

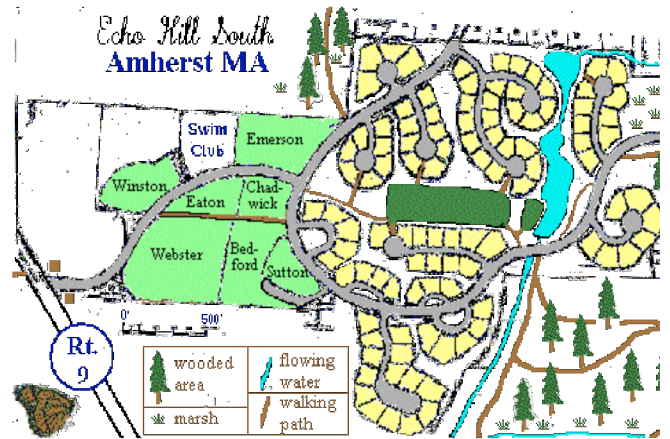
Echo Hill South Association News

Echoes Around the Hill

- The EHSA Board and Committees have vacancies that could be just that community project you are looking for. *Please* come join us and volunteer at our Annual Meeting!
- We are bursting with pride over Treasurer Jackie Tuthill's unprecedented accomplishment. All dues in the arrears from past years have been collected! This provides a powerful encouragement for us all to keep our EHSA dues payments current.
- Notice that our EHSA Newsletter now contains advertisements, which are being used to support the EHSA Pond Revitalization Project.

Give our advertisers a try!

Joe Kunkel



Visit our website: www.geocities.com/echohill_2000

**NOTICE OF YOUR
ECHO HILL SOUTH ASSOCIATION, INC.
37TH ANNUAL MEETING**
Fort River School Cafeteria
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 26

The annual meeting is here again! As usual we will be meeting at Fort River Elementary School (cafeteria) to hear the President's Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report, elect new Officers and Board Members, as well as discuss the burning issues that affect us all, including (1) The Pond Revitalization Project explained. (2) The pressure to decrease our services from the Town. (3) How are our trees doing? (4) Our (newly reinstated) EHSA Annual Picnic. Come and contribute to the lively discussion of our Association's priorities.

Joe Kunkel

KNOCK KNOCK

Shortly, an Echo Hill South Association Board member or other representative will be knocking on your door to deliver a town legal-abutters-notice regarding our proposed ponds dredging. You will be asked to sign that you received the notice. Hand delivery saves your Association \$4.42 in postal costs per dwelling. (Eaton, Webster and Winston Courts are not classified as abutters because of distance.) *Bob Tuthill*

In this issue:

An End to Busing as We Know It?
See page 6 for our view of the issue.

The Pond, in the Pond!

No! 'Jaws' has not invaded our ponds, but algae, reeds and silt really have. Jaws could not survive there. The process threatens to turn our 3 ponds into swamp... See page 2... **Pond Restoration Plan.**

Picnic Report... page 8 | EHSA setting... page 6

Dog Tails... page 4 | Treasurer's Note... page 7

CURRENT ECHO HILL SOUTH ASSOCIATION 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 Rd.	

Pond Restoration Plan

The EHSA Board, working with New England Environmental, Inc., (NEE) is embarking on a three year, \$30,000 pond restoration plan. The goal of the restoration plan is to extend the life of the EHSA's upper, middle and lower ponds by 30 years. Highlights of the 3 year effort include a design phase, a permitting stage, a three pronged fundraising plan and a phased pond dredging schedule.

2000-2003 efforts to restore ponds

The pond restoration planning now underway follows on the heels of a Amherst Conservation Commission approved pond remediation plan implemented by the EHSA Board from March 2000 through March 2003. This plan included the cutting of the invading brush around the edges of the ponds up to the spring high water mark, opening a trail along the side of the lower and middle ponds, reopening the public access to the upper pond, and some minor hand dredging in the lower pond.

2003 conclusion: Dredging only option to save ponds from becoming marshes

At the conclusion of the March 2000 - March 2003 remediation plan, and following two years of drought, it became clear that more extensive action was required to save the ponds. At this point, all experts consulted agreed that mechanical dredging was the only long term, cost-effective solution available. NEE was chosen to help develop a comprehensive plan based on their excellent reputation and local work, including Echo Hill North's swimming pond, the UMass pond and the Mt. Holyoke College pond. Over the last 6 months of 2002, the EHSA Board's Pond Committee has worked with pond abutters, the Board and the NEE to develop both a pond restoration plan and a fundraising plan.

Restoration schedule, if permitting and fundraising efforts are successful

When the appropriate federal, state and local permits are granted this spring, and if fundraising has been successful, a phased dredging of the ponds will begin in the late summer or early fall of 2004 when the ponds are typically at their lowest level. Dredging will begin with the upper pond, bordered by Cranberry and Laurel Lanes. In late summer of 2005, both the middle and lower ponds will be dredged. An unusually wet summer and fall could prevent dredging in a given year, and the schedule will be pushed back

until the following year. The permits for this project are good for 3 years, and can be extended due to such extenuating circumstances.

