Playing the Lawn Game

Lawn Care for Residents in the Glen Echo Watershed by Joe Peak Everyone in the Glen Echo Community appreciates the current beauty and quality of our lake. In order to preserve these benefits now and for the future generations, we share a responsibility to protect the lake's fish, aesthetics and recreational use.

One impactful area easily within the control of each of us, is lawn care. Nutrient loading and chemical pollution within the watershed degrades the quality of the lake. Resident accounts and weed surveys have identified grasses/weeds and algae that we need to address.

The same nutrients that promote lush green lawns also contribute to aquatic plants and algae in the lake. The algae blocks sunlight for beneficial aquatic plants, and its decay takes much needed oxygen away from fish. Algae also can make for unsafe swimming conditions and a mucky bottom.

Below are some thoughts on what we can all do.

- 1. **Try not fertilizing**. It will save you time and money and may have little impact on the quality of your lawn.
- 2. If really needed, apply small amounts of slow release nitrogen in the spring.
- 3. Do not fertilize before a rain.
- 4. Never use fertilizer containing phosphorus. Even small amounts stimulate excessive growth of aquatic plants and algae.
- 5. Use a **fescue** mixture rather **than bluegrass**. It uses less nitrogen and is drought and shade tolerant
- 6. Cutting height of 3" is recommended to allow for greener lawns with less fertilizers.
- 7. **Do not use pesticides or herbicides near the lake** or streams as they harm helpful aquatic plants and fish.
- 8. Check that pesticides or herbicides do not have a fertilizer mixed in.
- 9. Please make sure lawn maintenance firms follow the above.

We can and really must **do better** in managing our own lawns. We need to mitigate the aging of this lake through the **eutrophication process**. This happens when **nutrients overload** the lake causing excessive weeds, **poor water clarity**, low oxygen levels that **kill fish** and produce **unhealthy swimming** conditions from the **algae**.

It is always better to address issues when we can contribute to a positive outcome versus waiting until things become unmanageable. Let's **encourage everyone** to help with this effort for the **benefit** of us all and **future generations**.



Hello and Welcome to 2023!

As I write this, it looks like winter has finally shown up! A couple of March snow storms have brought some beauty to our world (not to mention some awesome spring skiing!)

Did you know? Through the generous efforts of **Bob Dean** and **Gail Olmsted**, the **Glen Echo Community** expanded its **Lending Library**, with a **new Little Library** located on **Sunset Drive!** Books are available for all reading levels! Come take a look and borrow a book or two! If you have books you want to share, drop them off there or at the GEIA property.

At the August 30 Annual Pot Luck meeting, elections were held for all positions. Allison Schur takes over the reins from Sue Briody as Lake Association Secretary, with the remainder of the officers agreeing to remain on the board for another year. Not to worry, Sue is still around and very active with the annual newsletter and Dock-to-Dock Prize Raffle. We potentially look at staggering officer elections rather than electing the entire board at the same time, hoping that staggered elections will entice more people to get involved. If interested in ANY position, a description of each position can be found in the GEIA bylaws, located on the GEIA web site. More to come at our first meeting.

Also at the August GEIA meeting, we discussed **Glen Echo's Order of Conditions** (OOC) and how the upcoming **2022-2023 Drawdown/Refill** that began last fall could be limited to no more than 4-feet due to a single shallow well on the lake. Glen Echo's **OOC** allows us to incrementally increase the drawdown depth each year (provided certain conditions are met) to a **max drawdown depth of 7-feet**. Our **OOC** does have a **shallow well contingency plan**, which states that **water will be provided**.

On September 13, 2022, GEIA went in front of the Charlton Board of Selectmen (BOS). At that meeting we explained the rationale behind the current OOC and requested that the BOS abide by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved methodology outlined in the OOC. After much consideration and discussion, the BOS voted to allow the increase in drawdown depth to 5-feet for the fall of 2022. A letter was sent to all the necessary town boards and the owner of the shallow well with the decision.

