

# LAKE DAMON NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

Dear Readers,

It's November and for many of us we have closed up our camps for the season, but the board and the committees are still busy, busy, busy with winter prep for the road + lake, continued dam planning and more. We are not having an official November board meeting but we will be meeting at the end of the month virtually to go over the budget for next year. Speaking of the budget and all things money.....



## Will you be our next Treasurer?

Cyndi Burr is stepping down as treasurer in July of next year and we will need someone to fill her very important shoes! It would benefit whoever is going to take over next July to shadow her for the next few months to see how everything is done and make the transition easier. Reach out to Cyndi or Denise if you are interested in learning more about the role.

-Christine Willis

## LDC Committees

**Lake:** Mike Frost...chair  
(413) 568-4176  
[molly.frost@gmail.com](mailto:molly.frost@gmail.com)  
Robert Gosselin  
Steve Willis

**Land:** Carol Blanchard...chair  
(413) 296-4212  
[cblanch93@verizon.net](mailto:cblanch93@verizon.net)  
Ethan Fenn  
Sherrill Redmon  
Janet Scully

**Dam:** Bruce Schwartz...Dam Master  
(413) 531-4567  
[bhschwartzt@comcast.net](mailto:bhschwartzt@comcast.net)  
Matt Dirocco  
Allyson Brown

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

## Lake Committee News



On September 18th, Mike Frost and Rich Peloquin towed the swim raft to the beach to protect it for the winter.



On Oct. 26 Mike, Rich, and Dwight Baghdoyen attempted to remove deck boards to locate the wasps that bothered swimmers this past summer... but were unsuccessful. Next, we plan to use a scope to search for the nests and hopefully come up with a plan to keep them out. If anyone has suggestions on removing stuck screws, please let us know.



Over the past month we also began gathering quotes for a different porta-potty business at the beach in hopes of securing better, more proactive and responsible service than we had this past summer.



# Weed Boat Update:

The Weed Boat Working Group held its first meeting on September 2nd. The group currently includes Peter and Janet Sculley, Denise Beltz, Steven and Gail Stathis, Steven Willis, and, more recently, Matt St-Louis. Matt has already started contributing by purchasing eight dock floats and is working on a more durable design (stainless steel vs wood) than initially planned.



Weed boat early draft

We just had our second meeting on November 2nd where we discussed the many decisions that need to be resolved:

- How to harvest the weeds: as part of the boat itself or a trailer like originally planned? Matt will explore the trailer idea.
- Can we have a canopy of solar panels that could be used to charge the batteries?
- What kind of battery should we use?: Li-Ion versus Lead Acid/AGM?
- Should we have a generator as backup to charge the batteries?
- Where will we dump the weeds once harvested?

The next weed boat meeting is  
**January 19th, 2025**

to discuss decisions that need to be resolved + a more final design.

Let Robert Gosselin know if you are interested in participating (in person or over zoom).  
robert@gosselins.us

## Weed Boat Fundraising

We're pleased to share that we've raised \$8,521 so far!

Thank you to all our generous donors. However, we need more! To move forward, we estimate needing \$15,000 to \$25,000 to complete the boat (\$5,000 less than initially planned due to the incredible work that Matt is doing and his material contribution). We've set an initial goal of \$10,000 to \$15,000 to begin purchasing the next major set of components.

### How to Donate:

If you'd like to support the project, please consider donating soon so we can start purchasing those major parts by January.

### You can donate by:

- Writing a check to Robert Gosselin, and either bringing it to 10 Antin Rd or mailing it to Robert Gosselin, PO Box 47, Chesterfield, MA 01012.
- Using Venmo: @webgarcon

Any amount is helpful and appreciated! So far, we've received donations from \$25 to \$1000.

## GOAL 25K



Month:	Deliverables	Status
August-Sept 2024	Form a working group, start raising money and the design process	Done!
Sept-Feb 2024	Figure out all the questions that need to be answered	In Progress
	Continue raising money	In Progress
	Determine usage and liability policies	Not started
	What did we not think of??	Not started
February	Finalize Design	Not started
Feb - April	Start the build	Not started
	Finalize usage and liability policies	Not started
May	Final assembly and test flight :-)	Not started
June to September	Harvest	Not started

# Buildings Committee News

## Farmhouse Clean Up Work Party

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came out to help! With all the helping hands we only needed a little over an hour to clean up the leaves, prune the bushes, weed and pick up trash.



## The Mill Was Vandalized In October

If you have driven by the mill in the last month, you may have noticed some graffiti that has sadly been added. The board has filed a police report and we have been attempting to remove the spray paint but it's a slow process.





