

SUMMER 2021

GPA Newsletter



News from the Georges Pond Association

Taking more **BIG STEPS** toward Pond restoration!

Second alum treatment completed -- and watershed improvements underway.



Tristan Taber of Lake Stewards of Maine engaging in water monitoring.



HAB Aquatic Solutions barge conducting the alum treatment



Improving the drainage ditch on South Shore Colony Road



New culvert and plunge pool on South Shore Colony Road.

Ice In and Ice Out

Sharon Oliver, a long-time year-round pond resident, provides the GPA valuable real-time observations (and photos) of ice-in and ice-out at the pond. She recalls that ice-in usually happens in December and sometimes as late as January. Ice-out is almost always by March 31, sometimes in April, but never as late as May. One year, ice-out came as early as March 1.

Definitions:

Initial Ice In: First date that the pond is 100% covered in ice; the ice may "open up" before final Ice In.

Final Ice In: The date the Pond is 100% covered in ice, after which it does not "open up" until after the winter.

Ice Out: The first date the pond is 100% free of any ice covering.

Year	Ice-In initial	Ice-In final	Ice-Out	# Days Ice Covered
2017		12.17.17	4.7.18	111
2018		12.8.18	4.16.19	129
2019		12.10.19	3.28.20	109
2020	12.20.20	1.20.21	3.31.21	70
Average				105



Planting Live Stakes

On Saturday, April 3, four GPA volunteers, with owners' permission, planted 100 live stakes on various pond properties as an experiment in developing our own GPA live-stake nursery.

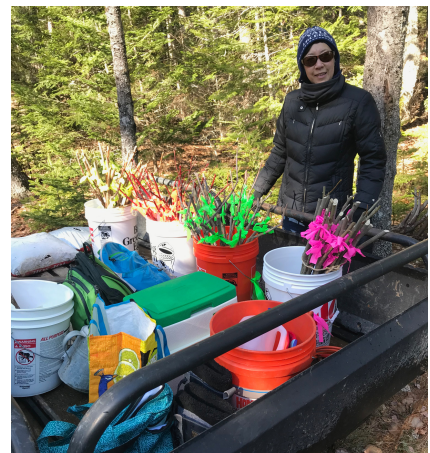
A live stake is a dormant cutting of Maine native plants, in this instance red-osier dogwood (*Cornus serotina*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), and native pussy willow (*Salix discolor*). The cutting is 3 feet long and is pushed into the soil or inserted into a predrilled hole 2 feet into the ground in early spring.

Our hope is that these newly planted stakes will take root and, in turn, provide cuttings for additional plants, all for the purpose of building up good buffer along the shoreline. Buffer plantings stabilize the shoreline and decrease the amount of stormwater runoff going into the pond.



Left: Frank Brooks planting a live stake.

Right: Ginger Eliasberg with her buckets of color-coded live stakes.



GPA UPDATES

- Second alum treatment completed the week of May 10**

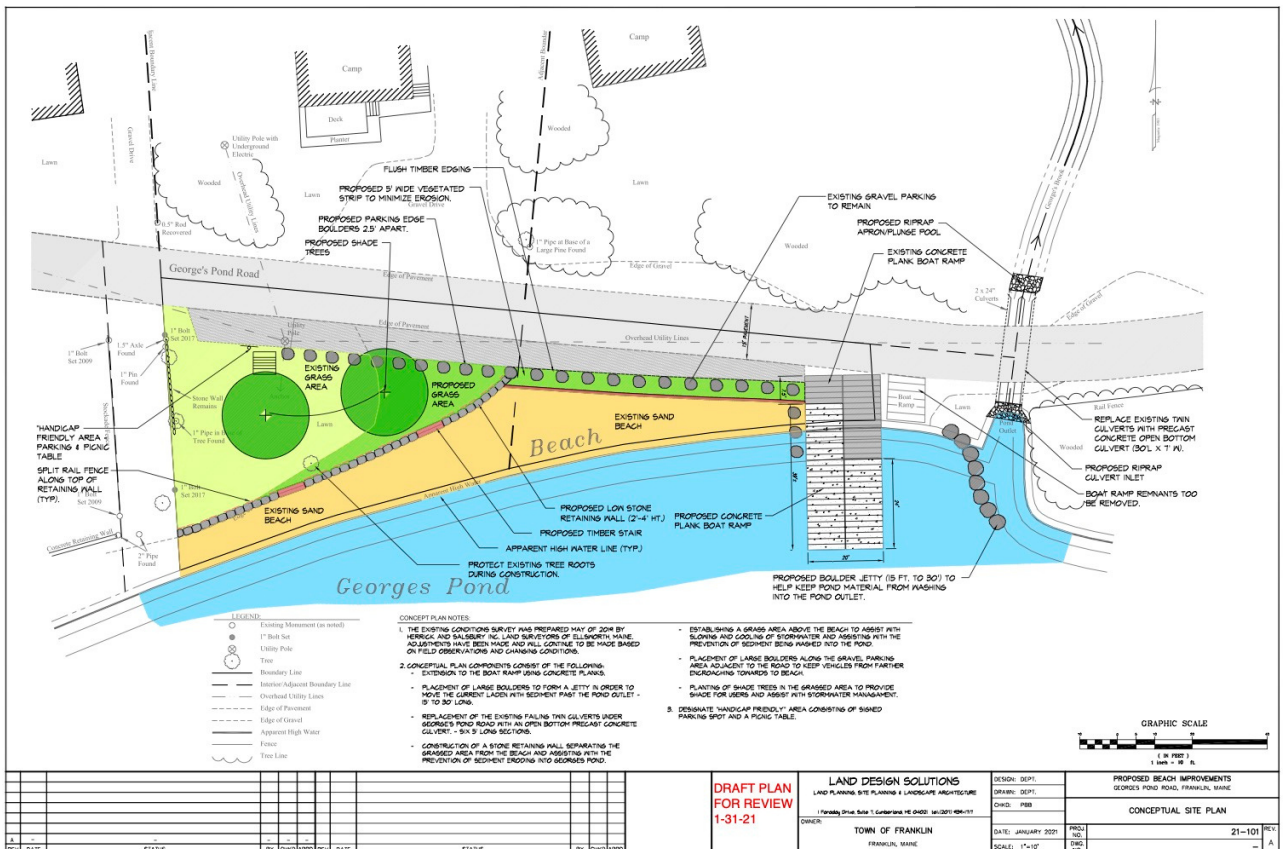
HAB Aquatic Solutions conducted a second alum treatment of the pond during the week of May 10. **Thanks to your generosity**, we have the funds to pay for the \$101,000 treatment along with the additional cost of water monitoring before, during, and after the treatment (\$5,160). And **thanks, also, to the Town of Franklin** for allowing us to stage the alum treatment at the public beach.

