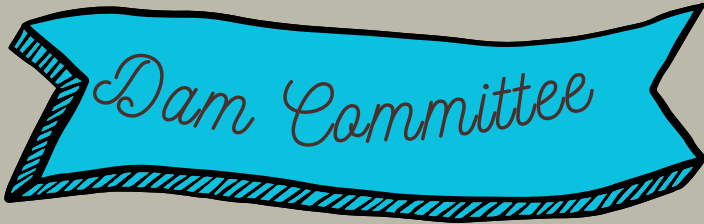


LAKE DAMON NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



Our engineering firm, Haley Ward, has completed the final dam design and is moving into the permitting stage. Several permits will be required from various state and federal agencies. These include the Office of Dam Safety, the Massachusetts DEP, the Conservation Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers. The dam committee is looking into the Dam and Seawall Grant program for construction funding and is planning to meet with the program's director in mid August to review the new format for these grants



As of the beginning of the month, both rental units in the Farm House are now vacant. We hired a local company to remove debris left behind by the former tenants, and we extend a sincere thank-you to Paul Laflam for their help in clearing the overgrown grass. As a community, we will be revisiting plans for the future of the Farm House and look forward to discussing potential next steps together.

2025/2026 LDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SAVE THE DATE

Beach Happy Hour

Date: 7/16

Time: 6pm

Location: The Beach

Next Board Meeting

Date: July 11th

Location: The Mill

Time: 10am



Weed Boat

You might have seen Dwight or me working around the lake in the past six weeks. We've already completed more than a dozen weed runs and dumps. :-)

The new floating harvesting bins and trailer work incredibly well compared to last year's system. We did have a minor issue with the trailer axle bending due to the weight of a particularly full bin of weeds, but Matt St-Louis is able to fix it.

What we need now, more than anything, is several additional weed boat drivers.

Getting a run per day would be incredibly efficient and effective at cleaning up our pond, even if it's just a 30-90 minute run. If you're interested, contact me at robert@gosselins.us or 925-895-9982. Another way to help is by donating. We've almost reached our \$3000 goal for this year. You can send a check, made out to LDC, to PO Box 211 in Chesterfield, or Venmo @webgarcon.

We also want to give a big shout-out of thanks to Ginger for organizing the Float the Boat fundraiser at the General Store. We had over 20 people attend and we raised \$1,020 for the boat! It was a great opportunity to visit with our fellow ponders and enjoy a nice evening together. We're looking forward to the next time we can do this. Finally, don't forget that your association bought a few manual weed and lake cleaning tools to help maintain your shoreline. We have them stored at the mill. If you want to use them, contact me at Robert@gosselins.us and we'll bring them out for you.

Picnic Table

Last year, we rebuilt the beach benches. I hope you're enjoying them! This year, we are working on replacing the tabletop and bench seats of the picnic table. We're currently staining them and should have them installed at the end of June or beginning of July.

Water Quality and Beach Maintenance

Thanks to Gail, who brings water samples for testing weekly, we're saving some money. The test results have all been good so far. If you've been around in the past few weeks, you've likely noticed the beautiful geese families. While they're adorable, they can be messy. If you're near the beach, please help keep it clean by scooping up the geese's droppings. Dwight bought a new plastic rake (we call it the Goose Poop Scoop..?!) that's great for picking up a lot of waste. There's a trash can between the benches where you can empty the poop.

Float the boat



Floating bins



Active Beavers

The beavers are being quite aggressive in some parts of the pond. By the mouth of the narrow where it opens to the larger pond, they are even taking down good sized hemlock. See the picture below. There is a quarter hiding in the pic to show how big the tree is. They also are chewing on the roots when the trees have been wrapped in hardware cloth.

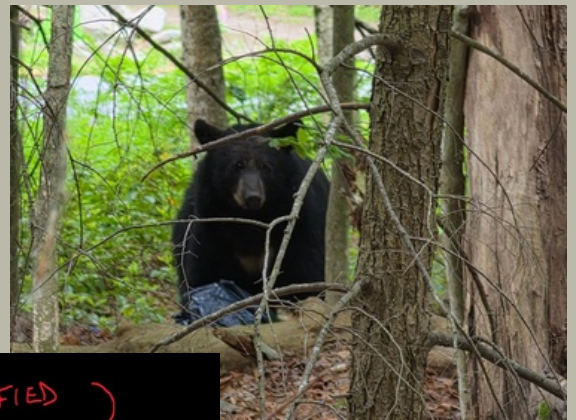
If you do wrap your tree's to protect them, don't forget to loosen the hardware cloth every few years, or the tree will be girdled and die.



Active Bears

Kam encountered a bear on Don Emerson Rd who had dragged a bag of garbage out into the road and "decorated" for us. We are taking this opportunity to remind shareholders that they need to keep their trash either inside, or strongly secured if outside.

We have electrified our outdoor trash container. It has worked very well for us.



