Happenings

Spaghetti Dinner

Come One, Come All… to the Dudley Pond Association's

Membership Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner

Town Hall - Senior Center

Sunday, October 28
5-8PM

Volunteers Needed!

We are seeking members to serve on the Nominating Committee for election of officers this Spring. Even if you aren't able to serve on a committee there are countless ways to get involved. Please contact Sherry Fiust at cfiust@comcast.net if you're able to serve on a committee or just want to become a more active member.

A Message from Brian Cichella, Social Chairman

This year's Annual DPA Newcomer's Pot-Luck was held in a driving rainstorm inside the beautiful home of Leif & Allison LeClair overlooking the pond. Families moving into the watershed during the past year received personal invitations with phone calls and several braved the weather and were welcomed by many old timers. A few have even begun to volunteer their services at our events.

This year's 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social, held on Father's Day at Mansion Beach, featured delicious ice cream from Stoneyfield Farms with toppings served by DPA volunteers. Our own Mid-Life Crisis band provided us with outstanding music and a wonderful atmosphere of fun. Charles River Canoe & Kayak again brought us several boats along with a caring group of their employees who helped us to be safe and enjoy ourselves.

This year we added an environmental component and asked Russell's Garden Center to erect and staff a booth to help educate us with pond sensitive products for the lawn and garden. A hardy new type of drought-resistant lawn grass was also introduced and promoted to watershed residents by Jackson Madnick. Next year we plan to add one of the areas septic contractors to talk about ' what's new ' with septic design, installation, and maintenance

Dudley Pond Association
P.O. Box 5114
Wayland, MA 01778-4137

Non-Profit U.S.

Postage PAID

Wayland, MA
Permit No. 73

DPA *notes*

Spaghetti Dinner Oct 28th
5-8 p.m. Senior Center

Town-wide Pond forum Nov. 1
7 p.m. Senior Center

www.dudleypond.org **DUDLEY POND ASSOCIATION** **FALL 2007**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We have experienced a glorious end to summer. Despite the terrible milfoil infestation, I did enjoy seeing the wildlife and some lovely sunsets on the pond. Alas, my enjoyment would have been greater had I not been so worried about the pond's current condition.

My husband, Ted, and my daughter, Alexandra, harvested enough milfoil to make a path for the pontoon boat to venture out into the areas less choked with weeds. They used a cutter, and then gathered the floating fragments for disposal. This effort kept our path clear for about three weeks.

Dudley Pond's milfoil infestation is serious. We, the watershed residents and members of the Dudley Pond Association, need to make our voices heard by the various town boards. The DPA Board and DPA members Mike Lowery, Jack Peters, and Karen Fahrner have been working with the Surface Water Quality Committee (SWQC) this summer to develop a budget and plan of action for 2008 and 2009. At this point, our options are either herbicide treatment or mechanical harvesting. Either method will require supporting options. These options will vary, but will most likely include methods such as minimization of incoming nutrients, evaluation, monitoring, education, and hand pulling/cutting.

On September 24th at the Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting, Fred Turkington, our Town Administrator, spoke up about our dire situation and the need for open communication about the issues among the various town boards. The BOS agreed to organize a joint meeting for representatives from the BOS, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Finance Committee, SWQC, and DPA to develop a plan for submittal in the budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2009. It is an important development that the Town of Wayland is showing unprecedented support for our cause. (see shaded box)

The SWQC will be attending the DPA Fall Membership Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner. We will be discussing our weed management options for 2008 and 2009 and need your input. We will also be presenting a proposed DPA budget for 2008.

This is not a time to sit idly by and wait for your neighbors to fix the problem. Please plan on attending!

Sherry Fiust
President

Dudley pond Board 2007-2008

- President - Sherry Fiust
- First Vice President - Bob Smith
- Second Vice President & Social Chair - Brian Cichella
- Treasurer - Jamie Pierce
- Secretary - Marilyn Darack

Town Administrator Fred Turkington has convened a meeting with representatives of the DPA, Conservation, Board of Health, Selectmen, Surface Water Quality Committee, Finance Committee and other Town boards, to develop a plan that addresses various issues affecting the Pond, including long-term management of the milfoil problem and dealing with leaking septic systems and surface runoff. The goal is to assure that a comprehensive and non-conflicting approach to pond management issues is developed and that any resources spent to address any specific problems are coordinated and are not at cross-purposes. Representatives of all these groups have been appointed to attend (Bob Smith will represent the DPA), but the meeting is also open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend, 7 p.m. November 1st, Senior center.

Dudley Pond Circulator Update

By Toni Moores, SWQC

Background

Based on instructions from the Wayland Conservation Commission, the Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee (WSWQC) and the Dudley Pond Association are attempting to find a non-chemical way to manage the milfoil that has infested Dudley Pond. One of the methods being tested is pond circulators, which have shown positive results in other locations.

Three pond circulators were purchased with grant money from the Community Preservation Act. They began operation in Dudley Pond in late May 2007. The manufacturers of pond circulators state that it will take approximately 18 months to see results.

Questions and Answers

Q. How are the circulators being evaluated?

A. The circulators will be evaluated based upon the following criteria:

1. water clarity
2. water quality such as the dissolved oxygen and other parameters;
3. weed nutrient analysis;
4. biomass (density of weeds) estimation; and
5. visual evaluation using underwater videos.

