

GPA Newsletter

News from the Georges Pond Association



Neowise Comet over Georges Pond

Photo courtesy Linda Friedmann

2020 Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

Celebrating the success of first Alum treatment



Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GPA board elected to hold **this year's Annual Meeting via Zoom.**

On Saturday, August 1, **more than 50 people signed in** on their computers or tablets to hear a variety of presentations and engage in a lively question-and-answer session.

The program included a review of GPA accomplishments this past year, especially the highly effective alum treatment in early May. Attendees also received updates about the GPA's LakeSmart program, learned about opportunities for property owners to apply for 319 residential grants, and reviewed GPA finances and fundraising goals.

Currently, 174 members, including both property owners and friends of the Pond, pay \$25 annual dues which cover the GPA's operating expenses.

Interested in watching the Annual Meeting online? Find a link on the GPA's homepage at www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org.

Testimonial:

"The pond looks absolutely wonderful. Every time I look at it, I want to cry. I'm so grateful!"

BOARD MEMBERS NEWLY ELECTED

Two new directors added, three current members extended

At the August 1 Annual Meeting, GPA members elected Christine Moore and Josh Winer to the Board of Directors.

Christine Gray as a child visited her grandfather George Gray on Georges Pond, and she still uses his old aluminum boat to motor around the lake. With her wife Rhonda Moore and son Travis, she spends as much time on the pond as possible during the summer before returning to Ohio where she serves as an assistant school principal. In retirement they plan to live on the pond year-round.

Josh Winer and his wife Dawn Lamendola bought their Georges Pond camp in 2017. They live on MDI where Josh is a teacher and photographer and Dawn owns and operates House Wine.

GPA president **John Eliasberg**, treasurer **Marvin Ellison**, and vice president **Brian Friedmann** were elected to second three-year terms.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE: 2nd ALUM TREATMENT

GOOD NEWS! ONLY \$25,000 LEFT TO RAISE

The GPA has **only \$25,000 left to raise by early 2021** in order to pay for next spring's second alum treatment and make necessary improvements in the watershed.

The GPA's water-quality scientists recommend a second alum treatment in order **to maintain the pond's water quality for the next twenty years or longer**. (Watershed improvements are also needed, especially on camp roads.)

At the Annual Meeting, GPA treasurer Marvin Ellison reported that **after everyone's 2020 pledges have been fully paid by the end of December 2020**, an additional \$70,000 in new dollars will be needed to fund this second alum treatment.

The good news? GPA members and friends continue to step up, and **more than half of the money needed has already been pledged!**

Thank you, one and all. Overall, two-thirds of all property owners have contributed financially to restoring the pond, a *very* impressive rate of participation. Nearly two dozen Friends of Georges Pond have also donated. In addition, 100% of GPA board members have already pledged to this next phase of fundraising, which we're calling **"Preserve the Pond, Protect Your Investment."**

Won't you donate today? Whether you've already donated or perhaps are donating for the first time, please be as generous as possible. **Mail in your check today**, payable to the GPA, **or** if you prefer, **donate online** at www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org.

GPA Honor Roll of Donors Funding the 2nd Alum Treatment

In addition to collecting the **outstanding 2020 pledges** to the Fund to Restore Georges Pond **to be paid by December 31, 2020**, the GPA needs an additional \$70,000 to fund a second alum treatment in spring 2021.

(Additional fundraising beyond the second alum treatment will be needed to pay for necessary watershed improvements, mapped out in the GPA's 10-year Watershed-Based Management Plan.)

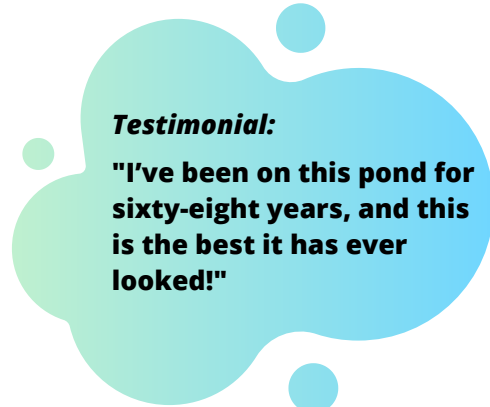
Thanks to the generosity of those listed below, we've **already secured more than half of the \$70,000** needed for the second alum treatment -- expected in May 2021 -- **leaving only \$25,000 to raise** by early 2021.

An anonymous donor will match up to \$20,000 of your donations!

Anonymous
Bill and Royce Bellatty
Jim and Sharon Beyer
Stuart and Lisa Branch*
Jeff and Jane Bunker
John and Callie Carr
Nancy Cooper*
Sue and Chuck Dawes*
Lynn Durkin*
Jake Eliasberg
John* and Ginger Eliasberg*
Marvin Ellison* and Frank Brooks
Carl Erikson
Gordon and Donna Erikson
Linda and Brian Friedmann*
Lisa Grant and Jim Ashmore

Christine Gray* and Rhonda Moore
Paul and Ashlee Grindle
Christian and Danielle Hartley
Roger and Angela Kennedy
Yvette Kovats* and Tony Detre
Sam and Nancy Ladd
Jane and Steve McMullen*
Martin and Laurie Mai
Margie Nichols
Molly O'Dea
Walter and Marie Phero*
Mark and Stephanie Reece*
Josh Winer* and Dawn Lamendola
Barbara Wing
Brendan and Annie Woo

**GPA Board member*



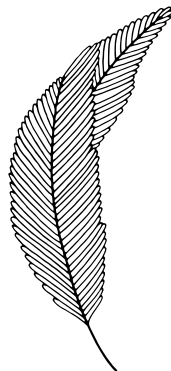
Creative Fundraising!

