

# In the Woods

Where nature still comes first

*Nature does  
nothing uselessly*  
– Aristotle

Welcome to the 2nd installment of "In the Woods." As our community grows, the newsletter will help keep everyone informed as to the happenings in The Woods. The newsletter will also be posted on our website, [www.duckharborgroup.com](http://www.duckharborgroup.com). Our intent is to publish the newsletter bi-annually. We hope all is well with you. Have a wonderful holiday and a happy New Year.



## DAM COMPLETION

As stated in a previous memo, Pennsylvania Dams and Water Ways issued a mandatory repair order for the Duck Harbor Pond dam. They required that the control stop log system in front of the weir be replaced. The stop log is the wood structure in the center of the dam that controls the water level. The stop logs original purpose was to control the water levels for operational purposes of the saw mill, which is a half mile down stream. The saw mill was built in 1865, The Hill family purchased it in 1873. The specific history of the dam is sketchy and a matter of research for the future. However, we know the Hill's built a dam at the turn of the century. Also, that they resurfaced the dam

with concrete in the 1930's. Whether it was with the original dam or with the beefing up of the dam later, Duck Harbor Pond went from 168 acres to 205 acres. Evidence of the expansion was clearly seen by all during the dam repair. Today, the reason we still have the stop log is to control water levels to help maintain a healthy ecosystem down stream and for flood control. The state permit gave a six week window for the repair. The engineers expected that the lake could draw down the seven feet needed in a two week period. It took about three weeks to lower the lake with the additional help of a pump. The pump pumped out 78,000 gallons of water an hour! However, with the delay, the dam was still repaired ahead of schedule. In 1979, the stop log was replaced with untreated hemlock. This time we used a specially treated wood that is environmentally friendly and should hold up for well over 28 years.



## DUMPSTER

As the community continues to grow, the dumpster is increasingly becoming overfilled. Unfortunately, we also have four rascally raccoons feasting on our leftovers making it even more



of challenge to keep the dumpster area clean. Plans for a new larger recycling area, complete with a larger bulk item dumpster, are underway and should be completed by the summer of '08. Until then there are a few things to keep in mind. As many people do already, *please put the cardboard boxes to the side of the dumpster*, as they take up a lot of space and can be burned. Plus, frequently the front of the dumpster is stuffed while the back is still empty. *Please check the back before over stuffing the front.*

## DUCKS UNLIMITED UPDATE

Ducks Unlimited has been to Drake Habitat to review the situation. They confirmed what we had suspected; that the habitat, originally created by beavers is being reclaimed by nature. They are expected to start a topographical survey in December. The survey will help better assess what needs to be done to maintain Drake Habitat as a wetland for the future. Of course, the wetland would need to be engineered properly, as we have residents who live along the habitat. They will be able to provide an estimate as to the cost of creating a permanent wetland and research any grants that may be available for such a project.



**A PAIR OF EAGLES**  
*Serena Scotto shot this photo of a pair of eagles on her shoreline. The larger of the two is the female, and they mate for life.*

### BALD EAGLE SIGHTING

All summer people around the lake have had the honor to see our new resident bald eagles. Once endangered in the lower 48 states, the bald eagle was just delisted from the Endangered and Threatened Wildlife list on June 28, 2007. The bald eagle is 28 to 38 inches in body length with a wing span of 72 to 90 inches. They can weigh from 7 to 14 pounds. The female is typically 25 percent bigger than the male. Primarily fish eaters, they'll also eat small animals, including ducks, turtles, snakes and carrion. They can spot fish surfacing from their perch up to a mile away. They are capable of carrying up to five pounds in their talons. But they are also able, if the prey is too heavy, of swimming using their powerful wings as paddles. Likewise, they also have been known to drown trying to capture something too heavy. The bald eagle was chosen on June 20, 1782 as the emblem of the United States of America because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks. If Benjamin Franklin had his way the turkey would have been our national emblem.

Sources:

[baldeagleinfo.com](http://baldeagleinfo.com)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald\\_Eagle\\_eagles.org/moreabout.html](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald_Eagle_eagles.org/moreabout.html)

### DUCK HARBOR CO. NAMED PA DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR

The Duck Harbor Co. was named Pennsylvania's Developer of the Year by the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) Friday November 23, during the association's inaugural Builders Gala at the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort. In selecting the Duck Harbor Company, judges applauded the company's dedication to mixing natural elements into neighborhoods and focusing on maintaining the region's natural beauty when creating the Woods at Duck Harbor. Judges also noted the company's reputation for building a safe neighborhood that is planned around community involvement and open green space.



### Resident Recommendations

*Area stores, restaurants and activities recommended by the residents of The Woods.*

#### Elk Mountain

Tentative Opening- Friday, December 7th, 2007 for Day skiing. Check out their website; [www.elkskier.com](http://www.elkskier.com) for Opening day, ski conditions, and many other events.

#### Bluestone Grill

Thirty minutes north on Rt.191 in Hancock, NY. Their website; [www.bluestonegrill.com](http://www.bluestonegrill.com) has their starter menu and wine list with prices.

#### Northeast Sports

Offers guided snowshoeing trips though out the snow season. [www.nesportsltd.com](http://www.nesportsltd.com)

#### Calkins Creek Vineyard

Owned by Mike and Vonnice Stone, the vineyard/winery is located atop a hill, at 192 Fallsdale Road, Milanville, 10 miles north of Honesdale. Call for appt. 570-729-8077

### Construction Corner

*Helpful tips and reminders for those in the construction process.*

- 10 x 40 ft. trailer available for on-site storage of material during construction
- Contractors/owners are responsible for garbage removal. The recycling area is not for construction garbage.
- Why make an extra trip, we can pull all building permits for you.
- Snow plowing and anti-skid services are available for individual driveways

*Is there a story, photo or area recommendation that you would like added to the community newsletter? Please don't hesitate to contact us at [jayharcum@duckharborgroup.com](mailto:jayharcum@duckharborgroup.com)*