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SUMMER 2022

# GPA Newsletter



*News from the Georges Pond Association*

## Building on Our Shared Success

**Focusing efforts on the watershed to protect the pond**

Following the advice of our science consultants, the GPA is turning now to promote **significant improvements within the Georges Pond watershed.**

Efforts include upgrading camp roads, inspecting boats for invasive plants, educating property owners about septic system maintenance, and subsidizing a variety of residential projects through the GPA's second 319 DEP grant.

These **multiple efforts are all geared to further protect the pond.** Minimizing stormwater and other pollutants from running into the pond helps decrease the amount of phosphorus in the lake and thereby reduces the likelihood of algal blooms.

"All our restorative efforts **build on the success of the GPA's 2020 and 2021 alum treatments,**" GPA board president John Eliasberg noted recently, "which managed to restore the lake's water quality to levels not seen since the 1970s. We're enormously grateful for the generosity of our supporters and friends who made that happen, but our work is not yet done. **Now we're tackling smaller, less dramatic projects** that, I grant you, may not pack as big a wallop as an alum treatment, **but the results will be no less significant.**"

July was a particularly busy month for GPA activities.

On July 10, Mark Whiting from the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District (HSC&WCD) and Jack Schmelzer from Donnell Pond met ponders at the Georges Pond Public Beach to conduct a **Courtesy Boat Inspection training.** They explained why and how to inspect boats and other watercraft for invasive species and provided free inspections for boaters who were launching at the time.



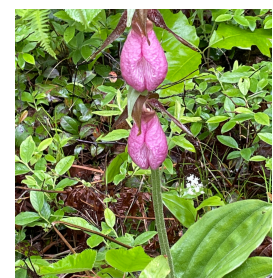
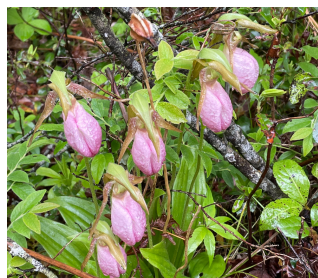
As reported in the Spring 2022 GPA newsletter, invasive milfoil has been confirmed on Alamoosook Lake,

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### Lady Slippers Galore!

Ponder Frank Brooks spotted an abundance of Lady Slippers while on a walk in early June and stopped counting at 80. Thanks to Frank and John Eliasberg for these photos.



Continued from front page

the first-known occurrence in Hancock County of any of the eleven invasive aquatic plants listed as “imminent threats to Maine waters.” It should also be noted that remedial efforts can be as costly as an alum treatment, a sobering fact cited by the *Maine Sunday Telegram* (“Courtesy Boat Inspections on Rise in Battle Against Invasive Species,” July 3, 2022). The president of the Lakes Association of Norway reports that the CBI screening program is well worth the effort. “A quarter-of-an-inch piece [of an invasive plant] is all it takes,” Sal Girifalco points out. “The primary responsibility for not introducing an invasive species into another water body lies with individual boaters. A five-minute inspection before launching would stop most of the spread, but unfortunately not all boaters take that time.”

On July 15, **road engineer and GPA consultant Josh Platt**, along with Jennifer Jespersen of Ecological Instincts, walked Cousins Road, Bunkers Beach Road, and South Shore Colony Road with road association members, to discuss plans for various road improvements to keep pollutants out of Georges Pond.

Mark Herklotz, Josh Platt, and Jen Jespersen discuss possible SSCR improvements. >



On the same day, **septic system expert David Rocque** conducted three (free and voluntary) septic inspections and biomat evaluations. These inspections will help the GPA gather data about septic systems in the watershed and help educate property owners about proper construction and maintenance of septic systems.



David Rocque



Slide from Rocque "Septic Social" presentation.