The fall 2022 **drawdown** started on **Sunday, October 16, 2022**. The valve was opened to allow water to flow freely downstream, however, with the rainy weather pattern at the time, we didn't see much lake level reduction initially. Drawdown **levels were measured weekly**, and we **reached a 5-foot reduction at the dam mid-November 2022**. The lake was held fairly steady at this level until **refill began on February 13, 2023**.

As a reminder, minor waterfront work (an example would be rebuilding an existing rock wall with rocks that had fallen out of place or re-grading your beach by hand with a rake) can be completed without an Order of Conditions. However, anything more than that must be vetted and coordinated through the Charlton's Conservation Commission office to determine if an OOC is required. This applies to all work within 100 feet of the lake/surrounding wetlands. DEP numbers are to be displayed both lake side and roadside when the work is being performed. If the work is being performed during lake drawdown, please ensure all work is completed no later than the end of Lanuary

KEYŠ! Reminder!! As key holder, you agreed to **maintain your membership** in good standing, by either being up to date on your yearly dues, or by being a lifetime member. Annual members! Please ensure your **dues are paid each year!** Dues can be paid online or by mailing in the form found in this newsletter with your payment.

Did you see? Thanks to Nicholas Jalbert's Eagle Scout Project (see article on pages 4-5) the GEIA property received a much needed clean up and face-lift. A large portion of the property has been reclaimed and the memorial bench and post have been installed. Additional improvements to the ramp are planned for fall 2023 which will help with storm water management and erosion control.

At the 2022 Fall Town Meeting, funding for Glen Echo Dam repairs, listed as \$200,000 under Conservation Commission Capital Expenditure, was included on the warrant. Happy to report that the article passed, and the maintenance repairs will be paid for by the town, rather than a betterment to lake residents. Here's to a fun filled 2023! Thanks everyone!

See you on the water!

Jackie Nowak, President





Glen Echo Lake, Charlton, MA - 2022 Year End Report November 15, 2022 by James Lacasse, Project Manager and Senior Environmental Scientist

surrounded by sparse woodlands with developed properties located on the majority of the shoreline. Access to the lake is gained from the Association's boat launch is found off of Glen Echo Shore Road, along the western shoreline. Glen Echo Lake is a popular water body for recreational activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, and water skiing.

Historically, Glen Echo Lake has battled invasive species including **fanwort** (Cabomba) and **variable** milfoil (Myriophyllum heterophyllum). The goal of the 2022 program was to manage the invasive species while monitoring basic water quality through a proactive monitoring schedule. This is accomplished by implementing an aquatic management program a small treatment using diquat/flumioxazin in the that focuses around performing all applicable tasks, including planning, permitting, surveys, treatments, and reporting. All permitting, treatment and survey tasks were completed without issue and at the proper times.

Pre-Treatment Survey

On May 24th, Senior Environmental Scientist, James Lacasse, and Field Assistant, Grace Adams, completed a site visit to Glen Echo Lake. The visit basic water quality data. Conditions during the visit were warm and sunny.

Upon arrival, a survey was conducted using visual observation paired with a standard throw-rake and handheld GPS/ArcGIS Field Maps, as applicable. The water clarity was below average, so the survey relied heavily on rake tosses throughout the water body. With the tosses, **bladderwort** (Utricularia sp.), benthic filamentous algae, and minimal fanwort (illustrated in Figure 4), on the western shoreline, were documented. Most of the vegetation was found in the northern portion of the Lake. In addition, there were water lilies (Nymphaeaceae) and watershield (Brasenia schreberi) in scattered areas. The majority of the rake tosses, which were consistently collected every 50-75 feet, came up with only leaf debris and algae. The fanwort documented was mapped by inputting points into ArcGIS Field Maps, which was paired with an external GPS.