Q What do the results show so far?

A. Because of a delay in the installation and start up of the circulators, as of August 15 two data sets have been completed. Although the manufacturer of the circulators has stated that he sees signs of distress in the weeds in the experimental area, WSWQC members have not seen major effects of the circulators on the weeds. There may be subtle changes in the data that has been gathered, but it is too early to understand these changes.

Q. What are the plans for the circulators during the winter of '07 – '08?

A. The circulator manufacturer, Eco-Guide, strongly recommends that the circulators continue to be operated throughout the winter because wintertime operation further stresses the weeds by circulating the cold water. WSWQC is weighing the recommendation of Eco-Guide against the potential safety problems associated with thin ice around operating circulators in the winter. They will meet with DPA and make a recommendation regarding this issue by the end of November. Guidance regarding this issue is being sought from a number of sources. Circulators are operated year around at a number of locations in the U.S. and Canada without significant safety issues.

Q. When will we be able to make an informed decision on the effectiveness of circulators?

A. WSWQC does not expect to be able to make an informed decision regarding the effectiveness of the circulators before the fall of 2008.

Q. What is the plan if results of the circulator tests are positive?

A. WSWQC is not expecting black and white results. If we are very lucky we may see some positive results in one area of Dudley Pond. Should we see positive results, WSWQC will get estimates of how many circulators would be needed to manage the milfoil in all of Dudley Pond. Based on the proposals received from circulator vendors, WSWQC will engage in discussions with the DPA to address any outstanding issues. Assuming agreement between WSWQC and DPA, a grant proposal will be prepared and submitted to the Community Preservation Commission to provide the capital cost of additional circulators. An operating cost estimate will also be prepared and incorporated into the appropriate budgets. Under ideal conditions this plan would result in the additional circulators being installed in Dudley Pond during the spring of 2009

11th Annual Dudley Pond Race Sets Records!

Excellent course times were achieved by runners of all ages, ranging from the low teens to well over 70. The overall winner was Kevin Gray, of Limerick, Ireland with a time of 15:37.

This year's event also included the first non competitive fitness walk led by certified fitness instructor, Sylvia Greene, of Wayland.

Fund raising records were set with $11,584 in total proceeds which included $6,850 in sponsorships. We netted a profit of $9,285, which is another record!

Co-Race Directors Linda Smith and Karen Lowery achieved great success with a well organized race that supported 162 runners in the 5K race, 15 walkers in the 2mile race, 15 Fitness walkers, and 50 children in the Kids Race.

Many thanks to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and participants who made this event a tremendous success!

Fun Run 2007 Results

FEMALE OVERALL TROPHY WINNERS, for the 5K Race

1ST Place-Elaine Scales, from Jamaica Plain, timed at 19:56.2 minutes

2nd Place-Amanda Morss, from Wayland, timed at 21:32.7 minutes

3rd Place-Kathrin Midgley, of Wayland, timed at 21:36.7 minutes

MALE OVERALL TROPHY WINNERS, for the 5K Race

1st Place-Kevin Gray, of Limerick, Ireland, timed at 15:37.7 minutes

2nd Place-Ben Leipzig, of Waban, timed at 16:15.5 minutes

3rd Place-Andy Keith, of Natick, timed at 17:13.9 minutes

Dudley Pond gets a milfoil haircut

By Mike Lowry

Thanks to: Jamie Pierce, Brian Cichella, Rick Cresswell, Jackson Madnick, the Smith Family, Jim Thompson, Jim Tiberii, Allison LaClaire, Ted Fiust, and many others.

Project Origins: To give the SunGo Circulators a head start the DPA agreed to assist the Surface Water Quality Committee by contracting for mechanical weed harvesting around their circulators in 2007. DPA obtained a three-year Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission to do the harvesting .

DPA planned originally to just harvest 10 acres around the circulators. Under the direction of Mike Lowery, we used our contracted five days of harvesting to also clear most of the Mansion Beach arm and the central portions of the Pond.

With money left in the grant, the DPA board realized that the rest of the pond was suffering – but harvesting time was spoken for long in advance. When Lowery learned that SWQC's planned harvesting at Heard Pond had been delayed, he and the DPA board swiftly contracted for that harvesting time, got Con-Comm blessing, and organized volunteers for a second week of harvesting. The rest of the pond would get some milfoil relief.

Early on we realized that the harvester was most efficient in long regular cuts – and couldn't efficiently harvest close to shore or in irregular areas – so we organized additional 'shoreline harvesting' to open public areas and trim up spots not reached by the mechanical harvester.

How did we do it? Between July 2nd-10th and 12th-18th, a large mechanical harvester contracted from Aquatic Control Technology in Sutton, MA removed the bulk of the weed from central portions of the pond. In July and August Ted Fiust harvested shore line and hard to reach areas from a pontoon boat platform cutting with a Jenson Lake Mower provided by Mike Lowery.

What was removed? DPA removed five dumpster loads, 150 cubic yards , 74,000 pounds of Eurasian Milfoil – *enough to fill four rooms of your house!* Also removed: approximately 150 pounds of phosphorus – equivalent to the nutrient added by runoff for a year, or from a single failing septic system.

Where did the milfoil mass go? It's being brewed into compost at the Wayland Landfill..