



SDRA Newsletter September, 2022

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Annual Drawdown begins October 1st! Please plan accordingly for taking boats out of the water.

(DEM limits the amount to a 2" drawdown daily to protect wildlife within the lake and surrounding areas. This component of our Lake Management Plan is vital to deterring the growth of milfoil in our lake.)

Annual Dues of \$100 were due September 1st. If you have not yet paid, please do so immediately by sending a check to Marissa at the following address: SDRA, PO Box 284, Chepachet, RI 02814.

If you have difficulty or need to do this in several payments, contact Marissa at: mjdanville@gmail.com. This will remain private.

Water Quality Monitoring: Very high nitrogen readings have been identified at the southern end of the lake. Information is being gathered and it is likely that the Town will be involved with examining the situation - and hopefully helping to address this problem.

Eyes on the Lake: Cat 'O Nine Tails is spreading rapidly in numerous areas around the lake and, although native, if left unchecked, they can start taking over a lake. Ideally, one would hand-pull to get the roots; if not viable, cutting below the waterline will help. **Volunteers need to thin areas showing a lot of growth. If you have cattails near your property, please take action - autumn & drawdown time are ideal.**

- It is much easier to pull cattails out of the pond when they are young, rather than at full height.
- Hand-pulling:
 - Grasp cattail at the base of the plant, trying to wrap your fingers around the roots. Slowly pull the plant & white root out of the soil & cast it onto the shore of the pond. Proceed onto the next plant until you have cleared out the area as completely as you wish. The murky water will settle in a few days.
 - Cutting below the waterline method: if you cut the cattails below the water line two or three times in a season, very few cattails will grow back the following year; your cutting will have deprived the roots of their important food source and reduced the amount for storage.
 - Keep an eye on areas cleared for new cattail growth.
 - The pulled cattails will compost very easily if mixed with wood chips and other brown composting materials.
 - Timing is everything: Cutting them in May stimulates growth, so wait until late summer or autumn.



INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- **Trash Cleanup near the Transfer Station and across the street:** This summer, we revised our approach to the trash problem: Individuals or families signed up for a 2-week commitment to clean the areas needing attention near and across from the Transfer Station on Chestnut Hill Rd.. Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, this effort has been VERY successful - as you may have noticed. Although it is truly appalling to see how quickly litter collects, thanks to the many volunteers, this has turned into a success story,
- **Milfoil Update:** Art has been vigilant throughout the summer in surveying the lake for milfoil or other invasive species. Several milfoil plants were seen at the southern end of the lake, which he removed using equipment supplied by Aaron that made the job easier than using the suction harvester. A few more milfoil plants in that area have just shown up so that is now being looked at.
- **SDRA Fundraiser:** It's not too early to **mark your calendars for our superb fundraiser** - dinner/wine, great band, silent auction & raffle at Crystal Lake: ***Saturday, May 13, 2023!***
- **Upcoming Board Meetings (contact Janice in advance of the meetings if you wish to attend any Google meetings)**

October	10, 2022	at 72 Sand Dam Rd., Chepachet (no need to make advance contact, but appreciated)
December	12, 2022	at 72 Sand Dam Rd., Chepachet (no need to make advance contact, but appreciated)
February	6, 2023	via Google Meet
March	13, 2023	via Google Meet
April	10, 2023	via Google Meet
May	8, 2023	via Google Meet

Special Request: If you know of a lake property owner who is not receiving email news from SDRA, please contact or have them contact Elaine at secretarySDRA@gmail.com or 401-474-8215.