

# LAKE DAMON NEWSLETTER

**APRIL 2025**

Dear Readers,

I'm looking forward to the warmer weather and can't wait to get back to the lake and open our camp! Keep an eye out for updates on ways you can pitch in around the communal areas this spring. We'll need help setting out the docks and ropes in May, cleaning up significant beaver damage at the beach, and sprucing up the outdoor areas around the farmhouse.

Best,  
Christine

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

**Saturday, August 9th, 2025  
at 1:30pm with a pot luck  
dinner to follow**

## Next Board Meeting

**Saturday, April 12, 2025  
at 10AM**

The Board will be meeting at a private residence, but you can join us by zoom

**Reach out to Robert at  
[robert@gosselins.us](mailto:robert@gosselins.us)  
for the zoom link**

## 2025 LDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Denise Beltz- President  
Aram Flores - Vice President  
Cassandra Celatka - Clerk  
Cynthia Burr - Treasurer  
Bruce Schwartz- Dam Master  
Carol Blanchard  
Allyson Brown  
Matthew DiRocco  
Ethan Fenn  
Mike Frost  
Robert Gosselin  
Marianne Hoag  
Sherrill Redmon  
Steven Stathis  
Christine Willis

**Lake:** Mike Frost...chair  
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Robert Gosselin  
Steve Willis

**Land:** Carol Blanchard...chair  
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Ethan Fenn  
Sherrill Redmon  
Janet Scully

**Dam:** Bruce Schwartz...Dam Master  
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Allyson Brown

**Buildings:** Aram Flores: VP and chair  
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Christine Willis  
Marianne Hoag  
Steve Stathis

## Update on Damon Dam:

Our engineer, Dave Battista, has completed the preliminary design plan for the dam improvements. We have also met with the Office of Dam Safety to review the plan and have received favorable feedback from their permit engineer. In order to get to a final design Dave will need the soil analysis which will be provided by the geotechnical engineering firm of Down To Earth, Inc. They are scheduled to do the soil borings on and around the dam in May. We are shooting to have a final design later this summer. With a final design in hand, we can then move to obtaining the necessary permits required to proceed with construction. We are planning to pursue the construction grant with Mass. Dam and Seawall Grant Program to help us with financing the construction of the dam improvements. Fingers crossed.

If you would like a copy of Mr. Battista's preliminary plan or have any questions please contact Bruce Schwartz at [bhschwartz@comcast.net](mailto:bhschwartz@comcast.net) or 413-531-4567. Thanks for everyone's support and settling up with the dam assessment fee.

### **Be on the look out for an email from the Lake Damon Corporation with:**

- A link to the recording of the April 3rd meeting with Dave Battista presenting the preliminary dam plan. There is a lot of information in the video and we encourage you to watch it.
- An estimated date for the spring flush of the dam. When the water level is low its a great time do work around your shore line.

### **Buildings Committee: We need to think about the future of the farmhouse.**

- Single unit rented (down from 2 units historically)
- Rent covers the regular day to day expenses of the farmhouse (taxes, insurance and maintenance) Leaves no excess for long term repairs as a landlord would normally do and there are several large repairs looming
- To return second apartment to a rentable condition would require substantial investment
- If we were to repair and rent the second unit it would severely restrict our ability to change use of the farmhouse in the future

# EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY AT DAMON POND

Our Board of Directors is offering a unique opportunity for the right person to become the next **Treasurer of Lake Damon Corporation**. Our current treasurer, Cynthia Burr, will be retiring this summer after many years of outstanding service. Cyndi promises to gently mentor the lucky candidate until he or she is comfortable in this vital position.

## Qualifications include

- being a shareholder in good standing
- organizational skills
- attention to detail and a general understanding of how math works.
- No CPA or previous accounting experience is required, though familiarity with QuickBooks and Microsoft Office would be ideal.

A newer laptop and a stylish black case are provided to facilitate a seamless transition into this responsible role. This could be your chance to join a friendly and dedicated group of fellow ponders to make an important contribution to our 106 year old association and help assure our financial future. Imagine for a moment how your resume will be embellished by adding “Treasurer, Lake Damon Corporation”! Your reward will be the admiration and gratitude of the Board and everyone on the pond, as well as the genuine satisfaction that accompanies making a positive and lasting contribution to our treasured association. Don’t miss out!

