

GPA Newsletter



News from the Georges Pond Association

Progress Made in 2020, Work Ahead in 2021

Looking Back at 2020, the GPA celebrated a productive year even during an ongoing pandemic.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised the funds necessary to pay for an **initial alum treatment of the pond**, which was conducted in early May with very positive results. Throughout the summer and fall, water monitoring confirmed that the pond's post-treatment water quality was the best on record since records were first kept in 1977.

Because the pandemic prevented us from holding a large, in-person gathering, the GPA's **Annual Meeting** was held **via Zoom** technology, a "**first ever**" that we managed to pull off, thanks to Jake Eliasberg's savvy tech mentoring. While we missed being together in person, there was an unexpected advantage of gathering online: GPA members and friends as far away as Texas, California, and Washington State were able to join the proceedings. Even if an in-person meeting becomes possible in 2021, we're likely to keep offering a Zoom option to maximize participation.

In addition to the alum treatment, the GPA continued to make progress on other aspects of the GPA's **10-year Watershed-Based Management Plan**, especially improving camp roads and working with property owners to minimize stormwater runoff into the pond. (This WBMP plan, approved by the Maine DEP, is posted on the GPA website.)

Continued on next page.



Photo courtesy Maurice S. Oliver

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

Progress Made, Work Ahead, cont.

Another remarkable achievement is that, **thanks to our superb team of trained volunteers**, the GPA completed 27 LakeSmart surveys. LakeSmart is a free, entirely voluntary program, initiated statewide by Maine Lakes, to assist property owners in their efforts, large or small, to protect the pond. Reaching this milestone means that **half of all lakeside properties (72 of 144) have now been surveyed**.

Looking Ahead at 2021

Because of the strong commitment of GPA members and friends, people have not only paid off their pledges, but also made additional donations to the Fund to Restore Georges Pond, so that **we've secured the funds for a second alum treatment, now scheduled for the week of May 10, 2021**.

Once conducted, that follow-up treatment, as recommended by our science consultants, should maintain the pond's highly improved water quality for two decades or more when combined with runoff-reduction projects in the watershed.

In addition to supporting our 319 residential improvement projects, we anticipate **making more camp road improvements this year**, conducting a bunch of new LakeSmart reviews, and preparing to submit a second 319 grant proposal to the Maine DEP, to help fund further improvements in the Georges Pond watershed.

All these accomplishments are possible because of your support and encouragement. **Help us – help yourself! – by renewing your GPA membership for 2021 today!**

GPA Raised \$145,000 in 2020; Ready for Alum #2



2020 GPA members:	178
Dues paid:	\$3,260
2020 Donors:	145
# of property owners:	102
# Friends of the Pond:	43
Total 2020 donations:	\$145,000

73%
of property
owners have
donated.
THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generosity, a second alum treatment of the pond, recommended by our science consultants, will be conducted the week of May 10.

HONOR ROLL: FUND TO RESTORE GEORGES POND

DONORS

Anonymous
 Jerry Abel and Tim Leavitt
 Dwight and Lynn Alley
 Garrett Alley
 Timothy and Ann Calbi Alley
 Dwight and Gayle Aspinwall
 Matthew Bean
 Eileen Behan
 Sean Behan
 Joseph and Leona Bellai
 William and Royce Bellatty
 Gregory Beyer
 Jeff Beyer
 Jim and Sharon Beyer
 Chuck and Carol Blatherwick
 Lucas Blatherwick
 Rhonda Boynton
 Stuart and Lisa Branch
 Marguerite M. Breen Trust
 Thomas and Julie Brenton
 Lynn Bujnak and Peg Slater
 Jeff Bunker
 Leo and Susan Bunker
 Jennifer and Scott Bunker
 John and Callie Carr
 Andrew Cooper
 Justin Cooper
 Nancy Cooper
 Lauren Cree
 David Davenport and Damien Cuypers
 Harold S. Davenport
 Kendall Davenport
 Robin Davenport and Scott Patterson
 Sandy Davenport and Jim Martin
 William and Donna Davidson
 Chuck and Susan Dawes
 Roberta DeMuro
 Rebecca West Dick
 Evelyn Dolan
 Ann Dorr
 Eddie Durkin IV
 Edward and Lynn Durkin
 James Durkin
 Samantha Durkin

Claire Eliasberg and Andrew Moir
 Jake Eliasberg
 John and Ginger Eliasberg
 The Eliasberg Family Foundation
 Elizabeth MacMath Ellison
 Marvin Ellison and Frank Brooks
 Carl Erikson
 Gordon and Donna Erikson
 Michael Faulkingham
 Patricia Feezel
 Michael and Michelle Fielding
 Adam Fisher
 Bruce Fisher
 Charles (Dusty) and Ellen Fisher
 Katherine Fisher
 Kirsten Beyer Frecker and Nick Frecker
 Brian and Linda Friedmann
 Rocco Fucetola
 Stephen and Karen Garner
 Wayne Garrison
 Fred and Suellen Genter
 Arthur and Carolyn Gilbert
 Rebecca Gobel
 Todd Goodell and Jenel Thurlow
 Lisa Grant and Jim Ashmore
 Ryan Graves
 Bea Gray
 Christine Gray and Rhonda Moore
 William L. Green
 Paul and Ashlee Grindle
 Sondra Hadden
 Richard Hall
 James Hanscom and Ericka Jeffers
 Janice Hanscom
 Patricia Harriman
 Christian and Danielle Hartley
 Mary Susan Haynes and Michael Povich
 Peter J. Heller
 Keith Herklotz
 Alicia Holdsworth
 Leon and Sonja Hubbard
 Keith Herklotz
 Robert and Nancy Ignaut
 Ronald and Garnet Johnson
 Joe and Diane Jordan
 Bryant and Kathryn Kennedy