While on-site, basic water quality was collected using calibrated meters. The pH was 7.1, which is within a standard range for fresh waters and is considered neutral. The water temperature was



Glen Echo Lake is approximately 116 acres and consistent with other similar water bodies we densities. is located in Charlton, MA. The Lake is primarily manage in the area, and the dissolved oxygen was sufficient to support fish and wildlife. Water clarity was also assessed using a Secchi disk. A Secchi disk is a disk with alternating black and white boat launch, which is gated off to the public. This quadrants. It is lowered into the water of a lake until it can no longer be seen by the observer. This depth of disappearance, called the Secchi depth, perfect survey conditions. is a measure of the transparency of the water. The Secchi reading was 8' 6", which is good, given that the water clarity and visibility was below average. A small area of fanwort was the only documented

invasive species (see map attached). Our recommended approach was to have a late-June/early-July survey conducted to see if any additional fanwort popped up, but at this point, only approximately 1-acre area was recommended, if anything.

Interim Survey

On June 20th. Senior Environmental Scientist, James Lacasse, returned to Glen Echo Lake to conduct a survey specific to invasive species. The survey was conducted from a motored boat and utilized visual observation and a standard throw-rake. Invasive species data was collected consisted of performing a survey and collecting using ArcGIS Field Maps and a hand-held GPS for added accuracy. Several native species were documented including snailseed pondweed (Potamogeton bicupulatus), thin-leaf pondweed (Potamogeton pusillus), bladderwort, water lilies, and watershield. Fanwort and variable milfoil had expanded to several small areas, noted on the survey map. Based on the survey, we recommended that a small treatment be conducted for the control of the invasive milfoil and fanwort. Contact herbicides were most appropriate as they work quickly and are great for spot-treating small areas.

Survey/Herbicide Treatment

On July 13th, Senior Environmental Scientist, James Lacasse, completed a site visit to the lake. The visit consisted of collecting basic water quality data and conducting a treatment. Conditions during the visit were sunny and calm. While on-site, basic water quality was collected using calibrated meters. temporary control. The pH was 7.0, which is within a standard range for fresh waters and is considered neutral. The water temperature was consistent with other similar water bodies we manage in the area, and the dissolved oxygen was sufficient to support fish and wildlife.



Water clarity was also assessed using a Secchi disk The Secchi reading was 7'1", which illustrated the above average water clarity. The water clarity had visually significantly improved since the previous visits to the Lake.

A treatment was conducted for the control of variable milfoil and fanwort. The liquid herbicide was applied using a treatment boat equipped with a calibrated sub-surface injection system. This application methodology allows for even coverage within the treatment areas. **Posters** stating the restrictions associated with the treatment were posted around the Lake prior to the treatment.

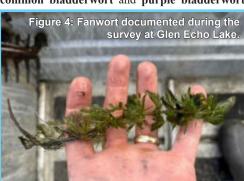
During treatment, several native species were also noted as the Lake was traversed. Snailseed, pondweed and thin-leaf pondweed were the most dominant, documented throughout the majority of the shoreline. These populations, despite being native species, were approaching nuisance

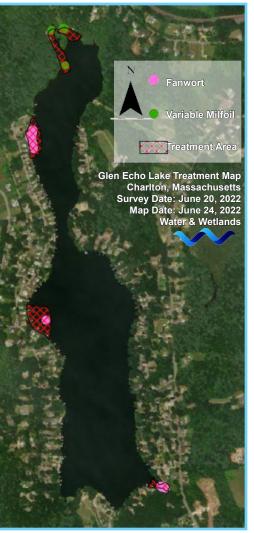
Post-Treatment Survey

On October 6th, Senior Environmental Scientist, James Lacasse, completed a site visit, which consisted of performing a survey and collecting basic water quality data. Conditions during this visit were sunny with a slight breeze, overall, near Upon arrival, a survey was conducted using

