ground).  
Chuck Gillies, Chair.

**Welcoming Committee:** Welcomes new homeowners and assures they know of the Association Bylaws.  
Jackie Tuthill, Chair.

**Newsletter Committee:** Produces 3-4 EHSA newsletters per year. Joe Kunkel, Chair. *(We are always looking for stories and pictures; come help us. Folders, labelers and stampers are needed too.)*

**Picnic Committee:** Organizes a Fall Picnic. Kathy Niedzielski, Chair, [stonyhill@map.com](mailto:stonyhill@map.com).

**Website Committee:** Maintains the EHSA Website,  
Joe Kunkel, Chair.



We had abundant mushrooms in Echo Hill South this rainy August!  
*Picture by Joe Kunkel.*

# Echo Hill South Neighborhood Picnic

Sunday, September 21st, 2003  
Large Field, 1:00 PM

- \*Bring your own main dish, grills will be available for cooking!
- \*Bring a side dish or desert to share!
- \*Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on!
- \*Bring your Frizbee or Wiffle Bat!

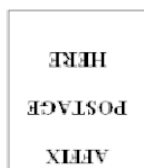
We will provide (lemonade, water and watermelon). There will be games and fun for all.

**If you have a grill, picnic table, or recreational equipment to loan, please call Kathy at 253-3201.**

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Echo Hill South Association Newsletter

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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P.O. Box  
Amherst, MA 01004-0852