

FALL 2023

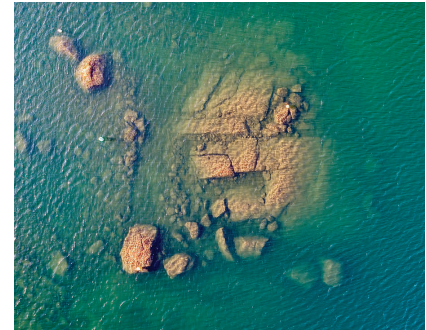
GPA Newsletter



News from the Georges Pond Association

GPA Exceeds Best Water Quality Record

The GPA recently recorded its **best Secchi reading (water clarity) on record: over 25 feet**. This reading shows that the pond is even clearer than after our highly successful second Alum treatment in 2021. Again, **many thanks to all our donors and friends** who continue to support the GPA's efforts to protect and preserve our beloved pond.



Drone photo of mid-pond rocks



HIGHLIGHTS OF GPA 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

More than **65 people, in person and online, attended** this year's GPA Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 9. The agenda included a report by **Brian Abbott**, chair of the Franklin Planning Board, on the town's Comprehensive Planning process and a presentation by **Michelle Shores**, local author of *The Gathering Room: A Tale of Nelly Butler*.

GPA president **John Eliasberg** reminded us of our collective effort to raise over \$350,000 for two Alum treatments of the pond in 2020 and 2021 and of the highly successful outcome of those treatments: 24.8 feet of water clarity recorded in 2021, the best record until we exceeded that record this summer with a reading of over 25 feet!

Consultant **Jennifer Jespersen**, who has worked with the GPA since 2019, reviewed the progress to date on the GPA's second DEP 319 grant, funded in part by the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act:

Watershed Protection, Phase II: Project total = \$140,887

- \$84,265 DEP Maine 319 grant
- \$56,622 Local cash and in-kind match

Project Goals: Residential

- Goal = 8 residential projects (11 site evaluations completed, 5 projects in progress)
- \$500 per site in funding subsidies
- 12 LakeSmart evaluations (10 completed, 2 pending)
- Goal: 2 steep slope projects (3 site evaluations completed, 1 steep slope project completed)
- \$1,000 per steep slope in funding subsidies

Project Goals: Gravel Roads

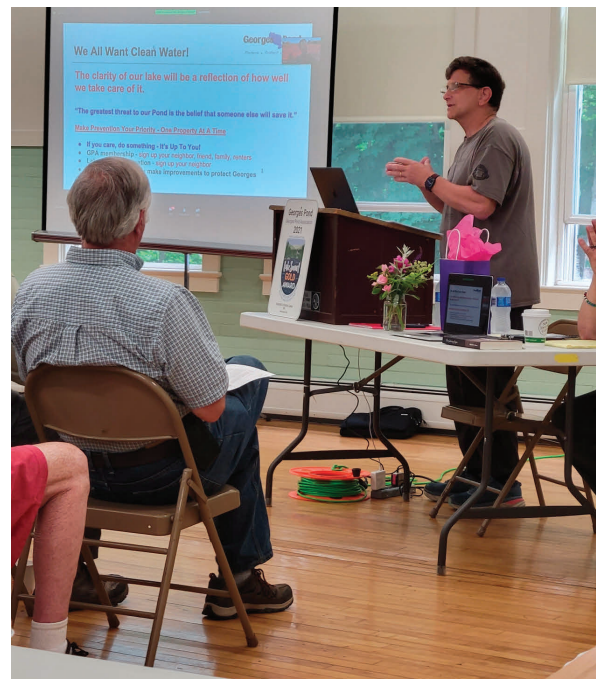
- **Bunkers Beach Road [completed]**
 - 640' of road improved
 - **Total cost: \$4,042 (grant = \$2,021)**
- **Clean Sweep/South Shore Colony Road [completed]**
 - Added surface gravel
 - Installed broad-based dip and plunge pool
 - **Total cost: \$3,711 (grant = \$1,400)**
- **Cousins Road [completed]**
 - Raised road surface
 - Crowned 480' of road
 - Installed two broad-based dips
 - Installed 18" culvert
 - Added rip-rap armoring at inlet/outlet
 - **Total cost: \$26,850 (grant = \$13,425)**

Project Goal: Public Beach Renovation [pending]

- Install vegetated buffer
- Stabilize bare soil
- Plant shade trees
- Install boulders and stairs to beach
- Educational signage
- **Total cost: \$21,000**

GPA Financials

- 127 members
- Revenue: \$102,000
- Expenses: \$30,000



John Eliasberg opens the 2023 Annual Meeting while Brian Abbott [back to camera], chair of the Town's Comprehensive Planning Committee, waits to speak.