visual observation paired with a standard throwrake and handheld GPS/ArcGIS Field Maps, as applicable. Rake tosses were thrown throughout the littoral zone, paired with visual observations. When encountered GPS points were collected within ArcGIS Field Maps. This approach allows for accurate collection of invasive plant locations. Once the field data was collected, it was mapped within ArcGIS Online. Two invasive species were documented during the survey, which included fanwort and variable water milfoil. Fanwort was the most prevalent invasive species documented, noted most problematic along the two "larger" western coves. It is important to note on the map that each dot represents fanwort found - the dots do not signify densities documented. The majority of the fanwort observed was found in trace to sparse densities. Many rake tosses included just one fanwort plant. There were a few small isolated patches that were observed that were moderate densities along the northwestern and mid-western shorelines. There was no fanwort noted along or near the surface as it was found along the bottom or within the water column. Variable milfoil was found in a few areas within the northern coves. All of the variable milfoil found and roughly 30% of the fanwort was covered in epiphytic algae, which indicates that the plant is dving or decaying. The remainder of the fanwort population did not appear healthy. This could be impacts from treatment or timing of the season. The fanwort was documented at varying in heights/maturity, from small shoots to larger, more mature plants. It is common to notice regrowth in vegetation towards the end of the season when using contact herbicides as these products only provide

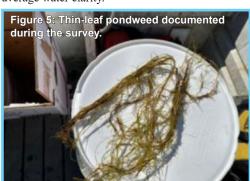
Native species noted during the survey include large-leaf pondweed, water lilies, ribbon-leaf pondweed, callitriche, thin-leaf pondweed, duckweed, snailseed pondweed, aquatic grasses, common bladderwort and purple bladderwort.

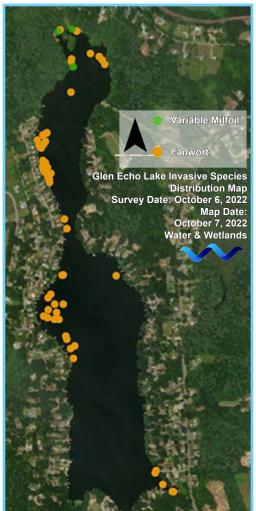




There were also a few different algae species present: filamentous algae, benthic algae, chara (macro-algae), microscopic algae, and epiphytic algae. The benthic algae were noted primarily in the shallow depths, primarily towards the northern half of the Lake. This was found on the bottom of the Lake or within the lower section of the water column. Chara was found throughout the majority of the littoral zone varying in densities on the bottom of the Lake. There was a microscopic algae bloom also observed throughout the Lake, visible within the water column and on the surface, specifically noticeable within the windblown areas. While the only true way to know if a bloom maybe potentially harmful, no visual signs of cyanobacteria (swirling, etc.) were noted.

While on-site, basic water quality was collected using calibrated meters. The water temperature was consistent with other similar water bodies we manage in the area, and the dissolved oxygen was sufficient to support fish and wildlife. Water clarity was also assessed using a Secchi disk. The Secchi reading was 8'8", which illustrated slightly above average water clarity.







The Town of Charlton has historically funded premanagement surveys at various Charlton Lakes. Based on this survey, the individual Associations are able to make decisions regarding management. This is the approach taken at Glen Echo Lake during the 2022 season. The early season survey found very little invasive species despite an intense search throughout the entire littoral zone. Based on direct communication and feedback from our Association contact, a survey was again conducted later in the season. This survey showed expansion of the invasive variable milfoil and fanwort. Despite the expansion, these invasive species were still confined to several small areas.

Based on the survey, a treatment using contact herbicides was recommended. There are two available treatment options for fanwort control, Sonar (fluridone) and Clipper (flumioxazin). Sonar is best suited for whole lake applications but does provide systemic control of fanwort, in many cases 2-3 years of nuisance level control of this species. Because the areas of invasive species were small and scattered (see maps), taking a Lake









wide systemic approach is not warranted from either an ecological or a cost perspective. Contact herbicides work quickly and allow for little to no impacts to native species outside of the small treatment areas. This approach is recommended for 2023 as monitoring is key to success. Keeping a direct line of communication open with the GEIA is also an important part of the program. We recommend budgeting for a similar program in 2023 consisting of surveys, a treatment with contact herbicides, and reporting. The post-treatment survey found new areas of fanwort and milfoil, all was at extremely low densities and low within the water column. This makes monitoring of the Lake all the more important in 2023 and beyond.

