

GPA Newsletter

News from the Georges Pond Association



An HAB Aquatic Solutions barge applies a May 2020 alum treatment to Georges Pond.

Photo courtesy Dean Tyler



Photo courtesy John Eliasberg

Alum treatment #1: Done!

The Maine DEP issued the necessary permit

Thanks to the generous financial donations of GPA members and friends of Georges Pond, in mid-May the GPA conducted an initial treatment of the Pond, re-setting the pond's natural balance to a level not seen in decades.

Over the course of four days, an HAB Aquatic Solutions barge glided back and forth over **131 of the Pond's 358 acres**, applying a 25 g/m² dosage of alum and sodium aluminate, the dosage the GPA's water-quality scientists and Maine's Department of Environmental Protection had pre-determined as appropriate for re-balancing this lake. Already secchi readings for water clarity have improved.

A **second alum treatment** of 20 g/m² will be scheduled as soon as sufficient funds have been raised. These two treatments, **in combination with LakeSmart** efforts to improve conditions in the watershed, will help prevent algae blooms for **up to twenty years**.

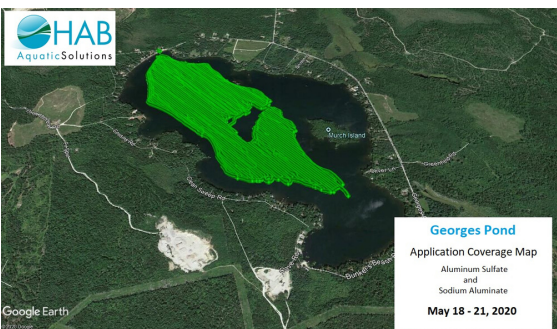


Photo courtesy John Holz of HAB

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Alum Treatment #1, continued

Our partners have offered a wide range of expertise:

Contractor: John Holz, Ph.D., limnologist, principal of HAB Aquatic Solutions

Water monitoring: Tristan Taber, Lake Stewards of Maine

ME DEP:

Linda Bacon, lake assessment biologist, section leader in the Division of Environmental Assessment, **Bureau of Water Quality**

Wendy Garland, NonPoint Source program coordinator, Division of Environmental Assessment, **Maine DEP 319 grant program**

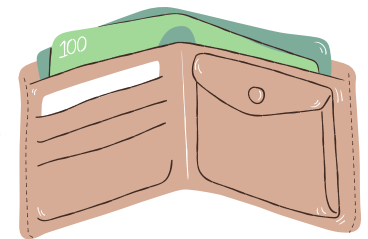
GPA consultants:

Jennifer Jespersen, Ecological Instincts
Kenneth Wagner, Ph.D., CLM, Water Resources Services

Town of Franklin: Support for staging the alum treatment at the public beach

Support our local businesses

During these COVID times, the many **local businesses** that have supported the GPA's efforts to restore Georges Pond **need our support** as never before.



How about curbside delivery from a favorite restaurant? Purchasing plants or supplies for the garden? Contracting services?

Buy local -- and **be sure to tell** the businesses you're supporting that you're a member of the Georges Pond Association.

Maine Audubon's Annual Loon Count 2020

On the morning of **Saturday, July 18**, over 1,000 volunteers will venture onto lakes and ponds across the state to count loons.

The observations recorded by Maine Audubon's citizen scientist volunteers will provide an excellent **snapshot of Maine's loon population**.

Contact Conserve@MaineAudubon.org to learn more about getting involved.



John Eliasberg named Lake Hero



John Eliasberg with Cruiser

Photo courtesy Ginger Eliasberg

Maine Lakes (formerly Maine Lakes Society) has recognized our own GPA president as a Lake Hero.

The citation reads: "John Eliasberg has helped to energize volunteers to adopt a highly effective LakeSmart program while also building a strong leadership board; increasing membership in the lake association from 35 to nearly 200 dues-paying members over the course of three years; securing grants and private donations to pay for an alum treatment of the pond as well as make watershed improvements; and developing key partnerships with the Maine DEP, water-quality experts, community leaders, and others. All the while, he shows up with an abundance of energy, clear thinking, immense integrity, awe-inspiring persistence, and characteristically good humor. Every lake association would be blessed to have a John Eliasberg!"