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Matthew Bean Elected to GPA Board

Four current directors re-elected

At the Annual Meeting **Matt Bean** was elected to the GPA Board of Directors.

Originally from Woodland, Maine, Matt met his wife Carmen while stationed in Germany in 1988. They married in 1989 and have one son, Jagger. Matt served eight years in active duty with the Army, followed by twenty years as a DOD civilian. When he retired in 2016, he joined Carmen in her real estate businesses until they both retired in 2023.

They own two camps on Bunkers Beach Road. After learning about the amazing work that the GPA has been doing, they immediately signed up as members and look forward to helping preserve our beautiful pond for the future.

Four others -- **John Eliasberg, Marvin Ellison, Brian Friedmann, and John Winer** -- were re-elected to serve an additional term.

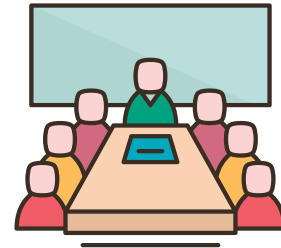
The other Board members with unexpired terms are: **Lisa Branch, Callie Carr, Chuck Dawson, Lynn Durkin, Ginger Eliasberg, Steve McMullen, Mollie O'Dea, Marie Phero, Jeff Schaefer, and Stacy White.** **Joe Jordan** serves as an *ex officio* member.

Thank you, one and all, for your ongoing leadership in protecting and preserving the pond, most especially **our remarkable president,** John Eliasberg.

If you're interested in contributing your own time and energy, please speak to any Board member.



Matt and Carmen Bean proudly holding their LakeSmart award at their camp.



ANNUAL GPA PICNIC A DELICIOUS SUCCESS

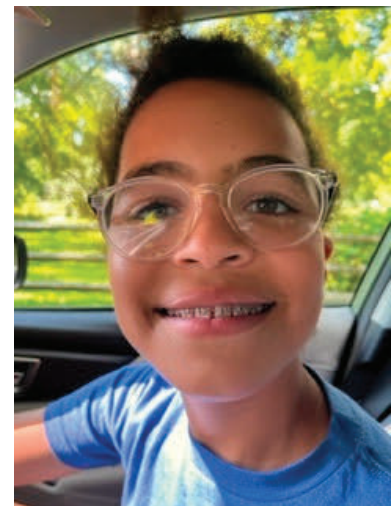
Thanks to **our hosts, GPA board member Lisa Branch and her husband Stuart**, as well as to good weather and good food, GPA members and Friends of the Pond enjoyed a time to visit, play games, and celebrate their collective good work as a highly energized -- and highly successful -- lake association.



Attendees Terrie Lang, Molly O'Dea, Sharon Oliver, Bobbie Spearen, Beverly Brown, and Marshall Brown



Master chefs Stuart Branch and Mike Willhite



The youngest attendee, 11-year old Maya Brooks, won a high-spirited game of cornhole toss with her grandfather.

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DONATIONS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The GPA is grateful for **the generosity of GPA members and Friends of the Pond** who have contributed this year.

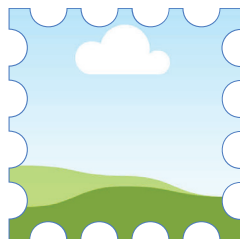
Memorial Gifts

- **In memory of Sue Dawes** from Nancy Cooper
- **In memory of Joe and Leona Bellai** from:
 - Nancy Cooper and the Hall Clan
 - John and Ginger Eliasberg
 - Mark Herklotz
 - Walter and Marie Phero



Donations

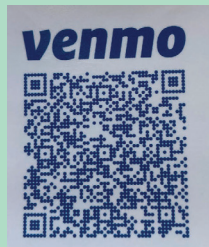
- Acadia from Bailey Mountain Home Owners Association
- Tim and Ann Alley
- Matt and Carmen Bean
- Chuck and Carol Blatherwick
- Tony Detre and Yvette Kovats
- Ann Feaver and June Goudey
- Christine Gray and Rhonda Moore
- Mary Katsiasficas and Emilie Disney
- South Shore Colony Road



New Way to Donate to the GPA!