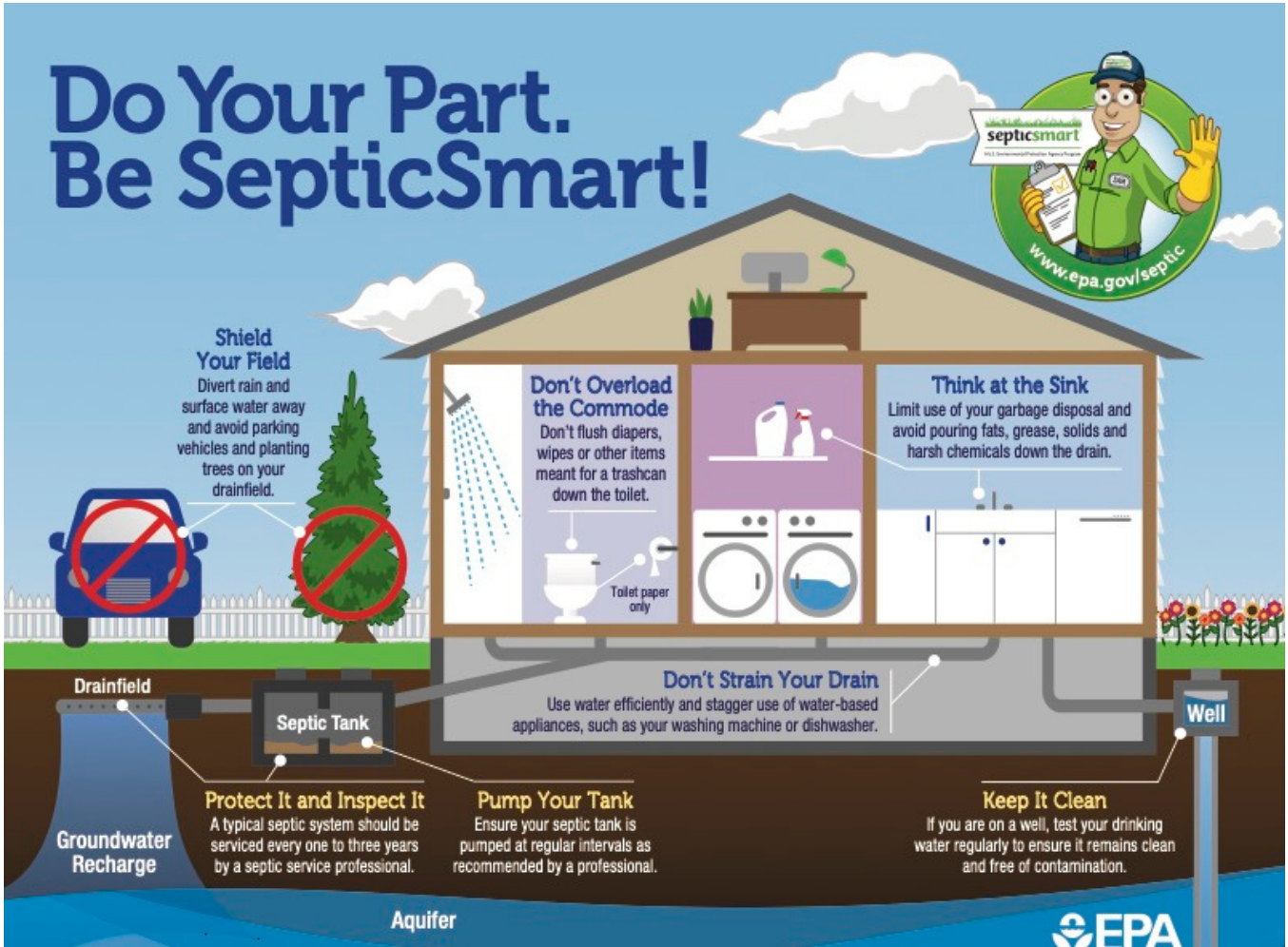
Septic Social cookies

Following these inspections, Rocque gave a presentation at the **GPA's first-ever Septic Social**, a gathering for property owners and friends interested in expanding their knowledge of how septic systems function and at times malfunction, as well as how to keep systems in working order. (A second Septic Social will be held August 12. Details to follow.)