We greatly enjoyed working with GEIA, Charlton Conservation Commission, and the Charlton Lakes & Ponds Committee during the 2022 season. We hope that you were impressed with the level of communication, expertise, and follow-through provided by Water & Wetland, LLC this year. We look forward to working with you in 2023 and beyond to continue to improve the health of Glen



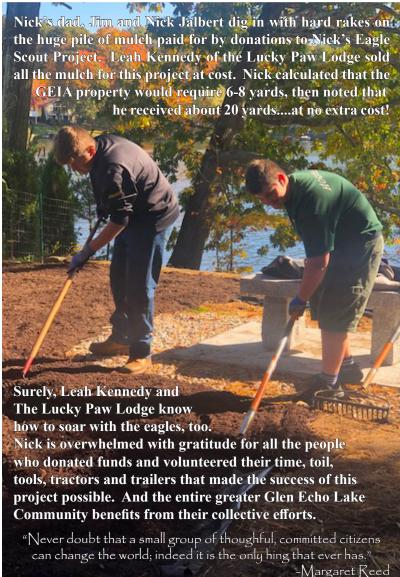






















Eagle Scout Project FUNDRAISER

Who: Nicholas Jalbert Troop 338 What: Glen Echo Beach Beautification When: Work begins September 2022

My project is to beautify the community beach on Glen Echo
Lake here in Charlton and to make it safer and more enjoyable
for its beach goers. I will be removing the overgrown weeds and
vines that have grown there, covering the area with mulch,
placing a bench on the top tier of the beach, supporting the
beach wall with mortar and fieldstone. Finally, a post will be set
up where a life preserver along with life jackets will be placed.

Cost: \$813.00 (any excess funds will be given to the Glen Echo Lake Associaton)

Donate: Venmo - James Jalbert @Jimjalbert or mail a check to 5 Elm Rd Charlton MA 01507

Volunteers needed! To sign up or ask questions please email nicholas.jalbert08@gmail.com















Page 4 - Eagle Scout Project - Page 5



1 Worcester Homes CherylBarber.RealEstate@gmail.com

Real Estate Agent CELL 508-248-6394

THE FIRST ANNUAL COMMNITY



How to Donate: email Pat by April 20th

1. To arrange pickup at your door (Charlton residents) 2. Or for drop-off details

Need suggestions for donations? Visit: Charltonfoodpantry.org

Charlton Chip-In Food Pantry

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President of South Charlton Reservoir Association

31B Main Street Charlton, MA 01507 (508)479-2340 (508)248-6966 dianed@erakev.com dianedabrowski.com







Glen Echo Lake

Safe Boat and Water Craft Operation



>Counter clockwise traffic flow for all powerboats and motorized personal watercraft such as jet skis (PWC).

Keep to the right when approaching a boat head on. >In north end of lake, turn by last dock on Sunset, not too far into the cove to avoid cutting up milfoil areas.

Daytime speed limit is 45 mph, 35 mph through the narrows marked channel.



Nighttime speed limit is 6 mph headway speed, no wake, dusk to dawn.

All craft operating at night must have running lights; red and green fore, white aft, including canoes, kayaks,

Yield **right of way** to canoes, sailboats, rowboats, and swimmers.

> Keep 150 feet from shore, other boats and swimmers.



>Swimmers must not swim farther than 50 feet from **shore** unless alongside a boat. Never in marked channels! > Avoid following boats engaged in recreational towing. They stop quickly and unexpectedly! > State law requires approved personal floatation

device (PFD) on board all watercraft for each passenger.

Children 12 and under must wear an approved PFD whenever they are in ANY type of boat.



All operators and passengers on PWCs must wear approved PFDs.

All water-skiers and tubers, etc. must wear approved

Powerboat operators must be at least 16 years old, or with an adult 18 or older, or have competed the USCG approved basic boating



>PWC operators must be at least 16. 16-17 year old operators must complete USCG boating course, an additional PWC course, and must posess USCG Safety Certificate while operating.

Never operate water craft without lights at night.

Never moor in travel lanes.

Never operate under influence of **alcohol** or **drugs**.



