

SUMMER 2023

# GPA Newsletter

## News from the Georges Pond Association

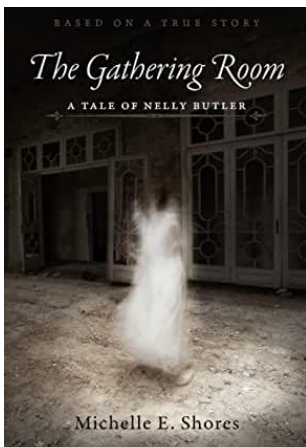
### GPA Annual Meeting Scheduled for July 9

**Special Guest: Local Maine Author Michelle Shores**

The GPA will hold its annual meeting for members and friends at the Franklin town office on **Sunday, July 9, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** For those unable to attend in person, a **Zoom option will be available.** Please check the GPA website for the Zoom link at [www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org](http://www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org).

Following a **brief business meeting**, which will include a report on 2022-23 highlights and a budget review, local Maine author **Michelle E. Shores will speak about her recent historical novel, *The Gathering Room: A Tale of Nelly Butler*.**

If you've ever wondered how Butler Point got its name (or Georges Pond, for that matter), Shores will share some wonderful **stories about our community history.** Maine Authors Publishing in Thomaston describes Shores' book this way: "In 1797 Captain George Butler has returned home with his wife Nelly and the beginnings of a family. A successful sea captain turned merchant, George is financially well-off and a pillar of his community. But lurking in the shadows is the young Lydia Blaisdell. She and George have a history, and it's all about to unfold in an epic tale with a supernatural twist." The book, based on a true story, is "a gripping retelling of a piece of Maine history that will keep you engaged from beginning to end."



#### About the Book: What readers are saying

"I could not put this down! Soooooo well written, soooooo good!"

"I highly recommend this book to anyone who is a historical fiction fanatic! It is so evenly written, with a little romance and little mystery and little good vs evil. I couldn't guess the next turn of events so there is suspense as well."

"This book is a keeper, and I will certainly read it again."

"I stayed up until 4:00 a.m. reading this book; I just couldn't put it down!"



#### About the Author: A lover of history

**Michelle Shores** grew up in Maine and wrote her first story at eight years old. A lover of history, she has been actively involved with genealogy and local history for over 35 years. After raising a large family, Michelle had a nearly 20-year career in the newspaper industry before transitioning to her current position promoting tourism in Maine. She and her husband share their home with their dogs Susan and Douglas.



## GEORGES POND ICE IN and ICE OUT

**Initial Ice In:** The first date that the pond is 100% covered in ice (except for the Outlet, which remains open all winter).

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

**Ice Out:** The first date that the pond has no more visible ice.

YEAR	ICE IN	ICE OUT	# OF DAYS	
WINTER STARTS	INITIAL	FINAL	FINAL TO OUT	
2017				
2018		DEC 17	APRIL 7	111
2019		DEC 8	APRIL 16	129
2020	DEC 20	DEC 10	MARCH 28	109
2021	DEC 26	JAN 20	MARCH 31	70
2022	DEC 26	DEC 26	APRIL 1	96
2022	JAN 19	JAN 25	APRIL 8	73
<b>Average</b>				<b>98</b>



## The GPA Launches Its Voluntary Septic Inspection Program

As reported in the spring 2023 newsletter, the GPA has launched an exciting new program **to benefit GPA members and to further help protect the pond**: a septic system inspection program

Proper septic system maintenance not only protects property values; it also helps to keep Georges Pond clean. Sadly, it takes only one or two failing septic systems to adversely affect the health of the lake.

As previously announced, the GPA is **offering the following assistance to GPA members** on a strictly voluntary basis:

- The GPA will help schedule and coordinate septic inspections with a licensed professional inspector.
- Priority will be given to older and high-use systems (year-round and rental properties).
- The GPA will pay 100% of the inspection costs for systems installed before 1974 and 50% of the costs for systems installed between 1974 and 1995.

If interested in participating in this program, please fill out and **submit the application form that is posted on the GPA website** ([www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org](http://www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org)).



## At GPA Picnic, Friends Reunite after 70 Years

Tim Alley reports that his mother, **Mary Lou Alley, and Teddy Giles** grew up in Brownville Junction near Dover-Foxcroft and then re-connected after 70 years at the Vets Club in Franklin. Mary Lou now lives in Bar Harbor, and Teddy lives in Franklin, where she does lots of cooking for the Vets Club. They celebrated their renewed friendship at the 2022 GPA picnic.



**Teddy Giles and Mary Lou Alley**



## Not sure you've renewed your GPA membership for 2023?

Email Marvin Ellison at [GPAtreasurer2020@gmail.com](mailto:GPAtreasurer2020@gmail.com) to double check, or **renew online** at [www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org](http://www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org).

**Thanks to Sally Woo and Ginger Eliasberg, the GPA mailing list has recently been updated. If you've changed mailing and/or email addresses, please let us know, so that you may continue to receive the GPA newsletter.**



## Town of Franklin's Comprehensive Plan

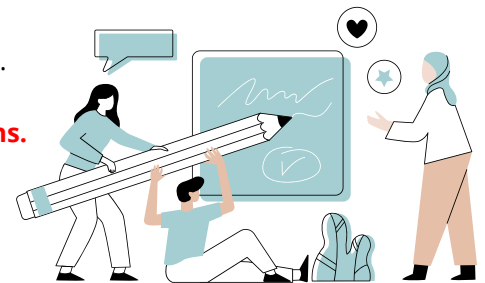
The Town Selectboard appointed a group of community members in December 2022 **to develop an updated comprehensive plan**. The plan currently in effect was adopted in 1975. The time has come to update the plan to reflect Franklin's growth since then and forecast our future. Engaging community members in this process will ensure that together we develop a plan **that captures Franklin's rich history and a vision for our future**.

