

# DPA

## newsletter



The Dudley Pond Association

A non-profit organization, founded in 1968

Spring 2026

[www.dudleypond.org](http://www.dudleypond.org)

### Letter from the President

It's a wonderful time to be living near Dudley Pond. We are currently blessed with fairly stable and enjoyable conditions on the pond and strong support from the Town of Wayland. We have many terrific people in our community to thank for substantial accomplishments.

- We are learning to manage tape grass while we continue to manage milfoil.
- Our community events are popular and engage both members and not-yet-members.
- Our annual Fun Run is a successful fundraiser that continues to live up to its name.
- Our merchandise sells well and can be seen around town (e.g., the adorable DPA onesie).
- The Town's Surface Water Quality Committee, DPW, and ad-hoc committees on wastewater and groundwater issues all contribute to a healthy pond.
- We are communicating with membership and the wider community through more channels than ever – see us on the web, Facebook, and Instagram.

We have been using the relative quiet of the long, cold winter to build engagement that will serve us as challenges emerge in coming years. The DPA Executive Board, supported by many additional community members, has been establishing committees that can work independently of the Board. These committees will focus on the most important activities of the DPA: Pond Health, Community Engagement, Communications, and Fundraising.

The community members on these committees add much needed bandwidth to the Executive Board. We are lucky to have so many energetic neighbors willing to invest their time to help the DPA grow and succeed. I am deeply grateful to everyone involved – both for their contributions and for bringing an attitude of empowerment and collaboration. Already, new contributors are bringing fresh ideas and new energy to the work of the DPA.

Still, there are gaps we need to fill and voices we need to hear. We encourage anyone who is willing to help to reach out to [info@dudleypond.org](mailto:info@dudleypond.org) to get connected to a committee that interests you.

Both Wayland and Dudley Pond are facing difficult challenges, including wastewater, stormwater, water quality, and ever increasing costs and regulation. If history is any guide, there will be conflicting views on how, or even whether, to address some of these challenges. It is my hope that a strong, welcoming, respectful, and collaborative Dudley Pond Association will help us weather conflict while keeping both the pond and our community healthy and enjoyable for all.

*Lafe LaClaire*

### Get in Touch! Get Involved!

Check out our website:

[http://www.dudleypond.org/](http://www.dudleypond.org)

Check us out on Facebook:

[DPA page](#)

Follow us on Instagram:

[@dudleypondwaylandma](#)

Send us a note:

Dudley Pond Association  
PO Box 5114  
Wayland, MA 01778-6114

Come to our events:

[See page 4](#)

There is also a community  
Facebook page not run by DPA:

[Everything Dudley Pond](#)

### Board Nominations

The DPA Board is composed of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and up to 7 Members-at-Large.

The Board meets monthly, typically on Sunday or Monday evenings. Other members are always welcome.

The following candidates have been nominated:

- President - Lafe LaClaire
- Vice President - Tim Dreher
- Treasurer - Geoff Gardner
- Secretary - Lisa Jacobs
- Members-at-Large:
  - ◊ Melissa Darling
  - ◊ Naomi Deutscher
  - ◊ Ann Drouilhet
  - ◊ Margo Melnicove
  - ◊ Michelle Mizner

## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has been working hard to keep our neighborhood connected as we head into the spring season. Along with other DPA committees, we are currently formalizing our mission through a new committee charter that defines our scope and goals. Our primary purpose is to amplify the DPA's vital work, ensuring that members and watershed residents stay informed about everything from pond health to local events. To meet these goals, we manage a variety of channels, including press releases for the *Wayland Post* and *Patch*, our web and social media presence, and the production of these seasonal newsletters. Behind the scenes, we also maintain the digital infrastructure that keeps our community connected, such as managing email lists for members and residents, organizing archives, and coordinating entries for the annual Photo Contest. Whether promoting a pond event or distributing educational updates and public service announcements, we aim to foster a shared sense of stewardship for the pond's ecosystem and community. We are always looking for fresh perspectives, so if you have a knack for storytelling, photography, or digital design, we would love to have you join our efforts!

## Healthy Dudley Pond Committee

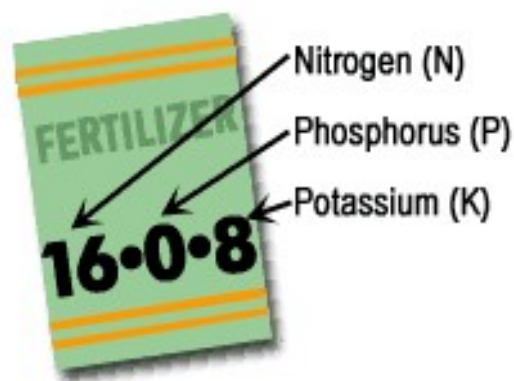
The DPA Board will present a re-envisioned committee focused on current and future pond-health demands. Membership will be asked to vote on this new charter to empower the Healthy Dudley Pond Committee (HDPC) to expend a budget and carry out the committee's mission and objectives. If membership does not approve the HDPC documents, the subcommittee will be dissolved and its responsibilities will revert to the DPA Executive Board.

The HDPC mission is to sustain and improve Dudley Pond health and protect the pond's natural resources through responsible ecological management. Specific goals are to manage weeds, monitor pond health, collaborate with Town of Wayland Departments and Committees, and educate the membership and the wider community on the HDPC's work and how individuals can help keep the pond healthy.