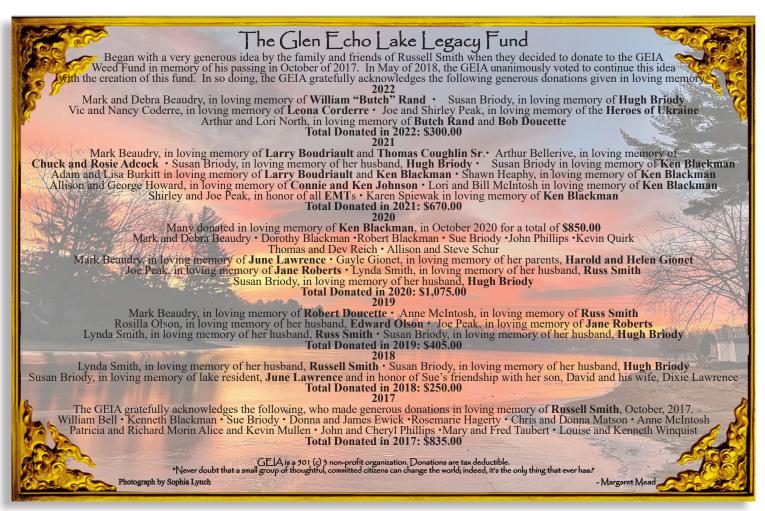
In trouble? Distress signal is 5 short blasts or raise a red flag. For more detail on Massachusetts Boating Law

www.glenecholake.org and click on < Boating Rules>.

We All Share the Same Front Yard!







un (d) raising Report

had 2 major fun(d) raising events Berberian, Brian Boria, Sue Briody, Terry

Berberian, Brian Boria, Sue Briody, Terry

Dock-to-Dock Prize Raffle Drawing on Saturday, September 10th.

Hosted by **Deane** and **Gail Olmsted**, the Glen Echo Poker Run netted \$350.00 from a 50/50 pot of \$700.00. Mark and Debra Beaudry won with a full house, the fullest boat of players, and the first boat to start and finish the Poker Run! Between the 44 prepaid poker hands and the 26 boaters that collected cards sealed in envelopes from 5 hosts located around the lake on the day of the event, **70 hands** were sold. Thank you to card hosts who had snacks and goodies to share with the boaters: Cliff and Sue Cloutier, Allison and Steve Schur, Bob Dean and Terry Buron, Helene Doucette.

Our exciting fun(d)raising season concluded with the Dock-to-Dock Prize Raffle and Concert, the audience floating in their boats to music performed by Far from Eden. We collected 144 prizes valued at \$7,507.00 and 22 salespeople sold 1,610 tickets at \$5 each or 3 for \$10 for a total of \$7,830.00 Many thanks to the ticket

Cin 2022: the 4th annual Glen Echo Buron, Nancy Coderre, Helene Doucette, Poker Run on Saturday, August 6, and The Andrea Dupell, Denise Fogarty, Karen Janes, Myles Lemansky, Karen Levine, Brian Lizotte and Toni Frascolla, Anne McIntosh, Jackie Nowak, Gail Olmsted, Joe Peak, John Phillips, Naomi Plante, Allison Schur, and Jeannine Wilkins, with Jeannine and Sue selling tickets at Ted's on Saturday, September 3rd. See the Prize Brochure on page 12 to see all the wonderful prizes and their generous donors. Charged with raising money to support lake management, the Weed Fund Fun(d)raising Committee may be the busiest arm of the GEIA, and its social director! Taking care of our lake helps preserve our real estate values, but it also gives us a collective sense

> The Legacy Fund is another thoughtful way to donate in memory of loved ones. Published every year in our Spring Newsletter (see above) and on our web site (www. glenecholake.org) it is an enduring way to turn grief into growth by honoring the memories of loved ones.

What deserves a significant mention here are your many neighbors who faithfully salespeople: Marie Arsenault, Aaron donate directly to the Weed Fund with every

renewal of their annual Membership. Many members donated \$2950.00 directly to the Weed Fund without expecting any accolades for their continuing generosity. Nearly one third of all monies raised for the responsible stewardship of our beautiful lake comes from their thoughtful, abiding benevolence.