A Comprehensive Plan:

- Is **required by law**.
- Contains information about the Town's resources and economic growth.
- Provides a framework to address future growth and development.
- Is **the basis for Town officials to govern and make planning decisions**.

Comprehensive **Plan Benefits**:

- Provides legal protection for the Town's ordinances.
- Helps the Town to qualify for State grants and loan programs.
- Identifies community challenges and solutions.



**Next Steps:**

- The Comprehensive Planning Committee holds monthly meetings open to the public.
- Public input will be sought periodically throughout the process.
- If you receive mailings and/or surveys, please respond.

**The Georges Pond Association is attending** Planning meetings and contributing to this important process in order to protect our lake and build a great future for Franklin.

## CAMP ROAD IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

To Minimize Stormwater Runoff that Adds Phosphorus to the Lake, Feeds Algal Blooms

Thanks to a second grant from the Maine DEP, funded in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under section 319 of the Clean Water Act, the GPA has undertaken a variety of new projects to protect the Pond's water quality.

Phosphorus occurs naturally in Maine soils, and when soil erosion occurs in the Georges Pond watershed, it's typical that phosphorus gets delivered to the lake, providing new sources of food for algae, which then leads to algal blooms.

During the 2023 summer season, 13 residential property owners have signed up for cost-share grants to make improvements to their property, all designed to reduce stormwater runoff going into the pond.

The GPA has also taken on some larger-scale erosion control projects on three gravel roads: Bunkers Beach Road, Cousins Road, and South Shore Colony Road/Clean Sweep Road. See photos below.

In addition, the Town of Franklin will be completing a major shoreline improvement project at the town beach on Georges Pond Road. The plan includes installation of a boulder retaining wall to stabilize soils at the shoreline, planting of shade trees and blueberry plants, installation of granite steps with railings, a handicap-friendly area for parking and picnicking, and educational signage.

The total two-year project costs is \$140,887 with \$84,265 in grant funding and \$56,622 from local matching contributions (some funding, but mainly volunteer hours of labor), including from the GPA, the Town of Franklin, cost-share grant recipients on private properties, and road associations.

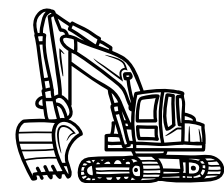


Before  
and  
After



### ← Bunkers Beach Road

Ted Nankervis has completed road improvements on Bunkers Beach Road, including regrading and resurfacing the road. Next road improvements? Cousins Road.



### South Shore Colony Road →

(Left) Heavy machinery added two swales on Chimney Sweep to divert stormwater into the woods.

(Right) SSCR road commissioner Brian Friedmann stands in the middle of a new plunge pool to retain stormwater and allow it to dissipate rather than hit the pond.



SUMMER 2023

In Memoriam

With sadness the GPA notes the death of Joseph M. Bellai, Jr., 89, on May 21, 2023. In 1970, Joe and his wife Leona purchased the Franklin General Store and operated it for eleven years. At the same time, he developed his own contracting business, Bellai Builders, Inc., with which he was active until his early eighties. His favorite pastimes included watching Indy car racing and spending time at his camp on the south shore of Georges Pond. His daughter Beverly Brown and her husband Marshall have requested that memorial gifts be given to the GPA, for which we are deeply grateful.



Joe Bellai

GPA Summer Events

Water Monitoring Recertification: July 5th, 9:00 a.m. (Contact: John Eliasberg at John.Eliasberg@gmail.com)

GPA Annual Meeting: Sunday, July 9, 10:00 a.m. (Franklin Town Office)

GPA Annual Picnic: TBD (Look for an email announcement soon)

From the Franklin Historical Society:

Museum open on Saturdays, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting July 12, 7 p.m., with speaker Robert Foss on Franklin-built ships
Pig Roast in the Park, July 22 (Purchase \$15 tickets in advance from Emery DeBeck: 565-2431)
Program August 9, 7 p.m., with speaker Howard Black on the First Maine Heavy Artillery
Stories Around the Cracker Barrel, September 13, 7 p.m.; plus, computer raffle drawing.



Franklin Historical Society



Sasquash on the Pond?

CALL TODAY! Only 2 new LakeSmart sign-ups are needed to fulfill our 319 grant obligations.



LAKESMART UPDATE 60% of property owners on the Pond already participate in the free LakeSmart program. Join today, and learn more about protecting the pond and your property values.

FAN MAIL RECEIVED "Just want to say thank you to all for helping keep Georges Pond such a wonderful pond." (Included membership dues and a donation).

Franklin's Bicentennial Founded in 1825, the Town of Franklin will celebrate its bicentennial July 18-20, 2025. For more information, contact the Town Office.

**ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JULY 9**

**Special Guest: Author  
Michelle Shores**

**Renew Your  
GPA  
Membership  
here:**



*QR Code for GPA Website*

**Georges Pond Association**

PO Box 30

Franklin, ME 04634