Congratulations, John!

LakeSmart

LakeSmart is an **educational** program to assist lakefront property owners in keeping storm water and pollutants from faulty septic systems out of the pond.

The program is **voluntary, free, and community-building**.

Trained volunteers perform property assessments and provide individualized suggestions.

Signing up for LakeSmart is easy! Go to GeorgesPondAssociation.org/LakeSmart-signup and submit the form.

A LakeSmart volunteer will contact you to **schedule your survey**.



Renew your GPA membership for 2020

Send your \$25 check today, payable to the GPA, to:
PO Box 30, Franklin, ME 04634



Fundraising Update

Our generous donors

THANK
YOU

\$230,000 in pledges

107 donors

87 of 139 property owners (63%)

20 Friends of Georges Pond

The GPA is grateful for everyone's contributions to the Fund to Restore Georges Pond.

For those still paying off their pledge -- and for those who've not yet pledged, please make your donation by December 31, 2020.

Soon we'll be launching Phase 2 of our fundraising campaign in order to fund our second alum treatment and make necessary watershed improvements.

Let's keep Georges Pond healthy for 20+ years!

Update on 319 grant

Small subsidies available for residential improvements

The Maine DEP, in conjunction with the US EPA, has awarded the GPA a competitive, **two-year 319 grant** to help make improvements within the Georges Pond watershed. "Although the 319 grant *doesn't* provide funding assistance for the alum treatments of the pond," GPA president John Eliasberg acknowledged recently, "it provides really important support for our efforts to **fix problems in the watershed** that contribute to excessive phosphorus in the pond. The GPA is grateful to receive this coveted award."

(Even though 319 grants -- funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act -- don't fund in-lake treatments, they support stewardship of watersheds, which is equally important for the restoration and preservation of lakes.)

In 2020, the first year of the grant, property owners wishing to minimize stormwater runoff from going into the lake, can **apply directly to the GPA** for small monetary grants to help offset their costs.

These **matching stipends**, to be distributed on a "**first come, first serve**" basis, will be up to \$595, which the property owner needs to match by their own out-of-pocket expenditures and/or sweat equity. (To be reimbursed, an owner needs GPA approval **before** spending any money on their project.) Properties with bigger challenges, such as steep slopes, may qualify for up to \$1,000. "**We hope to assist 15-20 properties by the end of 2021,**" said Eliasberg.

All property owners on Georges Pond are **welcome to apply**, but priority will be given to residential properties with NPS (non-point source) issues.

To learn more and **begin the application process**, contact the GPA at GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com or call John Eliasberg at (207) 565-2126.

Free site evaluations and cost-share grants up to \$1,000 are available to help protect water quality.

Now booking appointments for July and August 2020.

Call John Eliasberg at (207) 565-2126.



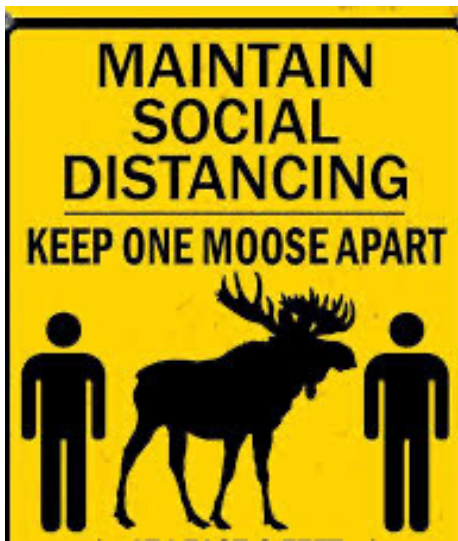
COVID gnome on South Shore Colony Road
 Photo courtesy Marvin Ellison

2020 Annual Meeting via Zoom

In response to the COVID pandemic, the GPA's **August 1** Annual Meeting will be conducted by Zoom, a "socially distant" and safe way for more than 50 people to meet.

If you're *not* currently receiving email communications from the GPA, please **send your email address** to GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com so that we can send you a Zoom invitation for the Annual Meeting.

Send your email address today! Don't miss out!



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

@GeorgesPondAssociation

Have you renewed your GPA membership for 2020?

**Georges Pond
Association**

PO Box 30
Franklin, ME 04634