

FALL 2021

GPA Newsletter



News from the Georges Pond Association

"The clarity of our lake will be a reflection of how well we take care of it."

John Eliasberg, 2021 Annual Meeting

Update on major grants

GPA successfully completes ME DEP 319 Phase 1 grant, awarded Phase 2 grant.

Thanks to your support, in 2021 Georges Pond experienced the clearest water on record, following our successful Alum treatments. The longevity of these **clear waters** will **depend on everyone's stewardship** to prevent phosphorus from entering the lake by reducing stormwater runoff and maintaining our septic systems. Other steps include beefing up shoreline buffer of natural vegetation, covering exposed dirt, and redirecting stormwater away from the pond by adopting a variety of best management practices (BMPs).

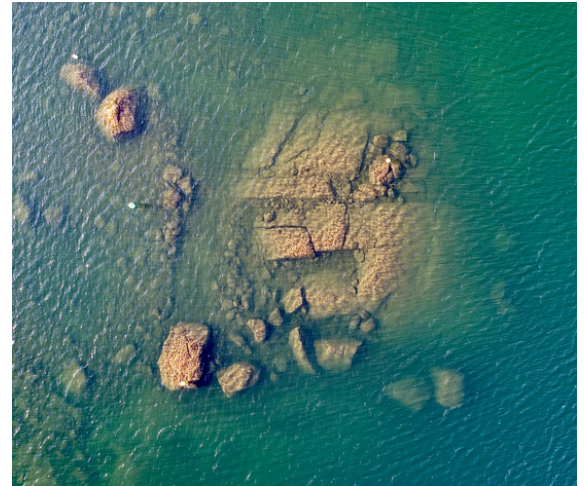
The GPA has a 10-year watershed plan for protecting the pond. LakeSmart teaches us how to care for our properties. It's wonderful that over 50% of all properties have now had a LakeSmart review. Our goal is 100%, so please **sign up at www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org/LakeSmart**.

Fortunately, the Maine DEP and US EPA co-sponsor a 319 grant program to provide technical guidance and financial assistance to lake associations. This fall we're successfully bringing our **319 Phase 1 grant of \$79,066** to a close after completing two high-priority gravel road projects and 10 residential projects. (A total of 23 residential grant designs were commissioned, so there's more work to finish.) At least four of these projects involved community participation with more than 17 GPA volunteers. Many thanks, one and all, for **making a very big difference**.

Looking ahead to 2022 and 2023, **the GPA has received a 319 Phase 2 grant totaling \$140,887** to address three gravel road projects, complete additional residential projects, and promote educational outreach about septic systems. We're especially excited by our **partnership with the Town of Franklin** on the public beach restoration project.

Contact GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com to **sign up for your own residential project** or to volunteer to help neighbors.

Together we'll keep our beloved pond clean!



Mid-pond rocks



Little Island

Examples of 319 Phase 1 Residential Projects

In order to minimize stormwater runoff into the pond, a major source of unwanted phosphorus, the Maine DEP's 319 Phase 1 grant has provided financial subsidies to qualifying property owners who wish to make various improvements on their property and agree to work with GPA consultants from Ecological Instincts to draw up and then implement a plan in a timely fashion. Among others, **Becky Dick and Sharon Oliver have completed residential projects** this summer, as these before-and-after photos illustrate.



Unstable shoreline, no buffer.

DICK

< Before
and
After >



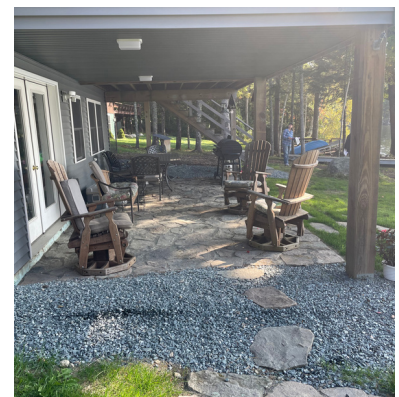
Stablized shorefront, buffer increased.



OLIVER

< BEFORE photos C, D,
and F: Unstable soil around
roof driplines and
bare soil in yard.

AFTER > Defined pathway,
drip line trenches, drywell
capturing roof runoff.



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"Beef Up Your Border" 319 workshop

On Saturday, July 18, **Jennifer Jespersen of Ecological Instincts** led a highly successful workshop on planting native plants and other strategies for protecting the pond. After the presentation, Jen and a crew of GPA volunteers did a **demonstration project** on **Eric and Stacy White's** pondside property.



Interested in **applying**
for a **319 Phase 2**
residential grant to improve
your property? Contact
[GeorgesPondAssociation@
gmail.com](mailto:GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com).



GPA UPDATES

Ginger Eliasberg named Maine Lakes Hero!