# Land Committee News

## Trail Map



Sign for it is on Pynchon Rd and is unmarked at the intersection of the perimeter trail

## Trail Code:

### OLD PERIMETER TRAIL

The blazes for that trail are yellow. There are no signs for that trail anywhere, but the northern trailhead is marked by a mowed path from Farmhouse Road to the woods just south of 13 Farmhouse Road (the new house)

### RIDGE TRAIL TO FARMHOUSE

The blazes near Pynchon are red; but uphill of the northwest intersection with the Savard trail, they're blue. (This was a result of Doug and Ethan splitting the trail blazing work) At the southeast intersection of the Ridge and Savard trails, there's no sign, but there is a distinctive blazing pattern.



## Help the Land Committee with winter maintenance!

We need to check on current pole markers, and installing new ones if needed if we want our roads to continue to be plowed. In 2019, the select board of the town of Chesterfield laid out the criteria for the continued plowing of the roads. (Basically, don't let anything damage our plow!) Three years ago, Janet, Ethan and Carol scouted out the roads and requested money from the board. Peter Scully cut rebar to size and we placed the poles to alert drivers of danger: ditches, rocks, stumps, and drop offs. If you see a pole has been knocked down, feel free to right it or place the pole where we will notice it. Let us know if there is anything we have missed! The Highway Superintendent also had other demands, such as the need for street signs (the Don Emerson Rd sign had disappeared and was replaced last year), the maintenance of culverts and the need to fill in potholes. Please help out in these endeavors!



# Protecting your trees from beaver damage.

-Mike Frost

Damon pond always has a population of beavers, an average of 5 adults sharing at least a half dozen lodges scattered over 80 acres of water. Every fisherman, swimmer or paddler is familiar with the young male that patrols the Narrows and greets intruders with his comical tail-smack. I'm told he even has a name. It's Justin. Currently all the beavers are as busy as, well, North America's largest rodents, getting ready for winter, as evidenced by recent shoreline prunings, severed saplings and fresh limbs piled on and around their lodges for future nibbling. Some of that wood may have been pilfered from your property so now might be a good time to get busy and protect what you have left. Here are some simple strategies to safeguard your favorite trees. Adult beavers are hefty, resourceful and determined so shoreline fencing is often ineffective as they push it down or go around. They will consistently avoid tree trunks wrapped with chicken wire or any metal fencing material. I've found it easier and just as effective to simply coil a single wire around the trunk to a height of 4 feet or so. I've used discarded TV cable, clothesline wire, or whatever I had in the shed. I prefer 9 gauge aluminum wire (available from Rocky's Ace Hardware, 50' for \$22 and change). It is easy to work with, easy to cut, and most importantly, it stays where you put it without uncoiling. A few staples can be helpful securing any wire to the bark but don't pound them in tight to allow for expansion.



Mature Hemlock wrapped with old fence



Young maple wrapped with aluminum wire



Mature Hemlock wrapped with TV cable



Hemlock wrapped with screen after beaver damage. This tree will survive...until the next wind storm.



Commercially available animal repellents. I've never personally used these on trees but they definitely keep the deer from eating my Hostas. When all else fails try the oldest home remedy: Under a full moon anoint each tree with urine.

# Dam Committee News

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## More Info About The \$136,500 Dam Grant

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- ★ The town of Chesterfield had to apply for the grant on the behalf of the LDC, so the town is the intermediary between the Mass Dam and Seawall Grant Program + the Copreration.
- ★ With the grant the LDC pays 25% and the grant covers 75% of the bills for engenering and permitting.
- ★ The LDC will pay the bills and submit the receipts to the treasurer of the Town of Chesterfeild for reimbursement from the grant.
- ★ The contract started in Mid October and we have a deadline to spend the money buy June 2026.
- ★ The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs requires the LDC to write a report every 3 months for this grant
- ★ We held off on the design process until the grant was awarded and we have now moved forward with the design.



A view of the new culvert for the overflow from Damon's Pond on Damon Pond Rd. In Chesterfield, Mass.



Northern Lights- Kam Osborne



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



Racoon + Kit- Carol Blanchard



Finally, as promised in the last newsletter, this little guy is a Northern water snake.

This Month's Nature Challenge: When I stepped outside one evening to get a glimpse of the rising Harvest moon, I was serenaded by a lonely cricket chirping rhythmically nearby.

In 15 seconds I counted eleven chirps.

Question #1: What was the gender of this insect?

Question #2: What was the ambient air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit?

Questions? Answers? [frostypaws.50@gmail.com](mailto:frostypaws.50@gmail.com)