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FALL 2019

# GPA Newsletter



## *News from the Georges Pond Association*

### **Update: On Track to Restore Georges Pond**

The **good news** is that during summer 2019, Georges Pond water clarity was good. The **bad news** is that our algae problem has **not** disappeared. From March through October, we collected water samples that document why.

Algal blooms are associated with high levels (over 15 ppb – parts per billion) of phosphorus (P), a naturally occurring element that has been accumulating forever. When upper water layers of the pond have excessive amounts of phosphorus and receive sunlight, algae thrive. Our data confirm that most phosphorus is released when pond sediment is deprived of oxygen (anoxia).

Conditions for algal blooms are weather dependent. Blooms occur when the anoxia at the bottom of the lake (deep hole) rises to shallower waters (4-6 meters) and/or the high P levels that accumulate over the summer in the deep hole are mixed with upper water layers and exposed to sunlight.

When Georges Pond started to stratify (by temperature and chemically) this June, P levels started to increase in the deep hole (15 meters). This trend continued until October 5 when the P level in the deep hole reached 980 ppb, **the highest phosphorus level ever recorded for Georges Pond**. One week later, the lake completely de-stratified, and all that high P (deep hole) water dispersed throughout the water column. Surface level P levels rose to 35 ppb, the same level documented during our worst algal blooms in 2012 and 2018.

If the lake had de-stratified earlier in the summer, we would have experienced another significant bloom.

*continued next page...*

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*Photo courtesy Lisa Branch*

## MISSION STATEMENT

Members of the Georges Pond Association (GPA) are united to promote the protection and enhancement of the water quality of Georges Pond; preserve its ecological, economic, recreational and aesthetic value; and work with the members and other interested parties to monitor water quality and promote responsible land use practices.

Georges Pond Association is a 501(c)3 organization.

[GeorgesPondAssociation.org](http://GeorgesPondAssociation.org)



@GeorgesPondAssociation

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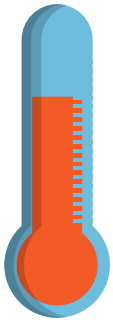
**On Track to Restore Georges Pond, cont.**

In addition to testing for water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen every two weeks, the GPA also gathered phosphorus samples throughout the water column. We mapped the contour of the lake bottom and took samples of bottom sediment, which University of Maine scientists tested to see how the sediment in Georges Pond would react to alum treatments (alum helps bind the sediment P).

In consultation with our science experts, the GPA Board will soon settle on a plan for treating the pond during spring 2020 and also adopt a ten-year Watershed Based Management Plan (WBMP) for guiding our collective efforts over the next decade to minimize adding new phosphorus to the pond.

**Bottom line? We're on track to restore Georges Pond to the water quality enjoyed long ago.**

**GPA Reaches 70% of \$400,000 Restoration Goal !**



Goal: \$280,000 in private funds.

**\$235,000 pledged!**

Additional \$45,000 needed.



Goal: \$120,000 in grants

**\$52,000 raised!**

More grants pending.

*Won't you become one of 20 new donors pledging \$2,500 or more?*

**GPA Awarded 319 Grant**

The GPA has been awarded a 319 grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to fix NPS (non-point source) sites in the watershed that contribute to the build-up of excessive phosphorus in the pond.

This grant builds on the 2013 watershed survey, so thanks to everyone who participated in that survey, now benefitting us all.

The \$46,000 grant requires a 40% match in cash and volunteer hours from the GPA and potential partners, including the Town of Franklin and others.

Greg Beane, Environmental Specialist with the DEP's Bureau of Water Quality, said, "I'm looking forward to working with the GPA Board and Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District on this project. I will be working with the District this fall to develop the project workplan for project startup early next year."

Many thanks to GPA Board member Chuck Dawes, consultant Jennifer Jespersen, and others who submitted this successful grant proposal.



Loon with two chicks, one tucked under its wing.

*Photo courtesy Betty Eaton*

## HONOR ROLL: FUND TO RESTORE GEORGES POND

### DONORS

Anonymous  
Jerry Abel and Tim Leavitt  
Dwight and Lynn Alley  
Timothy and Ann Calbi Alley  
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William and Royce Bellatty  
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Bruce and Laura Fisher  
Charles (Dusty) and Ellen Fisher  
Brian and Linda Friedmann  
Rocco Fucetola

Karen and Stephen Garner  
Carolyn and Arthur Gilbert  
Rebecca Gobel  
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John Walz  
Col. Clifford West  
Stacy and Eric White  
Michael and Cynthia Willhite  
Barbara Wing  
Brendan Woo and Annie Lin  
Greg and Sarah Woo  
Joan H. Woo  
Jeff and Jena Young  
Leonard and Juanita Young



GPA members gather for beach cleanup.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