Ginger Eliasberg, GPA board member and LakeSmart coordinator, has been designated a Lake Hero by Maine Lakes, a **richly deserved recognition** for someone who first began visiting Georges Pond at age 15 months and as an adult has dedicated countless hours to protecting the lake. **Because of her leadership**, in three years alone the GPA was able to survey over 70 sites, representing 50% of pond properties. (In 2020 the GPA completed 25% of all LakeSmart surveys done that year throughout Maine.) Ginger's LakeSmart feedback to camp owners is personal and informative, complimenting outstanding property features, explaining the benefits of suggested Best Management Practices, and reinforcing suggestions with illustrated photographs of the owner's property. This past winter Ginger galvanized GPA volunteers to plant over 100 live stakes on multiple properties, as a way to beef up shorelines. She's also a trained water monitor. All in all, Ginger is a gracious and inspiring leader and motivator whose **love of Georges Pond** is evident for all to see.



Ginger Eliasberg



Improvements to Cousins Road, thanks to 319 Phase 1 grant and Cousins Road Association.



GPA members and friends gathered August 1 at Stuart and Lisa Branch's camp, to socialize and celebrate the highly successful alum treatments.

SHOUT OUT to the GPA!

The GPA has been awarded the **GOLD LAKESMART AWARD**.

Only 16 out of nearly 6,000 Maine lakes have received this Award since LakeSmart's inception.



PASSING IT FORWARD

Abrams Pond and East Pond graciously assisted the GPA early on, and the GPA has subsequently assisted Abrams, Lake Winnecook/Unity Pond, Long Pond, North Pond, and Wilson Lake among others.

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GPA Membership Update

- **Regular** members: 114
 - **Sustaining** members: 81
 - **Family** members: 24
- Total 2021 members: 219**

In 2021 GPA
members
contributed
\$15,000
in dues.

Thank
you!

It's time to **renew** your GPA membership:

As a **Regular Member** for \$25 (which covers two people);
add family members @ \$10 per person, **or --**

As a **Sustaining Member** at one of these levels:

Dragonfly: \$5 monthly (\$60 annually)

Chickadee: \$10 monthly (\$120 annually)

Hummingbird: \$25 monthly (\$300 annually)

Loon: \$50 monthly (\$600 annually)

Eagle: \$100 monthly (\$1,200 annually)

A Sustaining Membership covers two persons; **add family members** @ \$10 per person.

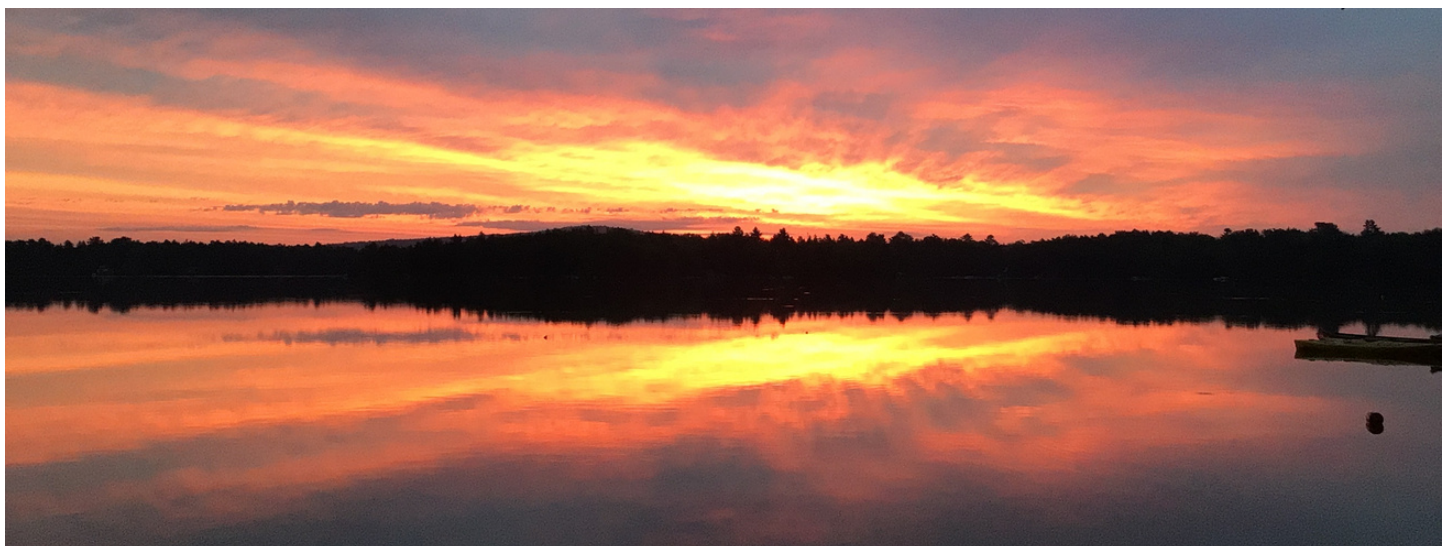
Mail your **check**, payable to the GPA,
to PO Box 30, Franklin ME 04634, **or online** at
www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org/membership.