2022 FUN(D)RAISING RESULTS

Dock 2 Dock Prize Raffle.....\$7,830.00 2022 Glen Echo Poker Run..... 2022 Glen Echo Legacy Fund\$300.00 2022 Direct Donations...... ..\$2,950.00 2022 Total Funds Raised......\$11,430.00

We are so fortunate to have so many people step up and get involved who work so well together! We hope to continue all of our traditional events, and we hope to maintain a new tradition with floating concerts! Hoping that we might get Brian Lizotte and his band, Petty Larceny to perform for us at our September 9th Dock-To-Dock Raffle and Concert! Or perhaps Far From Eden will be entertaining us again. Brian Lizotte's ongoing generosity is integral to the success of our largest fun(d)raising event.

Thank you for all you do! **WEALLSHARE THE** SAME FRONTYARD! &

Page 6 - Fun(d)raising Reports Fun(d)raising Reports - Page 7

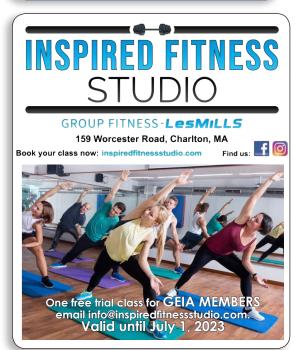




Contact George Bitsakis at our

Brimfield Office

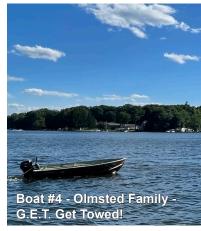
30 Sturbridge Road Brimfield, MA 01010 Direct(413)752-1460 Fax (413)245-6559 gbitsakis@faiagency.com







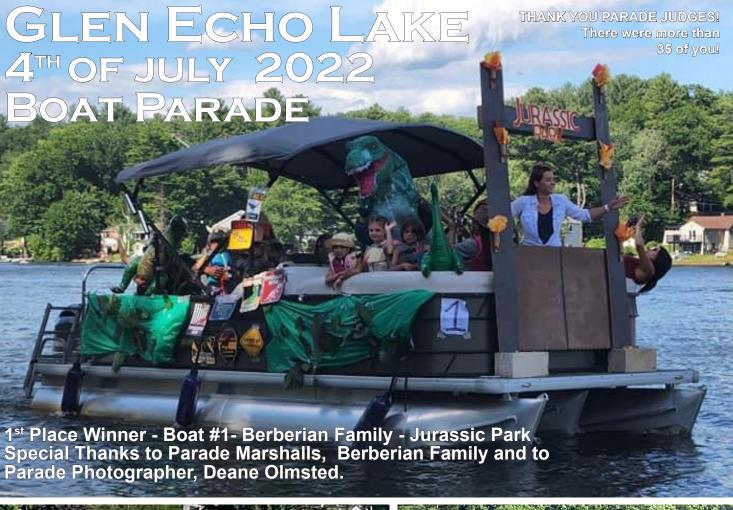














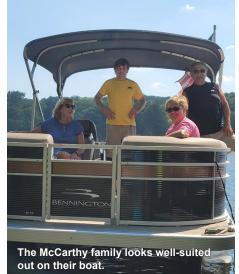






Page 8 - 4th of July Boat Parade Page 9













4th Annual Poker Run



Saturday August 6th 10am

Raindate August 7th

Two ways to play!

 Visit 5 docks, collect cards & return to Olmsted's dock for scoring or
 Reserve your hand in advance!

