

DPA

newsletter



The Dudley Pond Association
A non-profit organization, founded in 1968

Fall 2016

www.dudleypond.org

DPA Board 2016-2017

Dear fellow Dudley Pond community members,

I hope that everyone had a great summer and is ready for cooler weather and hopefully some rain. We had a very hot and dry summer and I had a chance to meet many of the community members either on the water or in the water, enjoying some relief from the heat.

I certainly appreciated coming home from work and jumping into the cool and refreshing pond water when the temperature reached the high nineties.

As the summer progressed and the pond succumbed to the high temperatures and the lack of rain, the water level receded to levels never before seen, even by the pond elders. I even unsuccessfully tried to find someone that can recall a time when the pond water level was lower than it is these days. I certainly hope that the fall rains and the winter snow will be able to raise the water level to its pre-drought level, which I estimate is about 18 inches higher than it is today.

As an avid Dudley pond swimmer I can report to you that this year's weed treatments were very successful. Thanks to the very effective efforts of Mike Lowery and the Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee, the amount of weed that I saw while swimming in the pond was significantly reduced verses previous years.

We had several events during the summer and as always our most successful event was Jazz on the Pond that drew a very large crowd. I met many friends and neighbors on an assortment of more than 40 different boats following the band around the pond, enjoying the music and swaying to the beat. I'm still not sure if the tuba player was louder with or without the tuba but I could hear him playing and shouting merrily from across the pond. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie Pierce, a member of both the DPA board and the Dirty Water Brass Band for his efforts that made it all possible.

- President - Doron Almog
- First VP - Eric Macklin
- Second VP - John Darack
- Treasurer - Jamie Pierce
- Secretary - Lisa Jacobs

Members-at-large:
Karen Lowery
Mike Margossian

For membership info see
www.dudleypond.org

News & Events

Fall Meeting

DPA Membership Meeting &
Spaghetti Dinner
Town Building - Senior Center

Sunday, October 30th, 5pm

- 2016 Run/Walk Recap
- Pond Management Update
- 2017 Budget Presentation & Vote



Official Sponsor: Get In Shape for Women
Team members
More about the 20th Run/Walk inside



Stay in the loop! If you are not currently receiving our emails, please send an email to dpasecretary84@gmail.com



20th Annual
DPA Run/Walk

Male Winner:
Ryan Devlin



Female Winner:
Jane Chitkara

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President's Letter (Continued)

To conclude I would like to thank you all for being such great neighbors and for being part of this very friendly community. We are all very lucky to live in the vicinity of such a beautiful body of water that draws us all together. I urge you all to join us at the DPA Fall Meeting to receive an update about the health of the pond and to meet your fellow community members. If you are able to come please also try to persuade your neighbors to join you and us. We would like to have as many community members as possible participating in the meeting – dinner is on us.

Regards and have a great fall and winter,

Regards,
Doron Almog



20th Annual Dudley Pond Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run

By Karen Lowery

With the weather forecast predicting rain and thunderstorms on Sunday, September 18, the Dudley Pond Association began to wonder if they would have their 20th Annual Run/Walk and Kids' Fun Run in a downpour. It would be the first time the event would be held in the rain. But, for 20 years in a row, the weather, though cloudy, remained dry.

Participants from 15 Massachusetts towns ran and walked the competitive 5K Run and 2 Mile Walk alongside beautiful Dudley Pond. Non-competitive fitness walkers, led by Sylvia Greene from Passion to Move, took part in the hour long Fitness Walk which included warmups and stops for stretching along the scenic Dudley Pond shore line.

A highlight of the event is always the Kids' Fun Runs where all from kids from age 1 to 13 are invited to participate. At the end of their races, all kids receive Dilly Bars from Dairy Queen in Natick and ribbons.

Ryan Devlin of Framingham, was the first overall male winner of the 5K with a time of 20:03.2. He was closely followed by Eric Harrington of Wayland, at 20:04.3. Conor Laraceny from Natick, was third at 20:11.6

In the female division, Jane Chitkara of Wayland, came in first at 21:31.3. Caroline Ritter, Wayland was second with a time of 22:27.8. Ella LaClaire crossed the finish line in third place with a time of 23:14.7.

The Dudley Pond Association thanks all the corporate, contributing, refreshment sponsors, as well as all the volunteers who gave so generously to help make this year's Dudley Pond Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run such a successful community event.

Lemons or Lemonade?

By John Darack

This year's drought has left Dudley Pond, along with most other water bodies in the Northeast, starving for replenishment. Water levels are lower than longtime residents can remember, other than the time many years ago when the MWRA aqueduct construction accidentally pulled the plug and nearly drained the pond. Measuring at our dock, the level of the water surface has dropped more than two feet since the springtime high. Who wants to do the math . . . two feet times 84 acres equals how many gallons? This calculation is way above my pay grade, but we can all agree it equals a heck of a lot of lost water.

What to do? Is there an upside to this quandary? I'm too much of an optimist to think we can let a golden opportunity slip by.

The weather's still nice, with no snowstorms yet on the horizon. Looking out at all the newly exposed pond bottom, I see several feet of mudflats and very shallow water in many areas, strewn with rotting sticks, cans, bottles, old bricks and shards of broken glass. What an opportunity for some serious cleaning!

We've already removed a sizeable pile of sticks and a 5 gallon bucket of glass, cans, fishing gear and a few broken bricks. I've destroyed an old pair of sneakers in the process, and now will finally get to use those rubber boots that have been in the cellar for years. Will you join us?

Be sure to protect your hands and feet from the sharp surprises that lurk in the mud and shallow water. A rake and a bucket will come in handy, too.

We'll never get the Pond back to where it was before the Pilgrims arrived, but maybe we can make a good effort to reverse some of the damage that our 100 year old need to indulge our love of being by the water has created.

Ok, there are no lemons out there. We can, however, taste the sweet satisfaction of cleaning our shoreline and making it safer and more fun to use. Hurry! It won't be long before winter snow and spring rains return to refill the pond and once again obscure the monsters of the deep.

Surface Water Quality Committee: 2016 Season-End Update

By Mike Lowery

Our 2015 season-end survey of Dudley Pond showed large areas of Eurasian milfoil which we were not able to control with diver-hand pulling.

Under its new 5-year Order of Conditions from Conservation, in spring 2016, WSWQC treated portions of Dudley Pond with fluridone, a slow-acting, low-concentration systemic herbicide. An airboat from Solitude did initial application and an expected booster application was performed to keep herbicide concentrations at planned levels.

Over the summer the milfoil was significantly suppressed, and the tapegrass which we thought we would have to harvest was suppressed enough that harvesting was unnecessary.

Continuing our 3x annual water quality samples at three locations showed continuing modest improvement in water clarity and quality.

With assistance of DPA member Karen Lowery, SWQC in cooperation with the Health Department continued its weekly summer eColi-level sampling at Mansion Beach. Twice during the summer the beach was closed - waterfowl using the beach were the probable cause.