- 319 Phase 2 Grant proposal submitted**

With the expert assistance of Whitney Baker from Ecological Instincts, the GPA has submitted a grant proposal to the Maine DEP for a second 319 grant to fund various improvements in the Georges Pond watershed, including camp roads. If approved, the grant will require a GPA match of volunteer hours and some limited cash funding during the two-year grant period 2022-2023.

- GPA and the Town of Franklin partnering on public beach renovation.**

With help from a significant second 319 grant contribution (pending), town excise taxes, and engineering funded by the GPA, the town of Franklin is planning a multi-year improvement to the public beach, to help reduce erosion, improve the picnic area, widen and lengthen the boat launch, and protect the brook from sand intrusion. The GPA's involvement is to prevent NPS (non-point source) pollution. *Below is engineer Peter Biegel's design sketch.*



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GPA Membership Update

- Regular members: 83
Sustaining members: 54
Family members: 11
Total members: 148 -- and counting!



Please take a moment and renew your GPA membership for 2021.

If you wish, renew as a Regular Member for \$25 (which covers two people). Add family members @ \$10 per person.

Even better, renew as a Sustaining Member, and choose the level at which you wish to renew:

- 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 renew your membership online at www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org/membership.

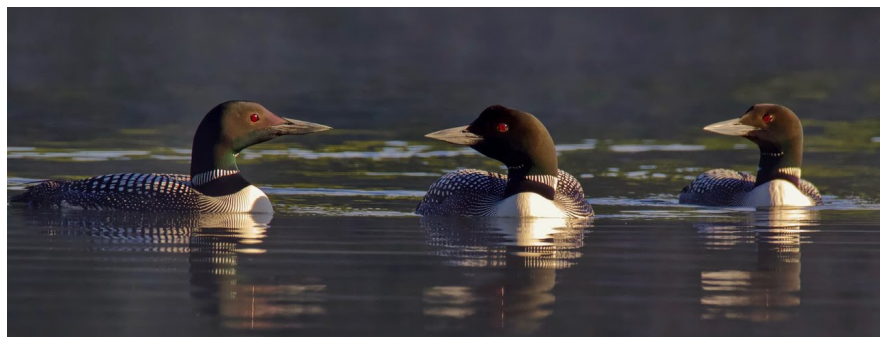


Recent gifts have been made in memory of: Gordon and Patricia Bruce, Mary Clare O'Dea, Ellen and Arthur Varnum, Clifford H. West, Jr.

GPA 2021 Honor Roll of Donors

The GPA is grateful to the following, who've made donations in 2021 in addition to renewing their memberships:

- Anonymous
Jerry Abel and Tim Leavitt
Jim and Sharon Beyers
Chuck and Sue Dawes
Jake Eliasberg
Michael and Georgette Faulkingham
Arthur and Carolyn Gilbert
Jason Goldberg
Janice Hanscom
Peter Heller
Mark Herklotz
Alicia Holdsworth
Steven Kuller
Charles and Cheryl Moser
Alan and Beth Novak
Dave and Leah Ott
Laura Ottinger
Jeff and Barbara Schaefer
Margaret Slater and Lynn Bujnak
Gretchen Weisner
Stacy and Eric White



Question about membership or donations? Send a confidential email to GPAtreasurer2020@gmail.com.

A list of 2021 GPA members, regular and sustaining, will appear in the fall 2021 newsletter.

SUMMER 2021

Georges Pond
Association



Time to sign up for a LakeSmart survey!

Email GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com



Saturday, July 10 LakeSmart workshop

Meet at the Public Beach at 9:00 a.m.

Curious about the GPA's watershed grant? Want to **learn more about shoreline erosion and buffers**? Want to qualify for give-away plants and other prizes?

The GPA is hosting a **community workshop** that will include a **hands-on** native buffer installation on a nearby shorefront property.

Open to anyone interested in learning more about **shorefront conservation practices**.

To register or learn more, contact the GPA at GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com.



HAB Aquatic Solutions barge conducting the 2021 alum treatment.

Photo courtesy Dean Tyler

Remembering Long-Term Ponder

Don Scott Hatcher died in December 2020, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Chloe and to the extended Hatcher family.



Public telephone along South Shore Colony Road

Don't miss the **GPA**
Annual Meeting
Sunday, **July 11.**

Details to follow.

**Late-breaking
news:**

The post-alum
treatment Secchi
reading?
**7.3 meters, the
best ever on
record!**



Georges Pond Association

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