Restoration approach aims for healthy, safe and enjoyable ponds

All of the ponds will have most of the accumulated sediment removed from them. Each of the ponds will have deep areas created near their centers for the purpose of maintaining a year round water area to support animals and plants which need constant immersion. Some areas around the edges of the ponds and areas with healthy, native plant life will remain as is. All of the ponds will have harmful invasive plants removed. Beneficial native vegetation will be



Cardinal flower on lower pond.

transplanted within the ponds to hasten the flora and fauna recovery. In addition, all ponds will have shallow buffer zones along their edges to provide transition zones for aquatic life and a safety zone for children. Access areas for fishing and pond viewing will be improved. A nearby butterfly garden is under consideration.

Three pronged fundraising effort: Abutter contributions, EHSA dues surcharge and EHS community donations

A three-pronged fundraising plan will begin this spring to raise the \$30,000 needed to save the ponds. Funds will be obtained from the primary abutters of the ponds, from an EHSA Association dues surcharge and from local individual and business donations. The primary abutters, whose aesthetic experience of the ponds and property values will be significantly improved by the pond restoration efforts have been asked to contribute 50% of the total cost, or \$15,000. A major portion of those funds have already been pledged. The EHSA Board has approved a three year surcharge on dues of \$10 per year, for a total of \$30 per Association member over three years. The dues surcharge will fund \$7500 of the restoration costs. The remaining 25%, or \$7500, will be raised from EHSA members, businesses who serve the EHS community, as well as the now-grown children who grew up in EHS and enjoyed the ponds. One fundraising effort you can see in this newsletter is selling advertisement space in this and future issues.

...(continued at Ponds, page 4).



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- **CRS:** [Certified Residential Specialist](#), only 5% of realtors nationwide
- **E-Pro:** [NAR certified Internet Specialist](#)
- **GRI:** [Graduate Realtors' Institute](#)
- **Relocation Specialist, Member:**
 [Relocate America](#) — Amherst, Belchertown, & Northampton areas
- **SRES:** [Seniors' Real Estate Specialist](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Active member of Amherst community for 30 years
- Raised two children in Amherst
- Former UMASS Assistant Professor (husband also Umass Professor)
- Fluent in German, conversant in Spanish
- Community Involvements:
 - _ A Member:
 - _ [Amherst Chamber of Commerce](#)
 - _ [Greater Amherst Chapter – Business Network International](#)
 - _ Immanuel Lutheran Church
 - _ A Director: Echo Hill South Association

You want... Sally Malsch!

Pond (Continued from page 2)...

Come get info, ask questions and get involved in the restoration effort at the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, March 24th.

At the Association's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 24, New England Environmental, Inc.'s Mickey Marcus will give an overview of the restoration plan, as well as give us an update on the progress being made in obtaining the permits needed to begin to implement the restoration plan. We will also share our thoughts on the fundraising efforts under consideration. We invite you to come and learn about the restoration effort, ask questions, and share ideas on fundraising. Do come ready to share your expertise, energy, and time as we embark on this community effort.

More info about the restoration plan

To learn more about the details of the restoration plan and/or to communicate questions or concerns to the Pond Committee or the Board, see the EHSA's web site at:

www.geocities.com/echohill_2000/, or contact any Board member.

Mike Malone

Pet Corner ...



Mahou, one of our upstanding canine association members takes his family, headed up by Jennifer and Ed Toole, for a walk on one of our rare warm winter Saturdays in Echo Hill.

A Thank You and ... A Reminder About Dogs

Thank you for a cleaner common field!

Since the installation of our "Clean up after your pet" signs at the entrance areas to the common field, the field has been much cleaner. *Thank you dog owners!*

A friendly reminder on restraining and leashing your dog:

It is the law as well as being necessary for safety that all dogs be either restrained on one's property, or if off of one's property, under leash or voice control. There are a growing number of small children in EHS. There are also a few dogs that either frequently escape or who are allowed to roam at times. While no injuries or incidents have been reported recently in EHS, we'd like to remind dog owners to follow Amherst bylaws, excerpted below.

Town of Amherst Animal Welfare Bylaw

4. Dog Regulations

- A. It shall be a violation of this bylaw for which the owner/guardian or keeper shall be liable for a dog to:
 - i. go beyond the confines of the owner/guardian's or keeper's property unless the dog is held firmly on a leash, or is under the control of its owner/guardian or keeper, subject to restrictions of Section 5.A. [dog must be leashed at all times in public parks]
 - ii. disturb the peace or quiet or endanger the safety of any person or other animal, by biting, barking, howling...

