

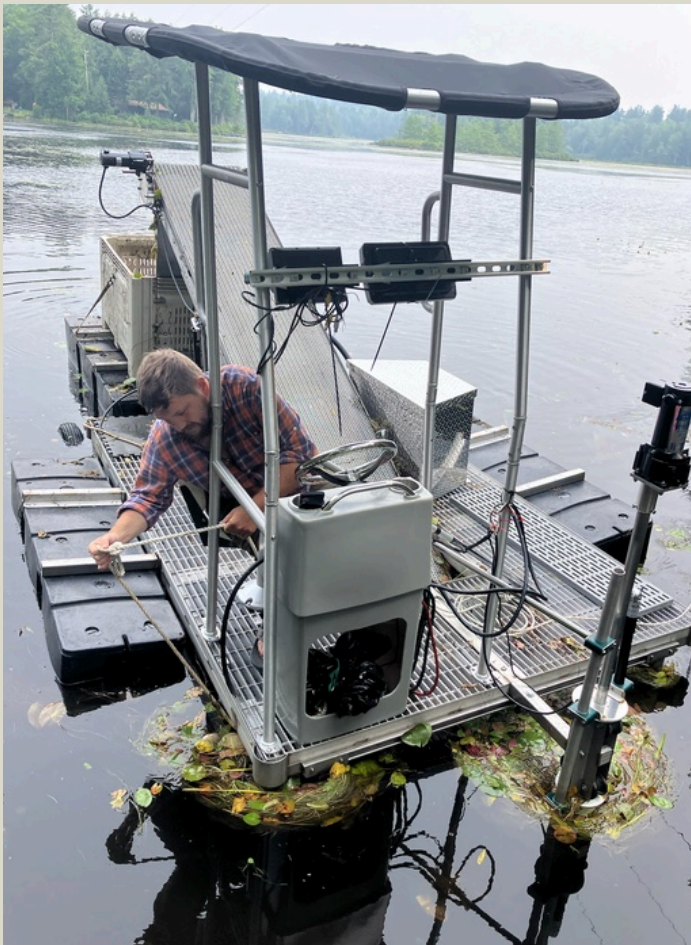
# LAKE DAMON NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2025

Dear Readers,

This months newsletter will be short and sweet because you received updates from every committee at the annual stockholders meeting. **If you were not able to attend and would like a copy of the committee reports you can request a copy by emailing [lakedamoncorporation@outlook.com](mailto:lakedamoncorporation@outlook.com)**

-Christine



**Steve operating the weed boat. You too can drive it, if you get trained on September 6th! See details on the next page.**

### 2025/2026 LDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Aram Flores - President  
Cynthia Burr - Vice President  
Cassandra Celatka - Clerk  
Susan Zuroff- Treasurer  
Carol Blanchard  
Allyson Brown  
Matthew DiRocco  
Arthur Doty  
Ginger Dubois  
Ethan Fenn  
Robert Gosselin  
Marianne Hoag  
Sherrill Redmon  
Steven Stathis  
Christine Willis

### There is still time to join a committee!

Land, Lake. Buildings or Dam.  
You don't need to commit a huge amount of time and it's a great way to become more involved.

Interested or have questions?  
Let us know!

### Next Board Meeting

**Date: September 13th**  
**Location: The Mill**  
**Time: 10am**

# Upcoming Events

## A Hike Hosted by the Land Committee

**When: Sunday, August 31**

**Time: 2pm**

The Land Committee will be hosting a hike on the former Terry lands on the east side of the lake. We will meet at 2:00 pm at the north end of Don Emerson Road.

The hike will cover about 1 ¼ miles over gently sloping terrain, and include both of the established trails on the old Terry tract. Ethan Fenn will also be demonstrating the techniques that he has been using to record hikes for the LDC's trail map project this summer.



## Weed Boat Training Session

**When: Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 10am**

Are you interested in learning how to operate the weed boat? The more people we have to help cut weeds, the faster we will be weed free! Robert will be hosting a training session on the 6<sup>th</sup> at the beach.

**RVSP to [robert@gosselins.us](mailto:robert@gosselins.us)** to let him know if you will be there. Get trained now and you can cut all through September and be ready to go next spring!