Apply now by contacting Cyndi at [ckburr2@gmail.com](mailto:ckburr2@gmail.com) or Denise at [valleyoutreach@aol.com](mailto:valleyoutreach@aol.com).



The current board meeting last fall



# A note from the Land Committee

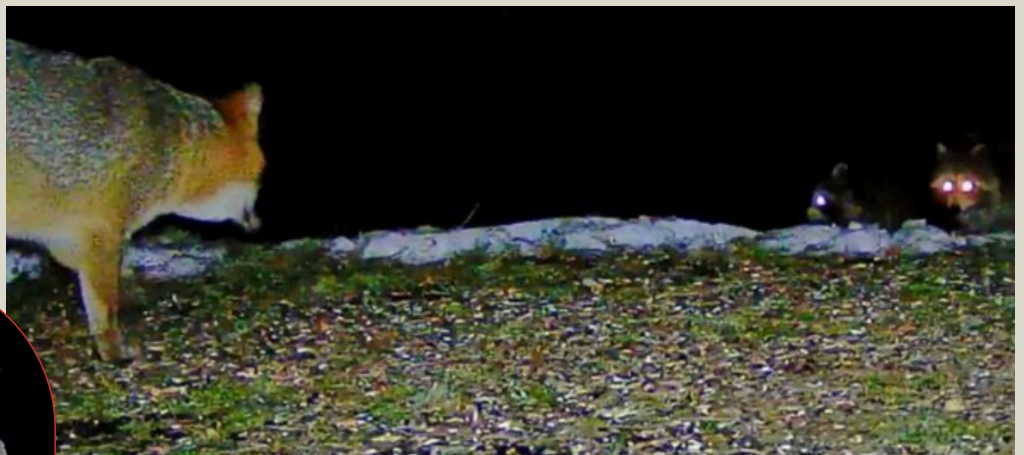
The winter was tough, as always, on the roads. There have been worse pothole seasons, at least!

**We are ordering more traprock to be available for stockholders on each road.  
The drop off points are:**

- the triangle as you enter DE Rd
- near the path on FH Rd
- storage area near Bray/Antin.

Please remember to cover the trap rock when there is a tarp available. Please do your part to clear the road of debris and fill the potholes, if you are able. There will be work parties from each road taking care of the situation the best they can. Thank you, volunteers!

One strange phenomena of the winter was the strong, relentless winds. The result was that twigs from hemlock trees littered the surface, to the point the ground looked green. You can see the results in the screenshot. All that debris would ruin the roads if it was left to become embedded, so we had our mower, Jesse, use his mower with a rake to gather the debris. The day he was scheduled to come, the ground had frozen solid again! So while much of the tree litter was disposed of, we are probably going to try once more when it is warmer.



## Secure your Trash!

Bears are out and about and looking for nourishment. Please secure your trash and take bird feeders inside at night. If not, you may have a repeat visitor who thinks your house is their house!



Share your pictures with the community!  
You can email them to [cscatko@gmail.com](mailto:cscatko@gmail.com)

Photos: Carol Blanchard

# Volunteer Opportunity: Blueberry Patch

Are you concerned about climate change and wish there was something you could do to help the birds and the bees?

A brushy area near the pond (off the path to the beach) is thick with native lowbush blueberries. The Land Committee decided not to mow there two years ago. It is an area with club mosses and some field plants mixed in. The birds will be ecstatic! Pollinators, including native bees, visit the small, pinky-white, bell-shaped flowers in spring. Bears, foxes, rabbits, porcupines, moose, and deer browse the foliage. Mammals, including bears, foxes, raccoons, mice, and chipmunks eat the berries, along with birds such as turkeys, grouse, chickadees, catbirds, and thrushes. Ruffed grouse also consume flower buds during the winter.

If you are interested in helping to maintain the blueberry patch, please let Carol know. It could include weeding, spreading mulch, string trimming between the plants, or helping figure out how to keep the beavers from harvesting the bushes as they grow larger.



Photos: Carol Blanchard