Thank you, dog owners, for your consideration for and support of a safe and peaceful Echo Hill South.
Mike Malone (a fellow dog owner)

A feral guest in our neighborhood last Fall gets pure hospitality and will burrow into a nearby hillock to overwinter. Watch that raised tail!



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The Natural Setting of Echo Hill South Common Land

The designers of our PUD (Planned Unit Development) or Clustered Housing Concept provided us with a valuable and unprecedented asset that is usually only available to estate owners or in public parks, not near private middleclass homes. It was in the plan of the EHSA developers to provide us with this novel experience and designed into the very legal basis of our existence. Our houses are designed, clustered closer together, with the understanding that we maintain free and open common land amidst the cluster. Therefore we have our large fields and ponds that we hold in



A watercolor depicts a hummingbird at cardinal flowers at the edge of one of our ponds. Gerda Kunkel

common. The ‘Tragedy of the Common’ as applied to our Association suggests that we might allow our common land to degrade because no one takes the responsibility to care for it despite our mutual benefit from it. The EHSA Board of Directors is hoping that you will affirm them in their objective of avoiding the ‘tragedy’ for all of us.

Joe Kunkel



The End of Busing as We Know It?



In mid-February the PVTa held a hearing in Amherst (and elsewhere) on plans to curtail significantly bus service along several routes including the Gatehouse Road (route 36), which currently provides limited bus service between Echo Hill North and South, the center of Amherst, and the University of Massachusetts six times daily, Monday to Friday. Because bus service runs only early in the morning and in the late afternoon/early evening, the busses are not heavily used when

Announcing....

Echo Hill Cards

Notecards and framed prints

reproductions of original
watercolors by local artist,
Natalie Stafford

Available at: Atkins Farms
and Blue Sky Crafts, Amherst
or on website:
www.echohillcards.com

driving through the Echo Hill neighborhoods. A midday run was dropped several years ago.

The EHSA Board of Directors voted to appeal to the PVTa and the UMass Transit Service not to end service in Echo Hill, but to consider merging the route with the current Belchertown Road Express Service by having those busses turn up Gatehouse Road and follow the current Gatehouse Rd. route to Pelham Road and into town and the university and the reverse when heading toward Belchertown Center. In addition to morning and late afternoon “commuter” trips, such a combined route would add two midday/early afternoon busses to and from the Echo Hill neighborhoods and increase ridership by those who do not want to spend a full day in town or at the university. It would also allow those without cars to shop in Belchertown (e.g. at the new Stop and Shop) as well as Amherst.

If you support continued or improved public transit service in our neighborhood, please contact Al Byam at the UMass Transit Service (tel. 545-0056 /aeb@admin.umass.edu) or Ms. S. Sheehan at PVTa (ssheehan@pvta.com). And use the busses!
Eric Einho

TREASURER'S NOTE: Many thanks to those who have paid their dues. However, 2 home and 4 condominium owners still have not paid this years dues. Each of you were contacted in January by telephone or letter. An 18% interest charge will apply if dues are not paid by March 31, 2004.

Association bills for 2004-05 will be sent in early April.

Jackie Tuthill

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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: Greets new homeowners, shares recent Newsletter and assures they know of the Association Bylaws. Jackie Tuthill, Chair.

Newsletter Committee: Produces 3-4 EHSA newsletter issues per year. Joe Kunkel, Editor-in-Chief. Gerda Kunkel, Advertising Representative and Copy Editor. Numerous Association members contribute articles. *(We are always looking for stories, pictures and advertisers; help produce, fold, label and stamp.)*

Picnic Committee: Organizes a Fall Picnic. Kathy Niedzielski, Chair, stonyhill@map.com.

Website Committee: Maintains the EHSA Website, Joe Kunkel, Site Manager, joe@bio.umass.edu.

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Think Spring!

“Flowers, Trees, Skies and Seas”

Gerda Kunkel's
Spring Watercolor Show
At the Locust Gallery

Locust Street (not Main) Entrance
Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton MA

March 2 – March 30, 2004

Opening Reception: Th March 4, 2004 4:30-6:30 p.m.

URL: people.umass.edu/jgk/gerda/exhibit2004/

Email: Gerda Kunkel <jgk@nsm.umass.edu>

View the newsletter pix and ads in color!:

http://www.geocities.com/echohill_2000/

A Picnic That Happened, 2003.

From conception last winter to fulfillment this past September the First (revitalized) EHSA Annual Picnic was a grass roots success. Not since the 1980s have we held such an event. Kathy Niedzielski, one of our young association members approached board members with the idea and agreed to spearhead its organization. Thanks Kathy! We hope this will be a jumpstart to a welcome tradition for our members and their guests. Besides the good camaraderie, I enjoyed the delicious selection of ethnic foods contributed by association members, including, kid favorite, the good old American hot dog!



The First Annual EHSA Picnic (Sept 21, '03; New Series!)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Echo Hill South Association
P.O. Box
Amherst, MA 01004-0852