Bass Behavior 101

By Mike Frost

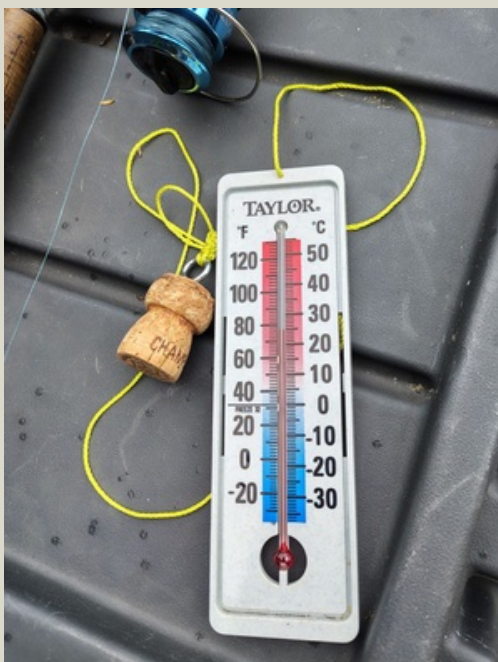
The first warm days of spring have spurred a lot of activity on and in the pond. The geese are proudly parading around their frail fuzzy babies, water shield is sneakily emerging again from under the muck, and the fish are finally showing signs of life after a long icy period of dormancy. The eagles, osprey, herons, and kingfishers have all taken notice. When the water in the shallows warms to 60 degrees F the Large mouth bass begin what is colloquially referred to as “bedding up”, which is the piscatorial equivalent to “shacking up” by bipeds, but a lot less fun. Here’s how it happens under water. Big brawny males make nests similar to the way a college kid cleans his dorm room when he anticipates a female guest: by kicking a semester’s worth of debris to the sides to expose the floor again. Bass use their broad tails to fan the bottom muck to the sides to expose a sandy gravelly bed about the size of an XL pizza. They tend to choose sunny sites in calm shallow water near shore, often next to a dock, big rock, fallen tree or stump, in just enough water to cover their spiny dorsal fins. A mature male may make several nests or beds in a general territory and defend them all. When a full-figured female cruises by he greets her shyly, then nudges and escorts her to his humble nest. Wine is often served. (Not really) If his accommodations meet her approval she will oblige him by squeezing out up to 20,000 tiny eggs over several hours, which settle onto and stick to the sandy bottom. He immediately fertilizes them by secreting milt, and then the party’s over. She casually swims off to resume visiting the beds of other bachelors for a week or two before retreating to deeper water to relax and recover with the other tramps for another couple weeks. Her belly will be noticeably concave and she will be exhausted from her travels and labors—and rightfully so after giving birth to thousands in just a fortnight. Thousands of baby bass seems like an overabundance until you consider that the survival rate is only 0.01-0.05%, which computes to one to five bass out of 10,000 eggs makes it to their first birthday. Tragic. Meanwhile, back at the nest, the eggs hatch in 3-5 days and the male has his hands-, sorry, his fins-full defending the little fry 24/7 for several weeks until they develop pigment, learn to swim, and disappear into the weeds to fend for themselves. While on guard duty the males will aggressively attack intruders with their famous big mouths and jaws, but don’t forcefully suck in the invader like they do when feeding, perhaps to avoid accidentally sucking in their own helpless offspring. They also don’t typically abandon their brood to grab a couple shiners and a drink with the boys. No, they’re devoted stay-at-home dads. If you happen to spot a school of tiny bass along the shore, be assured their guardian is nearby, watching you. When the youngsters reach 2 inches they disperse into the weeds in search of mosquito larvae, insects and other tiny fish. The males are now free to do as they please and spend their time alone, prowling the shallows in search of prey, which is plentiful here in summer. The females recover and slowly resume cruising and feeding all over the pond.



If the mundane reproductive behavior of *Micropterus salmoides* titillates you even slightly, then you are a really weird individual, or a bass fisherman, or possibly both. By understanding why and where the bigger fish are likely to be and what they're focussed on, you can be more successful in your quest to land the lunker of your dreams. In early spring, shortly after ice-out when the water temperature approaches 50, all of the bass start moving about the pond in search of food to fatten up for spawning. When the water warms above 50 the males enter the shallow areas looking for potential nesting sites. At 60 degrees they begin bedding up: building nests in sunny locations close to shore. This is in contrast to their summer preference for shady cool spots in deeper water. Early spring fishing can be rewarding but challenging because there are few fair weather days at the pond in April and May. You can always find a quiet cove or shoreline out of the wind but bring along a stocking cap and gloves. ("There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." Alfred Wainwright) 60 degree water will get the females on the move too, but they don't enter the shallow water unless escorted by a male to his nest. During the 4-6 week bedding up period (until mid-June) the bigger bass don't feed much, but the males will aggressively strike anything that threatens their brood in the shallow waters. During this slow time I'd recommend fishing your way to the beach, then having your moment of Zen picking up goose poop and raking patterns in the sand. Contemplate the fish nests on the sandy bottom nearby. After the water warms above 75 and the baby bass are 2 inches long, all of the bass are actively feeding again. If you happen to catch a big bass during the stressful spawning season treat it with great care and respect and release it as soon as possible. That's a good rule to follow during every season.

Parting tips:

- Add a thermometer to your fishin' bucket.
- Use stealth. Turn off your phone. Big bass are very skittish.
- Weedless lures are a must on Damon Pond.
- Big males are in shallow sunny spots in early Spring.
- Noisy annoying lures like buzz-baits and jitterbugs will stimulate guardian males to strike
- Bluegills and sunfish love fish eggs and fry.
- Bass hate bluegills and sunfish.
- All of this material will appear on the final exam. Good luck.





Lost and found!

You took a nice stroll on Bray road last fall? Did you loose your hat? Our wonderful neighbor, Jeff Larvia, found it on the road and kept it safe. Claim the hat by calling or texting Robert @ 925-895-9982!



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



Photo by Tina Moreau-Jones