

LAKE DAMON NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

Dear Readers,

I was unable to attend our June meeting so the notes below are summaries from each committee.

Please consider joining the board or a committee for the upcoming year. The board has been offering hybrid meetings for easier access for people who can not attend in person. We are grateful and all benefit from our community members who give time to maintain and improve Lake Damon. New volunteers bring new ideas and energy to the committees and work crews. We hope to see some new faces this year.

-Christine

A warm welcome to our new stockholders:
John & Sylvia Cote, 4 Antin Rd., camp #47
Scotia Macgillivray, 43 Don Emerson Rd., Camp #61

Save the Date

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Saturday, August 9th 1:30pm at the Mill
Pot Luck Dinner: August 9th 6pm at the Mill

All Stockholders are urged to attend this once-a-year general business meeting. Our Bylaws do not permit voting by proxy, so please do come to the meeting! If you have any items you would like to place on the Agenda for the meeting, please contact the Clerk.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

One of the main items of business at the Annual Stockholders Meeting will be the election of Board of Directors for the coming year. Please consider running for the Board of Directors. You can reach out to this years nominating committee if interested. The committee this year is Carol Blanchard, Aram Flores, and Sherrill Redmon. Their emails can be found to the right on this page.

Next Board Meeting

Date: July 12th
Location: The Mill
Time: 10am

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
(413) 568-4176
molly.frost@gmail.com
Robert Gosselin
Steve Willis

Land: Carol Blanchard...chair
(413) 296-4212
cblanch93@verizon.net
Ethan Fenn
Sherrill Redmon
sherrillred@gmail.com
Janet Scully

Dam: Bruce Schwartz...Dam Master
(413) 531-4567
bhschwartz@comcast.net
Matt DiRocco
Allyson Brown

Buildings: Aram Flores: VP and chair
(917) 756-5487
aramflores@icloud.com
Christine Willis
Marianne Hoag
Steve Stathis

Exciting News: Our New Weed Boat Arrives for July 4th Weekend!

It's true! Our highly anticipated weed boat is set to arrive at the pond during the July 4th weekend! Matt has been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks, making tremendous progress on the final preparations for both the boat and its trailer. He'll soon be hitting the road to deliver it to us, and then he'll finally get to enjoy a well-deserved vacation right here!

We'll be sure to send out another email as soon as we have the exact day and time of the launch. We invite everyone to come celebrate with us as we test out the boat around the beach area. It's going to be a great addition to the pond!

A Huge Thanks to Our Donors!

We're incredibly grateful for all the generous donations we've received so far. Your support is making this happen!

Want to Help Us More?

If you're still feeling inspired to contribute, there's still time as the cost has gone over the \$22K goal by at least \$3K! You can donate by:

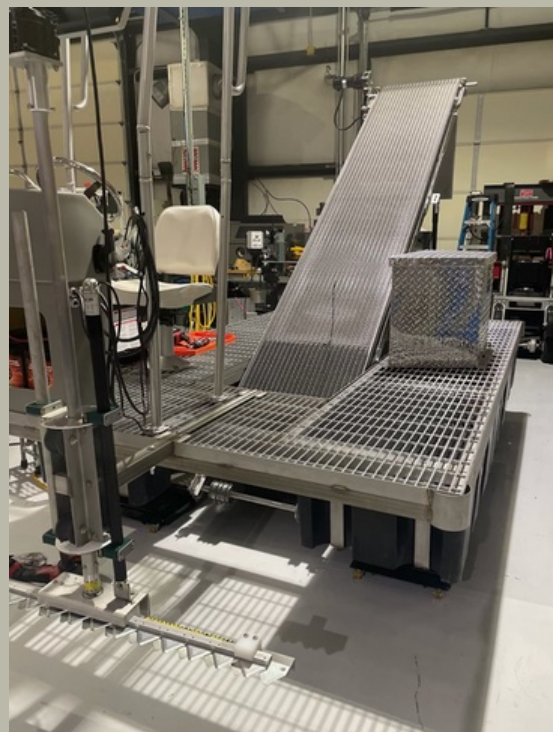
- Sending a check to: Robert Gosselin, PO Box 47, Chesterfield, MA 01012
- Using Venmo: [@webgarcon](#)
-

See the Progress!

Curious to see how far we've come? You can check out [recent photos of the boat's progress](#) on our website!

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Robert Gosselin at robert@gosselins.us or 925-895-9982 for more information. We can't wait to see the weed boat in action this summer!



Lake Updates

It has been a busy season for the Lake Committee. When the weather warmed wasps were again seen invading the swim raft through the deck board gaps, so we covered it with artificial turf, which we hope is as effective as it is attractive. Early reports have been good, but now that it has been tethered to its buoy for the summer we'll be relying on reports from swimmers about further wasp activity and the friendliness of the new turf. The swim ropes have been placed and the safety equipment is ready near the rescue boat. The beach sand was cultivated to control weeds and we'll try to maintain a soft clean beach all summer, with your help. Don't hesitate to try out the assorted rakes to remove pond weeds, algae, and other flotsam. Goose poop buckets are on standby, waiting to be filled. The peeling old picnic table has been pressure washed and will be sanded and returned if it ever dries out. The venerable "low-rider" benches will soon be replaced with handmade reasonable facsimiles. All of the water tests have been good, the portable toilet has been delivered and the gate is unlocked. All we need now is beach weather.

We can thank shareholders Dwight Baghdoyan, Rich Peloquin, Bruce Schwartz, and Gail Stathis for helping us complete these, and other important tasks. And think about becoming a member of the coolest committee of them all, the Lake Committee.