## Lake Damon Contact List Coming soon!

Earlier in the month I invited everyone on the newsletter email list to a BYOB Happy Hour at the beach. It was rather last minute but we had a great turn out of about 15 people and yummy snacks. I hope that with shared emails/phone numbers people will be able to connect more easily and arrange meet ups like this. If you want to be added to this directory you can email me at [cscatko@gmail.com](mailto:cscatko@gmail.com)



*Happy hour on the beach.*

## Lake Damon Guide

I would love to make a resource guide/ list of favorites to add to our website. Steve and I have been at the pond for 5 years and we JUST found out about Cummington Supply Hardware Store! I don't want to count the hours we could have saved by not having to drive to Lowes!

Do you have a favorite contractor, restaurant, hike, swimming spot or anything else you would like to share? Email me at [cscatko@gmail.com](mailto:cscatko@gmail.com)

Have you been to the new(ish) farm stand: Sleepy Owl Herbs? The baked goods + granola are to die for!

## Damon Pond Oral History Project

A former president of the LDC, Barbara Bricker, proposed a project for the Lake Damon 100 year history in 2019, and she roped me in. The idea was to interview stockholders and their families about their experiences here. The first people I attempted to interview were the people who had been at Damon Pond the longest, because their time left on earth was shorter than the rest of us.

While the interviews continued slowly, they halted during the pandemic. But things are back on track! You do not have to be someone whose family has lived here forever to share your story and love of the pond. For more information, contact me at [cblanch93@verizon.net](mailto:cblanch93@verizon.net) and I can provide more details. Hope to hear from you. At some point we want to make the interviews available on the Lake Damon website: [lakedamoncorp.com](http://lakedamoncorp.com)

. - Carol



## What's Eating My Jacks and Other Mysteries



Along the north-facing foundation of my cabin are carefree clumps of jack-in-the-pulpits growing among astilbe and native ferns. These iconic woodland plants return every spring where the chipmunks buried the bright red berries years ago. Everyone is familiar with their curious spathe and spadix flowers, their deep forest green pair of 3-part palmate leaves and their cluster of crimson fruit appearing at the end of the season. But they also have a secret that makes them unique in the plant world. Certain of the species start out bearing male flowers and spontaneously change to female (and vice-versa) the following year. Yes, they are naturally transgender plants. So, is that Jack in the pulpit, or Jill? Surely one of life's mysteries. In August the shiny green leaves can suddenly disappear, leaving only the fleshy white central and lateral veins. Deer? Rabbits? A very hungry caterpillar? On close inspection I discovered the clumsy culprits. The leaves are being skeletonized by big gunmetal-blue bugs that resemble giant iridescent ants. But these are not ants at all, they are flightless beetles of the family Meloidae, the Blister Beetles, all of which produce cantharidin, an irritant chemical that is capable of causing blisters on human skin. Included in this family is the legendary Spanish Fly, but the ones eating my jacks are called Oil Beetles, *Meloe* sp., a very large Black Blister Beetle with a bulbous abdomen, far outgrowing its meager elytra (wing covers). Adults chew the leaves and flowers of plants and are active in late summer and fall. If disturbed while feeding they behave like many leaf-eating beetles: they tumble to the ground and disappear into the litter. If picked up they exude an oily brown substance containing cantharidin from their leg joints. (I'm not making this up!) I've carried handfuls to the dock to feed the bluegills and never developed blisters on my callused palms, but that was before I did some research. Apparently oil beetles have lower cantharidin than other blister beetles. The life cycle of these bugs is also wacky. Females lay up to 1000 eggs on the ground and, after emergence, the first stage larvae climb up to flowers and attach to the furry jackets of visiting ground bees and are carried to their nest tunnels where they eat the food provided for the larval bees, as well as the developing bee larvae. Parasites! They emerge from underground as adults the following summer, start looking for tasty plants to feed on, and the cycle continues. I can only speculate as to why they pick on my innocent jacks, as I ponder all the other unsolved mysteries of nature. Mike Frost





Fisher May 3 2023 - Carol

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

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Great White Egret spotted on shore of Dennis Island- Janet



Eggs from the Sleep Owl Herb Farmstand  
60 Hemenway Rd, Williamsburg, MA,



A photo from one of the ceramics studios I visited during the Hilltown 6 pottery tour this August- Christine

Last but not least!

The land committee would like to thank Marianne Hoag for removing a tree preventing passage on Bray Rd. recently.