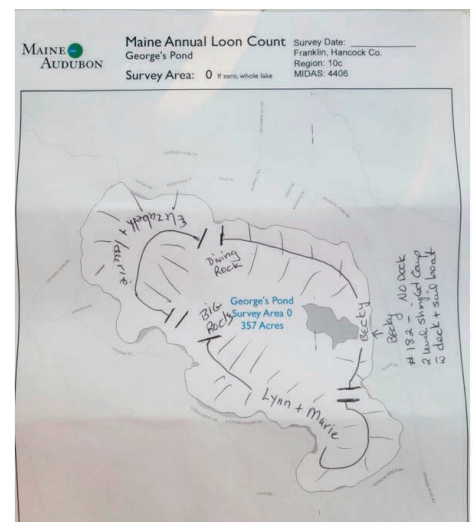
In addition to donating online at our website -- www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org -- you have the option of donating using the **GPA's Venmo account**. Please let us know how you like it!

To use the GPA's Venmo QR, scan your smartphone camera over the QR, then press Venmo.



Loon Count for 2023

Many thanks to our team of **loon watchers -- Becky Dick, Lynn Durkin, Libet Ottinger, and Laura Ottinger** -- who set out on a foggy Saturday morning in early July to participate in the Audubon annual loon count. The results this year on Georges Pond? A total of **5 adult loons, 3 loon chicks, and a flamingo!**



Maine Acts to Reduce Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plants *What you can do*

The State of Maine, joining New Hampshire, Vermont, New York State, and 20 other states, has passed a **"Clean, Drain, Dry" law** requiring boaters to drain water from their watercraft prior to entering a water body or leaving a launch site. The purpose of the law is **to limit the spread of invasive aquatic species or prevent their introduction into Maine waters** altogether.

Prior to entering a water body and when preparing to leave launch sites, boaters are *required* to remove or open any hull drain plugs, bailers, live wells, or ballast tanks in order to encourage draining of areas containing water. This should be done in a way that does not allow drained water to enter the pond.



Emerging Threat: Zebra Mussels!

Invasive Zebra mussels have been found within the Saint John River drainage in both Quebec and New Brunswick. While Zebra mussels have not yet been confirmed in any Maine waters, they represent a high threat. Zebra mussel infestations result in irreversible negative impacts on native species and water bodies and, alas, are nearly impossible to eradicate once introduced.

Help limit the spread of Zebra mussels! Allow watercraft and all gear to dry thoroughly between water bodies, the most effective way to prevent their spread.



Zebra mussels larvae are microscopic, making it imperative that boaters use extreme caution to limit the spread.

Need a holiday gift suggestion?
Give a GPA membership to a family member or friend.

Four Pond camp owners have signed up for **septic inspections** under the GPA's new septic system inspection program. **Interested?**
Contact www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org.

Change of address or email?
Please send us an update!



Georges Pond Association
PO Box 30
Franklin, ME 04634

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It seems that the fishing at Georges Pond, post-Alum treatments, is better than ever!

**Love Ducks?
Then *don't* feed them!**

Ducks live longer, healthier lives by relying on natural food sources (aquatic plants, grasses, and insects) rather than handouts from well-meaning humans. Plus, duck poop causes slippery docks, pond itch, and diminished water quality.

Be a good neighbor - to ducks and people!

Sunrise on the Pond

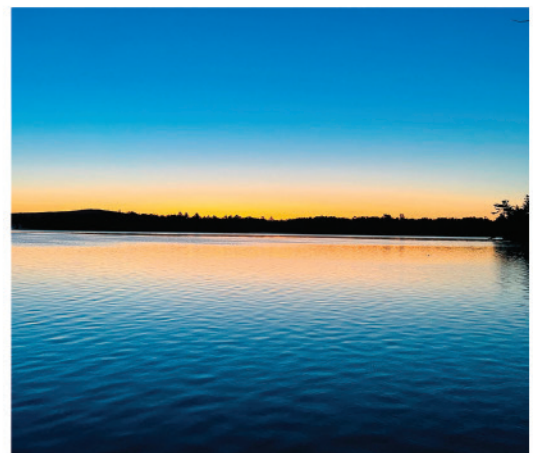


Photo Keisha Brooks