*Gifts have been made in memory of the following:*

Julian and Marguerite Breen  
Gordon and Patricia Bruce  
Ted and Marci Closson  
Dorothy Brewer Erikson and Gordon Iver Erikson  
Diane Fucetola  
Richard L. Hall  
Priscilla Bunker Harriman  
Dorothy and Lew Herklotz  
Ruth Richardson  
Ed and Rae Rogers  
Clara and Shih-Chang Shen  
Edward and Phyllis Tracy  
William Woo

## IN HONOR OF:

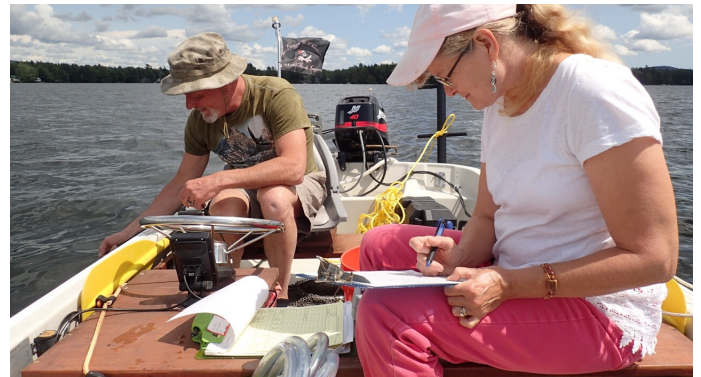
*Gifts have been made in honor of the following:*

Ginger Eliasberg

## Volunteers Gather Pond Data

Thanks to GPA Board member **Brian Friedmann** and his team of volunteers who helped with pond monitoring this year: **Lisa Branch, Chuck Dawes, Lisa Grant and Jim Ashmore, Marie and Walter Phero, and John Kulig.**

Maine DEP's **Linda Bacon** and **Doug Suitor** contributed equipment and valuable guidance. US/EPA's **Hilary Snook** spent a day on the pond, mapping sediments.



Lisa Grant and Jim Ashmore gather water samples.

## REMEMBERING LONG-TIME PONDER RICHARD HALL

Long-time summer resident and GPA board leader **Richard L. Hall** died August 15 in Towson, Maryland at the age of 96.

A Nebraska native who survived the Great Dust Bowl, Dick was a precocious learner who entered the fourth grade at age 6 and had to delay entering college until his 16th birthday, when he was awarded a full scholarship.

A friend and colleague said of him, "He was an outstanding scientist, a respected leader, a gifted speaker and communicator, a shrewd businessman, and last but not least, an honorable person and a true gentleman."

Dick is survived by his daughters Ann Dorr, Nancy Cooper, and Elizabeth Ottinger (Marc) and five grandchildren, who encourage anyone interested to make a memorial gift to the **Fund to Restore Georges Pond**, a priority project of Dick Hall and the late Barbara Abbott Hall.

### In Memoriam: **Zoltan Kovats**

The GPA mourns the death of Zoltan Kovats (1931--2019), father of GPA Board member Yvette Kovats (Anthony Detre). Zoltan, an aerodynamics engineer and inventor, passed away in August in his homeland of Hungary.

## GPA MEMBERSHIP E-X-P-A-N-D-S

### How many?

183 members to date, representing 60% of pond properties.

### How much?

Members have paid \$3,500 in dues, covering the GPA's operating budget.



Photo courtesy Donna Erikson

## RENEW TODAY!

It's **not too late** to join or renew **your GPA membership for 2019**.

Your \$25 dues will be matched by an anonymous donor.

**Double your impact!**

Help protect Georges Pond.

## End of Year Donation



**Don't forget:**  
Make your financial contribution to the GPA **before December 31!**

## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR YOUR \$250 LAKE SMART GIFT?

Protect the Pond's water quality *and* your property values by signing up for a **Lake Smart** review.

With your permission, the GPA's trained volunteers will review four areas of your property, starting at the driveway and moving toward the shorefront.

The goal is to help you identify effective ways to minimize stormwater runoff from going into the pond.

A **LakeSmart** survey, an estimated value of \$250 per property, is a **free** service provided by the GPA. There's **no cost to you**. None.

Add your name to the waitlist for summer 2020. You may register online at [www.georgespondassociation.org/lakesmart-signup](http://www.georgespondassociation.org/lakesmart-signup).



**HAVE YOU NEWED YOUR 2019  
GPA MEMBERSHIP?**

**SIGNED UP FOR LAKESMART?**

**MADE YOUR 2% PLEDGE?**



*Photo courtesy Donna Erikson*

**Clancey Boettcher, Gordon and Donna Erikson's son-in-law, does a head stand for Georges Pond.**

**Georges Pond  
Association**

PO Box 30  
Franklin, ME 04634