

LAKE DAMON NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

Dear Readers,

As stated in our last newsletter, the board did not meet in person in February, we just submitted updates via email. So, this newsletter is rather short!

We know people are reading the newsletter because last month after the newsletter was released, Robert received over \$5,000 more in weed boat donations!

We are still looking for a member of the community to join the board as Treasurer in August. This is such an important position, please help if you can.

I try to recap our board meetings, but if there are things you have questions about or would like me to cover in newsletters, please shoot me an email + let me know!

Best,
Christine

Next Board Meeting

**Saturday, March 8th, 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
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

LDC Committees

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
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

Weed Boat Fundraising

How to Donate:

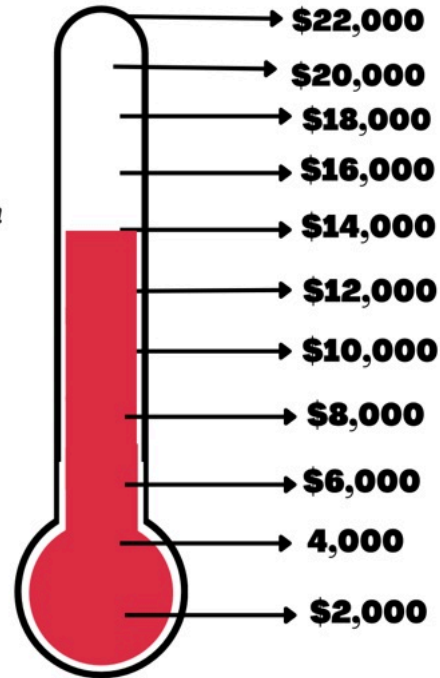
If you'd like to support this project, please consider donating soon so we can continue purchasing the parts we need. Every dollar counts!

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 22K



A heartfelt thank you to our incredible donors! Thanks to the generosity following last month's newsletter, we've raised another \$5,550, bringing us to a total of \$14,071 from 19 wonderful supporters.

As we shared previously, our goal is to raise \$22,000 to cover the necessary parts for this project. We currently have 32 camps registered to receive this newsletter, out of a total of 61 camps. That means 13 more camps can help bridge the \$7,929 gap, getting us closer to our vision of a pristine lake. Every contribution, from \$25 to \$5,000, brings us one step closer to making this dream a reality.

Weed Boat Q+ A Session

When: Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Time: 7pm

Location: Gosselin's House
at 10 Antin Rd and by Zoom

We will share more pictures of our progress, answer any questions and get your feedback for the final couple of months of this project. A link to the zoom will be sent to all stockholders. If you can't attend we will try to record the session for later viewing.

Did you know we have a National Weather Service Data Collector at the pond?



The pics are of Tom Osborne and Eileen Flug (they are neighbors). Tom is a National Weather Service data collector - a certified "Skywarn" spotter. If a news station is reporting a snowfall total for Chesterfield, Massachusetts, that data came from Eileen's yard. (The Osborne yard has too many trees to get an accurate snow fall level). During major storms Tom calls in precipitation amounts every couple of hours, relaying these totals via ham radio. He's been doing this since 2002.



Spring Migrations

Spring is finally in the air. Robins have been spotted along Ireland St., soon the swallows will return to Capistrano, the Blue Jays will be back in Toronto, and the Canadian geese will migrate back to Damon Pond. In my mind I can already hear their raucous honking announcing their arrival. This year they could be smuggling in something extra with them. No, not fentanyl, but bird flu, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), or H5N1 for you virologists out there. Migratory birds are spreading the virus to domestic poultry flocks across North America, causing massive economic damage, rising egg prices, and significant fears among health professionals. Wild waterfowl deaths due to HPAI have been confirmed in all New England states and recently on the UMASS campus in Amherst. Raptors, wild and domestic cats, cattle, goats, skunks, foxes, seals and even humans are susceptible. Though most cases in humans have been mild there has been at least one fatality. The fear is that once the virus begins to infect humans it will mutate and become more transmissible and pathogenic, as was the case with Covid-19. Due to its virulence and potential lethality, worldwide presence and ability to mutate, H5N1 is now regarded as the world's largest pandemic threat.

Signs of bird flu in geese include a swollen head, watery eyes, unresponsiveness, lack of coordination, respiratory distress, sneezing, gurgling and death. (If you are close enough to identify goose tears then you are probably within the zone of transmission, and you should immediately step away from the bird before your head begins to swell.) The virus is known to be transmitted through saliva, respiratory secretions, and feces.

To my knowledge no infected birds have been reported on our pond, but if you encounter any sick or dead waterfowl here are my recommendations:

- Don't handle the bird or allow pets near it
- If you observe one or two affected individuals contact Mike Frost at frostypaws.50@gmail.com or any member of the Lake Com. or BOD and we will deal with it appropriately
- If 5 or more individuals are suspected contact MassWildlife at mass.gov/reportbirds.com or the Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources

Presently there is no reason to avoid using the pond for all the usual recreational purposes, I'm just reminding everyone to be vigilant as migration commences. If anything changes you will be alerted promptly.

Mike Frost



Gray Fox, January 2025
Photo: Carol Blanchard



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



Eagles on ice, Photo: Janet Scully
Otter on raft, Photo: Kam Osborne

Get your binoculars ready!

As the ice thins, otters come up through the holes that develop to eat fish they have caught. Eagles scouting the pond fly down to eat the remnants and sometimes carry the fish off. They have also been observed taking fish from the otters. It is not unusual to see one or two eagles sitting on the ice or flying around close by. This used to be in late March and April, but now it can now happen much sooner.

Carol Blanchard

