

August 10, 2023

**RE: IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING FALL DRAWDOWN**

Dear GLCA Member,

We hope each of you has had a chance to enjoy the summer so far in-between the raindrops. Despite the rain, much has been happening on and around your lake. Many thanks to Membership Engagement Committee Chair Hasna Kaddo and her team for keeping our weekends on the water full of fun and camaraderie. With all of these activities, the lake community feels closer than ever. Thank you to all who have participated in these events that bring members together. And a special thank you to Kurt Ladu who has kept our lake full despite the wildly unpredictable rainfall amounts.

It was wonderful to see the large turnout at the Annual Meeting last month, and just as encouraging to hear the passionate thoughts about our lake from so many members. The love for our lake clearly runs deep. As a lifelong camper on the lake who has attended annual meetings for years, the messages delivered by our members have never been clearer. Your volunteer Board of Directors has had lake preservation, water quality and weed management as priorities. The Board was listening intently to what you had to say, and by mixing those comments in with all the other thoughts we get throughout the year, we have got a solid to-do list to work through.

As you may know, the effectiveness of last year's drawdown was muted by Mother Nature's uncooperative December weather. Although we have numerous types of native weeds in our lake, the weeds causing us the most difficulty during the active summer months has been the Eurasian milfoil strip that runs nearly the entire circumference of the lake at a depth of approximately 8 to 10 feet.

**Deep drawdown – Fall 2023:** The Lake Preservation Committee has been researching the issue and at our most recent Board meeting it was recommended that we execute a drawdown beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. Deep drawdowns of the lake of at least 10 feet every 10 years have been the most effective way to combat milfoil and have resulted in significant decreases in milfoil over the years. The last deep drawdown was in 2010. The drawdown will be complete by late November to allow the sediment to dry out prior to a deep freeze, the most effective way to kill the weed. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the recommendation.

**Drawdown schedule and key points:**

- ✓ **The drawdown will commence October 1<sup>st</sup>, three weeks earlier than last year.**
- ✓ Please make appropriate arrangements with pontoon and other boat and float removal.
- ✓ The drawdown will be complete by late November

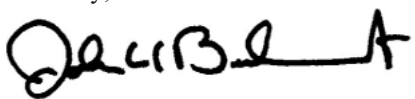
**Shore and beach maintenance:** A reminder that this is a very good time to perform wall maintenance to inhibit erosion from in front of your property and improve the water in front of your property by removing decaying vegetation and weeds. Organic material that is left to decay will enhance future weed growth by increasing the nutrient value of the lake bottom. We suggest the raking of material to collect it and allow it to dry. Once dry it will be much easier to dispose of by removing it from the lake and disposing of it in a compost pile or, if necessary, by burning it. The State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has enacted new outdoor burning regulations. These regulations impact what a resident is allowed to burn and when. DEC allows open fires to control invasive plant and insect species and case-by-case DEC approval is not required.

If you have any questions with regard to the lake or the integrated lake management plan by the Lake Preservation Committee please ask your grove director, as they are provided with all information regarding lake preservation. You may also visit our website (<https://galwaylakeassociation.com/news-information/>) for updates and to view our archive of [lake management documents](#).

**Again, this year's drawdown will begin October 1** and we will plan to close the gates in late January. The lake will be brought up to two feet below full as soon as possible and will remain there until the last of the ice is out. We will then move to fill the lake as quickly as we can so that we may start our summer with a full and clear lake.

With best wishes from your Board, we hope that you have a wonderful summer and are able to find time to get out and enjoy the lake.

Sincerely,



John H Buhrmaster,  
President