Thinking of ways to support the restoration of the pond?

The GPA has benefitted from member **Moe Oliver's** clever idea.

He's **donated to the GPA** the money he received from selling his gently used snow blower.

Thank you, Moe, for your ingenuity and generosity!



You shop; Amazon Smile gives!

Amazon Smile gives you the option to **designate the Georges Pond Association as your charity of choice**.

When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, **Amazon will donate a small portion of the price of your purchases to the GPA.**

To sign up, go to smile.amazon.com -- and then **shop-until-you-drop for the GPA!**

There's still time to renew your GPA membership for 2020!

Send your \$25 check for membership dues to:
PO Box 30, Franklin, ME 04634

Preserving Family Traditions, Sharing the Legacy

Testimonial:

"I've been coming here 65 years. The water clarity is back to what I remember when I was growing up and swimming all over the pond. This is fantastic."

Gordon and Donna Erikson hold up their Lake Smart award with their granddaughters **Sonia and Eve**, the 6th generation of Eriksons to enjoy summers on Georges Pond.



LakeSmart and 319 UPDATES

LAKESMART

- **50% of Georges Pond camps** have completed a LakeSmart survey.
- LakeSmart surveys in **2020 exceeded** those completed in **2019**.
- **Sign up now** to have your LakeSmart survey scheduled **for summer 2021!**

319 GRANT

In the **first 3 months** of this two-year grant:

- **Two master road plans** designed (cost = \$6,000); road associations at work implementing.
- **17 residential site plans** designed (319 grant will fund 15 at \$595)
- **3 steep-slope site plans** designed (319 grant will fund 3 at \$1,000)

LakeSmart and the **319** grant from the ME DEP are key components of the GPA's **10-Year Watershed-Based Management Plan (WBMP)**.

Testimonial:

"I've been coming here since my honeymoon. The marriage didn't last, but my love for the pond has! I come back every summer for a few weeks, and it's always hard to leave."

PONDERINGS

Recollections by Joe Jordan



My earliest memory of the pond was back in 1941, when my father took me, at age 3, swimming off Varnum's Beach, now called Bunker's Beach.

Early **in the summer of 1944, my grandfather** John "Mike" Estey **decided that we should** row around the pond and **count the camps**. We started along the shore clockwise just below the Harriman cottage, which still sits on the bluff above the east end of Bunker's Beach. The next camp was well over a mile along the shoreline, the Dyer camp on the south point of what is now called Spring Cove. (That camp is still there, probably the oldest camp on the pond, now owned by the Liddy family.)

There were no more camps along Spring Cove until the Tracy Camp on the north point of the cove (now belonging to the Cousins family for whom Cousins Road is named.) From there to the outlet there were 8 camps; six of those originals still exist. Continuing on our circumnavigation back to Bunker's Beach, **we counted 25 camps**.

In 1945, we Jordans built camp #26, which still exists at 168 Georges Pond Road, my favorite place on earth!

I'll end with **a fish story**. In 1948 my grandfather bought our first outboard motor, a 5.0hp "Sea King" from the Montgomery-Ward catalogue. He said to me, "I hear there's a good place to fish in **the deep hole**." We had never been there, but after finding the deep hole, we put down our anchor and prepared to fish. He said, "Let's fish our bait (worms, of course) about 6' off the bottom," and we caught white perch in greater number, and greater size, than ever before. It became **our favorite "go to" fishing spot**.

After the **terrible algae bloom in 2012**, my friend Brian Friedmann asked me to take him out to the deep hole in my boat, so that he could take measurements for water quality. He found that **the water was anoxic (without oxygen) below 18 feet**. Years before, my grandfather and I had been catching fish 21' below that, in an area now without fish! **Keep this in mind as we strive to recover the pond we love so much!**



Closing Camp While Protecting the Pond: Some tips



Drain pipes: Do not use anti-freeze to protect plumbing. Anti-freeze is toxic and poses a threat to ground and surface waters. **Protect from rodents:** Refrain from using pesticides or poisons. Remove all food sources from the cottage before you close it. **Check for erosion:** Make sure that shorefront areas will not succumb to ice or wave damage. **Remove dock:** Store docks and boats in an area that will not kill vegetation. **Boats:** Winterize your engine away from the water. Wash boats away from the water, preferably at a commercial car wash.



Photo courtesy Laurie Mai

John Eliasberg with **Griffin Winer**, next-generation GPA scientist, taking Secchi readings to measure water clarity.

**Georges Pond
Association**

PO Box 30
Franklin, ME 04634

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.

www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org



@GeorgesPondAssociation