## Protecting Dudley Pond: Why Phosphate-Free Fertilizer Matters

Dudley Pond is one of Wayland's most cherished natural resources, and its health depends on the choices we make in our own backyards. Phosphorus—an ingredient once common in lawn fertilizers—is a major driver of algae blooms, murky water, and excessive weed growth. Even small amounts washing off lawns can harm a shallow, enclosed pond like ours.

Massachusetts law reflects this risk. Under M.G.L. Chapter 128, Section 65A and the Plant Nutrient Regulations (330 CMR 31.00), phosphorus fertilizer cannot be applied to established lawns unless a soil test shows a deficiency or you are planting new seed or sod. For most homeowners, that means phosphate-free fertilizer is both the legal and environmentally responsible choice.



To help residents care for their lawns while protecting the pond, here are four phosphate-free options available locally:

- Scott's Turf Builder Lawn Fertilizer with Crabgrass Preventer (30-0-4): <https://www.homedepot.com/p/202052051>
- Sta-Green Performance Max All Purpose Lawn Fertilizer (30-0-3): <https://www.lowes.com/pd/.../5013685289>
- Sta-Green Slow Release Natural All Purpose Lawn Fertilizer (16-0-10): <https://www.lowes.com/pd/.../5013683815>
- Purely Organic Products Lawn Food Fertilizer (10-0-2): <https://www.homedepot.com/p/204279747>

Choosing a phosphate-free fertilizer is a simple step to help keep Dudley Pond clear and healthy for everyone to enjoy.

# Protect Dudley Pond – A Clean Pond Depends on All of Us!

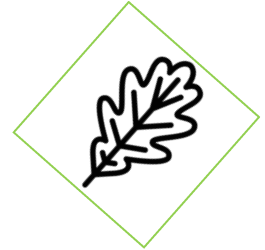
Dudley Pond is a clean, 86-acre, State-designated Great Pond in Wayland, Massachusetts, with several points of public access for freshwater swimming, boating, and fishing. Its water quality depends on everyday choices made by residents, landscapers, and visitors.

## KEEP LEAVES & YARD WASTE OUT OF THE POND

Leaves don't disappear in water — they turn into fertilizer.

- ◇ Decomposing leaves feed algae and invasive weeds and add to sludge on the pond bottom
- ◇ Algae clouds the water and reduces oxygen
- ◇ Low oxygen harms fish and other aquatic life

If it didn't grow in the pond, keep it out of the pond.



## DON'T USE LAWN FERTILIZERS THAT HAVE PHOSPHATES

Phosphorus is the leading cause of algae blooms in clean ponds.

- ◇ Fertilizer runoff flows directly into Dudley Pond
- ◇ Even small amounts trigger algae growth
- ◇ Blooms reduce clarity and can create odors

Choose phosphate-free fertilizers, apply sparingly, and never before rain.

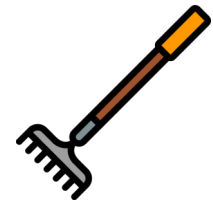


## REMOVE BIOMASS WHEN POSSIBLE

Leaves, algae, and aquatic weeds are biomass — they store nutrients.

- ◇ Removing biomass removes nutrients
- ◇ Fewer nutrients = less weed growth
- ◇ Less weed growth = healthier water quality and ecosystem

Shoreline cleanups and weed removal efforts make a real difference!



## WHY IT MATTERS

Clean ponds are rare — especially in densely populated areas.

Your actions help:

- ◇ Preserve water clarity
- ◇ Protect wildlife habitat
- ◇ Maintain property values

Keep Dudley Pond enjoyable for future generations.



**Thank you for helping protect Dudley Pond!**

Questions? Comments? Want to volunteer?

Email: [info@dudleypond.org](mailto:info@dudleypond.org)

Website: <http://www.dudleypond.org/>

Facebook: [Dudley Pond Association](#) & [Everything Dudley Pond](#)

Instagram: [@dudleypondwaylandma](#)

# DPA 2026 Calendar of Events

- Sun. Apr 26, 5-7 pm — Spring Membership Meeting
- Sun. May 17, 4:30 pm — Newcomers' Potluck
- Sat. Jun 20, 1-3 pm — Ice Cream Social
- June/July/August — Music on the Pond, pop-up events
- Sun. Oct 4, 10 am-1 pm — 28th Fun Run/Walk
- Sun. Oct 25, 5-7 pm — Fall Membership Meeting



## Pain in the Grass Committee

The Pain in the Grass Committee is gearing up for another season of removing floating weed debris from areas that the harvester and abutters can't reach. Becky Leonard will make several "weed wrangling" trips on her boat when the harvester is operating (likely end of July to beginning of September).

There's room for two volunteer rakers on each trip. If you would like to be added to the Pain in the Grass roster, please email [info@dudleypond.org](mailto:info@dudleypond.org). Equipment provided!  
No experience necessary!



Becky Leonard, Scott Sweeney, Lafe LaClaire

## Photo Contest

The DPA is sponsoring its fourth annual Photo Contest. All are welcome to participate. Photos should be submitted by October 1, 2026. The winners will be announced at the DPA Fall Membership Meeting on October 25, 2026.

Categories include: Scenery, Wildlife, People, Recreation, Sunrise/Sunset. There will also be a category for photographers younger than 16. (No Fun Run photos please.) You may submit in multiple categories, but please only submit your single best photo per category. Be sure to include your full name and the category to which you are submitting. You may submit photos here: <http://www.dudleypond.org/photocontest.html>.

Questions can be directed to:  
Ann Drouilhet ([adrouilhet@gmail.com](mailto:adrouilhet@gmail.com))