Please **renew**
your
GPA membership
for **2022!**

Recent gifts
have been received
in memory of:

Grandma Garrison
Ellen and Arthur Varnum
Sheila Todd

and **in honor of** Dale O'Connor



Sunrise on Georges Pond

Photo courtesy Marvin Ellison

Celebrating Our Sustaining Members

Dwight and Lynn Alley
 Tim and Ann Calbi Alley
 Richard Baron
 Matthew Bean
 Bill and Royce Bellatty
 Jim and Sharon Beyer
 Tom and Julie Brenton
 Frank Brooks and Marvin Ellison
 Leo and Susan Bunker
 Lynn Bujnak and Peg Slater
 John and Callie Carr
 Patrick and Kate Connor
 Chuck and Sue Dawes
 Roberta DeMuro
 Tony Detre and Yvette Kovats
 Becky Dick
 John and Ginger Eliasberg

Rocco Fucetola
 Fred and Suellen Genter
 Christine Gray and Rhonda Moore
 Janice Hanscom
 Patricia Harriman
 Chloe Hatcher
 Peter Heller
 Charles Humphries
 John Jordan
 Dave and Kathi Kelly
 Roger and Angela Kennedy
 Michael Krantz
 Alex Miller
 Carole Mimeault
 Doug and Margaret Moir
 Margie Nichols
 Richard Noto

Molly O'Dea
 Maurice S. Oliver
 Maury and Sharon Oliver
 Allen and Kathy Parsons
 Walter and Marie Phero
 Rick and Karen Proctor
 Mathew and Bethany Reece
 Ken and Fran Reed
 Clifford Rogers
 Jeff and Barbara Schaefer
 Patricia Stonaker
 Dave and Edith Wacker
 Michael and Cynthia Willhite
 Josh Winer and Dawn Lamendola
 Brendan Woo and Annie Lin
 Greg and Sally Woo
Your Name Here!

Honor Roll of 2021 Donors

Jerry Abel and Tim Leavitt
 Tim and Ann Calbi Alley
 Anonymous
 Dwight and Gayle Aspinwall
 Jim and Sharon Beyer
 Bill and Royce Bellatty
 Chuck and Carol Blatherwick
 Nancy Cooper
 Terrence and Elaine Cousins
 Lauren Cree
 Richard and Janet Danico
 Chuck and Sue Dawes
 Jake Eliasberg

Marvin Ellison and Frank Brooks
 Michael and Georgette Faulkingham
 Arthur and Carolyn Gilbert
 Vena Giles
 Jason Goldberg
 Bea Gray
 Janice Hanscom
 Peter Heller
 Mark Herklotz
 Alicia Holdsworth
 Matt and Amanda Horton
 Ronald and Garnet Johnson
 Steve Kuller

Frances Liddy
 Martin and Laurie Mai
 Charles and Cheryl Moser
 Wayne and Martha Murch
 Alan and Beth Novak
 Maury and Sharon Oliver
 Dave and Leah Ott
 Laura Ottinger
 Allen and Kathy Parsons
 Jeff and Barbara Schaefer
 Gretchen Weisner
 Stacy and Eric White
 Barbara Wing
Missing Names? Let us know.



Moon rise Photo courtesy John Eliasberg



Drone panorama of Georges Pond

Photo courtesy Dean Tyler

In Memoriam

Long-time ponder **Diane E. Jordan** died July 18, 2021 with her husband Joe by her side, just the way she wanted. Born and raised in Massachusetts, Diane's college degree was in biology, and her professional life was spent in the health care of others. Possessing a brilliant mind, she often "out diagnosed" the doctors with whom she worked at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital. An expert Scrabble player and puzzle master, she took great pleasure from baking fresh blueberry pies from berries harvested near her Georges Pond camp. For several years, Diane served with distinction as GPA board member and secretary.



Sheila Anne Todd died August 20, 2021, surrounded by loving family, in her Vicars Landing home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, not long after making her final trip to Georges Pond to visit her son John Eliasberg and spend time with family and friends. As her obituary noted, "Sheila embodied what it means to live life to its fullest. Her Scottish father captured her spirit perfectly in his childhood nickname for her, 'Spunky.'" An avid people-person, traveler, reader, conversationalist, and lifelong learner, she worked as a clinical nurse specialist in both gerontological and psychiatric nursing at Baltimore's Sheppard Pratt and Levindale. She is buried in Butler, Kentucky, in a cemetery near what was once her grandfather's orchard.

In early July **Beverly Schuster**, a former GPA Board member, died at age 91. A New York native, she had a choice of living on oceanfront property or Georges Pond, and she vastly preferred pond living. "They can have their ocean," she said. A renown artist, art teacher, and world traveler, she had a story about every item in her camp, shared her neighbor Sharon Oliver, who recalls how much Beverly enjoyed kayaking on the pond up until the end of her life. "She loved the pond, and she loved the people of Franklin."



Fall colors on the pond

Photo courtesy John Eliasberg



Karen Proctor's best-ever license plate

Need holiday gift ideas?

Give GPA memberships to your hard-to-shop-for family members and friends.

Check out the online GPA store for more gift ideas.



Beat the holiday rush!



Renew your GPA membership for 2022 as a Sustaining Member at

www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org/Membership

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