



Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

www.cedarmeadow.org

Newsletter - Fall 2018

Annual Draw Down To Begin Mid-October

The annual draw will begin in mid-October 2018. The District will, again, coordinate our draw down with the draw down at Burncoat Pond. The flash boards and lower gate will be used to lower water levels. The lower gate will be opened on or about October 20, 2018. The flash boards will be removed from the spillway about a week later. The District aims to maintain water levels between 2-1/2 - 3 feet below the spillway elevation for the remainder of the winter. The flash boards will be reinstalled in the spillway channel after the final ice cap melts in the Spring of 2019 to bring water levels back up to the spillway elevation. During refill, and in accord with DEP standards, a minimum flow through the lower gate will be maintained during the Spring fill to mimic typical Spring brook conditions until water goes over the spillway. **Please plan to remove boats and docks accordingly.**

Water Clarity

The water clarity this year has been great. In the summers of 2015 and 2016, the lake visibility was reduced due to the presence of blue-green algae. It was hypothesized that algae growth in the lake could have been related to the weed treatment performed on June 17, 2015. The District continues to monitor the lake for algae growth each summer, and it was noted that there was little to no growth of algae this summer. To achieve a properly balanced lake, the District urges (1) all Proprietors who use fertilizers to spread the low phosphorus fertilizer and (2) to curb any water from storm drainage that could potentially add nutrients to the lake. Furthermore, MA law has stated that fertilizer containing phosphorus can only be used on (1) lawns that show a phosphorus deficiency by a soil test or (2) newly

established laws. Please see www.mass.gov/agr for further information. Several local retailers including Klem's have numerous options for phosphorous free fertilizers in stock. We STRONGLY urge all proprietors who choose to fertilize their lawns and plants to use fertilizer containing no phosphorus.

Aquatic Plant Growth

ESS Group did a weed map survey in June 2018. Plant coverage and plant biovolume was generally low throughout the lake. The plant community was dominated by southern naiad, stonewort, and thinleaf pondweed, which are all native weeds. Variable-leaf milfoil, an invasive plant, is occupying 8.3 acres (6%) of the lake. The densest area of milfoil is found in two small coves, and it is not expected to pose an immediate issue to recreation or swimming. Fanwort, another invasive species treated in Spring 2015, was not detected. The full results and report from this survey are posted on the District website.

Maintenance of Dam Crest & Repair of Dam Fencing and Gatehouse

The District Management Committee employed Morrison Fence to repair and reinforce the gate and fencing on both sides of the dam that had been vandalized by trespassers. The fencing was fixed and reinforced to deter future damage. The gatehouse has a crack in the wall facing the lake. Liberty construction is preparing a quote to repair the crack and repaint the gate house. This repair & maintenance should be completed this Fall. Liberty construction will also be constructing new flash boards that will be installed during the refill process in Spring 2019. Finally, the trees and brush have become overgrown. The District is working to have the trees and brush cut back to the vertical property line to keep the dam as clear as possible. The pipes on the top of the dam crest will also be removed prior to the winter.

Boating Safety and Respect Reminder

- Please remember, it is illegal to operate a vessel at more than headway speed within **150 feet** of shorelines. Please be mindful of the safety of your fellow proprietors and our neighbors using the beaches.
- To review the full text of MA Boater Safety Handbook, go to the District's website, www.cedarmeadow.org, or the MA website at **www.boat-ed.com/ma/handbook**.
- Please be respectful of the buoys and signage at the Rawson Street Bridge because the buoys and cables are delicate. Therefore, no boats should be anchored to, or floating upon cables, buoys or signage in this area.

- Please be respectful to any wildlife that also inhabits our beautiful lake and its shores.
- The Cedar Meadow Skiers have also been quite active again this Summer. If you are interested, please contact John Moisan (moisan_j@charter.net) for information on joining the club in 2019. If a slalom course buoy has made its way to your shoreline, please return to the buoy to 69 Fairview Drive.
- Please remember to report any unusual lake activity.

Your Elected Officials Want to Hear From You

The District is now using Twitter, @CMLWD, and Facebook to distribute District news in addition to the Newsletters. **Please email the District Clerk if you would like to be placed on the electronic mailing list, allowing the District to save money on mailing and copying costs.** The District's mailing address is P.O. Box 320, Leicester, MA 01524. Finally, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake and/or dam, please contact one of the following elected officials.

Have a Great Fall & Winter!

The Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Tommy Lee, Chairman Management Committee	774-239-1799	tommyjoelee@gmail.com
Tom Forsberg, Vice-Chairman Management Committee	508 832-3249	tforsberg15@gmail.com
Brian Waterman, Management Committee	774 272-5654	bwaterman@wda-dg.com
Michele Cosper, District Clerk	508 439-2443	clerk@cedar Meadow.org
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863	theocoins@charter.net