Completing a busy weekend, Jen Jespersen and Ginger Eliasberg, the GPA's LakeSmart coordinator, met on Friday, July 15 and Saturday, July 16 with ten ponders who had applied for **319 Phase 2 residential grants**, in order to review plans for building up buffers and making other improvements on their property, again to minimize stormwater runoff going into the lake. Funding for these projects was provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. (The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the EPA.) The GPA is enormously grateful for this generous support which, in combination with the financial support of GPA members and friends, is making these improvements possible.

In addition, the GPA continues to conduct **LakeSmart surveys** on request from GPA property owners, who wish to schedule a free and voluntary assessment of their property and find out about how to "beef up their buffers" and other ways to help protect the pond.



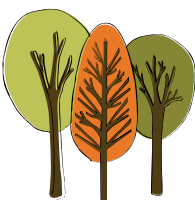


### Septic Failure? Mind the signs!



Keep an eye out for signs of septic failure. Catching them early can save you money and will reduce pollution to your lake. Some of the more **common signs that your system is failing** are:

- Wastewater backing up into household drains.
- Vegetation over the leach field is noticeably greener and brighter.
- Area around the tank or leach field is wet and spongy, even during dry weather.
- Water pools near the system.
- Strong odors around your system, especially after rainy days.



### Remove the roots!

Periodically, clear deep-rooted vegetation (trees and large shrubs) off the leach field. The roots of trees and bushes will ultimately intrude into the leach field's piping and compromise its function, shortening its life. Grasses, ground cover, and ferns are okay to leave growing over the field.

## SUMMER 2022

### GPA Members and Donors



The GPA is grateful to its members and friends who continue to contribute in a variety of ways, including financially, so that we can "keep the lights on" and continue LakeSmart and other programs that help us, together, protect and preserve Georges Pond.

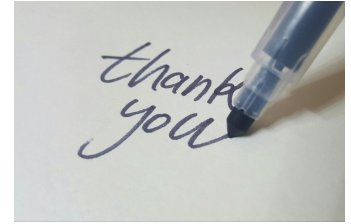
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Lisa and Stuart Branch  
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Ann Hall Dorr  
Lynn Durkin  
Charles and Eleanor Fisher  
Karen Garner  
Meg Gorsline and Kevin Knox  
Bea Gray  
William and Dianne Green  
Keith Herklotz  
Joe Jordan  
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Nancy Cooper  
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Tony Detre and Yvette Kovats  
Rebecca Dick and Charles Humphries  
William and Donna Davidson  
Jake Eliasberg

**Regular members pay \$25 annual dues; sustaining members contribute at levels ranging from Dragonfly (\$60) to Eagle (\$1,200).**



John and Ginger Eliasberg  
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Brian and Linda Friedmann  
Rocco Fucetola  
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Janice Hanscom  
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**Is your name missing here?**

If so, please email  
[GPAtreasurer2020@gmail.com](mailto:GPAtreasurer2020@gmail.com)  
or donate online at  
[www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org](http://www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org).

Family Members

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Leonard Brooks
Claire Eliasberg and Andrew Moir
Beverly Ellison and Meryl Churchill
Elizabeth Ellison
Melanie Friedmann
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Mike and Joni Brooks Kelly
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Christina and Dan Runnals

DONORS

Bill and Royce Bellatty
Nancy Cooper
Claire Eliasberg and Andrew Moir
Jake Eliasberg
David and Leah Ott
Elizabeth Ottinger
Marie Phero



Attend the August 13 GPA Annual Meeting and receive a free 'All Roads Lead to Camp' GPA poster.



The GPA Annual Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 6, 2:00 p.m. at the camp of Lisa and Stuart Branch on Sweet Fern Lane.

Thank you to James 'Pee Wee' Bubar for helping the GPA with his boat as we gathered water samples. Neighbors helping neighbors is the Maine way!

The second Septic Social will be held Friday, August 12, 1:00 p.m. John and Ginger Eliasberg's camp, 138 Cousins Road.



**Don't forget:** The **GPA Annual Meeting** is Saturday, **August 13**, starting at 10:00 a.m., at the Franklin **Town Hall** (Community Center Meeting Room).

**Georges Pond Association**  
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