

Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District

www.cedarmeadow.org

Newsletter - Fall 2017

Annual Draw Down To Begin Mid-October

The annual draw will begin in mid-October 2017. 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 15, 2017. The flash boards will be removed from the spillway about a week later. The District aims to maintain water levels between 3 - 5 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 2018 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 had been exacerbated by hot and dry conditions, but the algae growth could also have been related to the weed treatment performed on June 17, 2015. The District continued to monitor the lake for algae growth in the Summer of 2017, 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 lawns. 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 non-phosphorus containing fertilizer.

Aquatic Plant Growth

This Summer several proprietors noticed and reported aquatic growth along the southern shoreline (Fairview Drive side) of the lake. Via photographs, ESS Group was able to determine that this **native** plant is in the genus *Potamogeton*. ESS Group stated that this weed does not typically "take over" an entire lake (like an invasive species can), but it can grow in dense clusters within waterbodies. If this native weed becomes disruptive, ESS Group can discuss potential management options with the District.

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 this Summer. If you are interested, please contact John Moisan (moisan_j@charter.net) for information on joining the club in 2018. 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.

Tommy Lee, Chairman Management Committee	508 892-3750	tommyjoelee@gmail.com
Paul Dufresne, Vice-Chairman Management Committee	508 868-7301	
Tom Forsberg, Management Committee	508 832-3249	tforsberg15@gmail.com
Michele Cospers, District Clerk	508 439-2443	clerk@cedarmeadow.org
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer	508 347-6863	the.ocoins@verizon.net

Have a Great Fall & Winter!

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