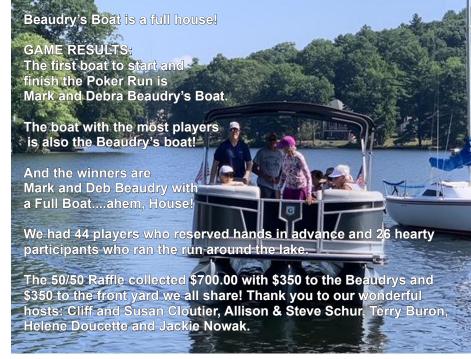
1/2 to winner, 1/2 to GEIA

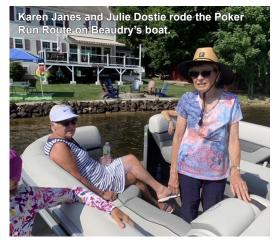


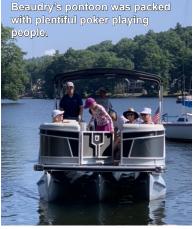
Contact: Gail Olmsted 413-537-7124 gwolmsted@gmail.com















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& Dump Trailers

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Floe - Sport / Utility

Master - Tow Dollies



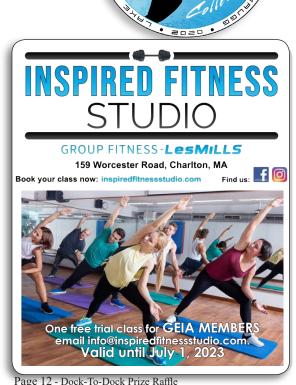
of sizes and assorted options.

t Rd., Webster, MA 01570 • 508-

Glen Echo Poker Run - Page 11















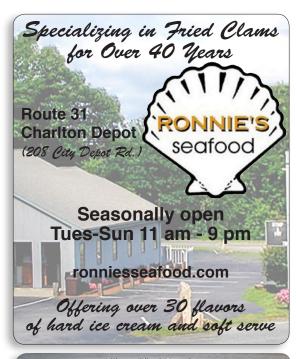












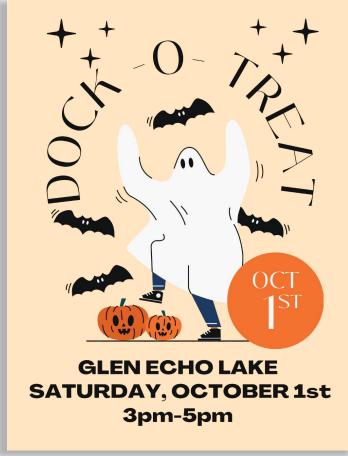


































Page 14 - Glen Echo Dock O' Treat

Glen Echo Dock O' Treat - Page 15











Mark Your GEIA Calendar with 2023 Events!

- □ Earth Day GEIA Property Boat Ramp Cleanup, Saturday, April 22, (Rain Date April 29).
 □ Clothing orders by Sunday, May 14, in time for 4th of July BBQ's and Friday, September 1, for Tournament commemorative T-shirts and Christmas Holiday Gift Giving, November delivery.
- ☐ First GEIA Meeting of the Year, Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 6:00 pm, at Sue Briody's house! ☐ FREE Learn to Ski event near Memorial Day, TBD weather permitting!
- ☐ GEIA Meeting, Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 pm. D2D Raffle kickoff, ticket sales pamphlets and packets available at this meeting.
- ☐ 4th of July Boat Parade on Tuesday the 4th at 4:00pm, gathering in the north end of the lake! Donate a D2D prize, buy D2D tickets, sell D2D tickets to your 4th of July Holiday guests!
- ☐ GEIA looks for someone to host the Glen Echo Poker Run, typically the first Saturday
- □ Corn Hole Tournament with Connect 4 for the kiddies, Saturday, August 12 (Rain Date August
- 13), 10:00 am, hosted by **Bob Deane & Terry Buron**.
 ☐ **Annual Pot Luck Dinner Meeting**, Tuesday, **August 29**, 5:30 pm.
- □ Dock-To-Dock Prize Raffle Drawing, and Floating Concert featuring Brian Lizotte, Saturday, September 9, (Rain Date September 10), 1:00 pm, in the north end of the lake!
- □ **Dock or Treat** by boat! Saturday, **October 7** (Rain Date on October 8) 3:00-5:00 pm.
- □ Submit Photography for 2024 GEIA Calendar by Friday, October 27, suebriody@aol.com &



GLEN ECHO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. Box 578 Charlton City, MA 01508 www.glenecholake.org