-Mike



Buildings Update

Spring Clean Up

A huge thanks to all those who participated in the farmhouse clean up. We were able to complete the work in about an hour with all the helping hands that showed up.

Our tenant cleaned up the mess around the shed after our work party, so hopefully the area will look more tidy for the rest of the summer.



Ethan, Aram, Gail, Robert, Christine, Marianne, Bruce (not pictured Steve Stathis who was sent to get a tarp). Photo by Mira Willis

Dam Updates

The geotech borings have been completed and are currently being analyzed in the lab. Our engineer, Dave Battista, should receive the boring data in July and begin work on a final dam design. He is hoping to give us a preliminary cost estimate late July and have a final design in early Fall. We can then begin permit applications. Things are moving along.

Land Updates

Every year, the board allocates money to be spent on the roads. Given the amount available, the Land Com. consulted with CE Roberts Co., and decided the area of highest concern was Don Emerson Rd, which is notorious for potholes. Another area of concern is the outer part of Bray Rd. This section has issues with degradation when rainwater drains down the slope. This section is scheduled to be graded, with stone added if there is enough money after the grading work. We are hoping it happens soon.

This brings up the question at the May LDC board meeting: who does the work? For instance, who is responsible to clean up the mess in the woods on Bray Rd after a lot of trees fell down last winter? Unfortunately, this is another case where the stockholders need to step up if they want changes made. At that point, a lot of stockholders had not been up to the pond yet, so hopefully people got it together to improve the aesthetics of the woods.

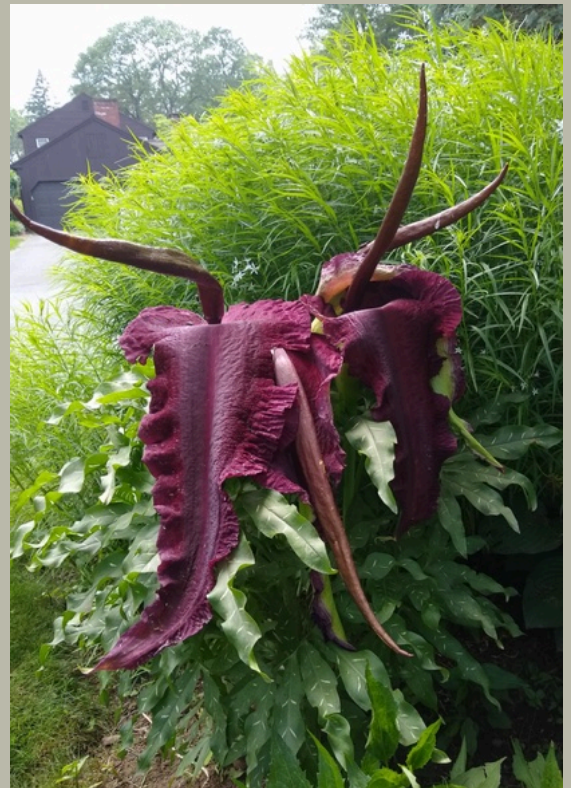
Do you love the field? Damon Ponders who don't get to see it close up every day have a place in their hearts for the field off Farmhouse Rd. However, the field has an issue! Many exposed rocks... I have gone to countless August stockholders' meetings and heard about the rocks in the field. We were lucky to find someone to brush hog the field, but the issue is those rocks! The rocks cause the equipment to break, and who wants to mow a field that will cost them money? The Land Com started using string trimmers to expose the rocks, but this needs to start early in the year. Carol and Ethan did this in May, but we would appreciate assistance in this task. Would you be willing to spend an hour in a beautiful field with a battery powered string trimmer? Please let us know!

Carol

What's That Smell?

Last June I spent a few frantic days searching for the source of an obnoxious odor around our home in Westfield. Instead of finding a decomposing mammal I found a beautiful exotic plant near the back door: a Dragon Lily, *Dracunculus vulgaris*. Also known as Voodoo Lily, Stink Lily and Vampire Lily, it is not a true lily but a member of the Arum family, like the familiar Jack-in-the-Pulpit that can be found in the woods around the pond. Dragon lilies are native to the Mediterranean region but are sold in the U.S. as novelty ornamental plants. It is a herbaceous perennial with a tuberous root system (bulb) and can grow to four feet tall. Leaves are palmate, dark green with faint ivory streaks. The large single flower is a striking dark purple color that produces heat and a foul odor of rotting flesh that repels animals (even vultures), but attracts flies, bees and carrion beetles. The insects are lured deep into the floral chamber where they get stuck in a sticky secretion, similar to the strategy of carnivorous plants. After pollen is released the flower decomposes rapidly and the trapped insects can leave with their load of pollen, a unique “trap and release” process. Reddish orange berries develop into seeds by autumn just like Jack-in-the-Pulpits. I didn't plant these bulbs so I'm blaming a neighborhood band of mischievous squirrels. *Dracunculus vulgaris* is classified as a poisonous plant but the ancient Greeks claimed in their writings that it controls cancer, is abortive, cures gangrene and improves eyesight. In Turkish folk medicine the fruit is used to treat rheumatism and hemorrhoids. I currently have four clumps of blooming Dragon lilies in my gardens. I don't have cancer or gangrene but I'd like better eyesight...and I'm not giving up my Preparation-H.

By Mike Frost





Gail and Steve Stathis got the old weed boat up and running and gave it a facelift! Lake Damon will be weed free for sure this summer. Photo of Gail and the weed boat on its maiden voyage.



Share your pictures with the community!
You can email them to cscatko@gmail.com



Rabbits Courting
Photo: Carol Blanchard