Roger and Angela Kennedy
 Yvette Kovats and Tony Detre
 Michael Krantz
 Sam and Nancy Ladd
 Steve and Jane McMullen
 James and Rebecca McNally
 Martin and Lorraine Mai
 Carole Mimeault
 Douglas and Margaret Moir
 Charles and Cheryl Moser
 Marjorie Nichols
 Richard Noto
 Alan and Beth Novak
 Molly O'Dea
 Maurice S. Oliver
 Maury and Sharon Oliver
 Dave and Leah Ott
 Marc and Elizabeth Ottinger
 Dean Paine
 Ronald and Elizabeth Penza
 Marie and Walter Phero
 Mark and Rhonda Fortin Pierce
 Frederick and Karen Proctor
 Mark and Stephanie Reece
 Mathew and Bethany Reece
 Ken and Fran Reed
 John Richardson
 Clifford Rogers
 Jeff and Barbara Schaefer
 Marnie Blaisdell Schulz
 Beverly Schuster
 Warren and Sally Seddon
 Ted and Mary Jo Shen
 Lawrence Randy Sinclair
 Ian and Janet Staub
 Gordon and Dawn Stewart
 Cary and June Swan
 Aaron Tibbetts
 Sheila Todd
 Kristen Tracey
 Hyla and Elizabeth Tracy
 Martha and Augustus Trowbridge
 John Walz

Missing names? Please let us know!

DONORS, continued

Col. Clifford West
Eric and Stacy White
Michael and Cynthia Willhite
Josh Winer and Dawn Lamendola
Barbara Wing
Corinne Wong
Brendan Woo and Annie Lin
Greg and Sarah Woo
Joan H. Woo
Ann Woodward
Jeff and Jena Young
Leonard and Juanita Young

IN HONOR OF:

Gifts have been made in honor of the following:

Ginger Eliasberg

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts have been made in memory of the following:

Julian and Marguerite Breen
Gordon and Patricia Bruce
Ted and Marci Closson
Dorothy Brewer Erikson and Gordon Iver Erikson
Diane Fucetola
Richard L. and Barbara A. Hall
Priscilla Bunker Harriman
Dorothy and Lew Herklotz
Frederick Hoyt Jordan
James L. Lovall
Evelyn (Trixie) Petry
Ruth Richardson
Ed and Rae Rogers
Clara and Shih-Chang Shen
Edward and Phyllis Tracy
William Woo

**GIVE A GPA
MEMBERSHIP
AS A GIFT!**

REMEMBERING JAMES L. LOVALL

The GPA has received some **wonderful memorial gifts**, including a recent gift from the extended Beyer-Durkin-Frecker-Willhite family.

As Lynn Durkin wrote in a note, the family wanted to make a donation in honor of **Jim Lovall**, Lynn's father who **spotted a camp for sale on Georges Pond** during the summer of 1970, on the last day of his annual camping trip to Maine. "The little 'Grey Camp' that was named 'On the Rocks' was for sale," Lynn shared, "and Jim out went to see it. He put money down on it that very day – and called his father-in-law to borrow the rest."

"Georges Pond has been **a place of joy and healing** for my family since that day," Lynn added. "September 15 would have been **Jim's 100th birthday**, and we thought there would be no better way to honor him than by making a donation to the GPA."

The GPA is grateful for this gift – and **for all the other memorial gifts, listed in our Honor Roll**, that support the restoration of Georges Pond. If you have a loved one, living or not, that you'd like to honor in this way, please contact the GPA treasurer at GPAtreasurer2020@gmail.com.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR GPA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021!

Annual membership **dues of \$25** support the GPA's operating expenses, which total about \$3,000.

Expenses include publishing the quarterly newsletter, maintaining the GPA website, annual meeting expenses, insurance, and our LakeSmart program.

(**All other donations go to the Fund to Restore Georges Pond** for improving conditions in the Georges Pond watershed.)

Why don't you **give a GPA membership as a gift** to a child or grandchild, a friend or neighbor? That's a perfect way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or Valentine's Day!

A Bonaparte gull flies over the pond.



Photo courtesy Brian Friedmann

GPA Treasurer Named Lake Hero

Maine Lakes (formerly Maine Lakes Society) has recognized GPA treasurer **Marvin Ellison** as a Lake Hero.

The citation reads, in part: "For the last three years Marvin has helped GPA membership grow 500 percent, published its informative newsletters, and helped raise more than \$300,000 to fund its restoration efforts. Marvin is **successful** in part **because** he seeks advice from other experts and listens carefully to the membership."

On its fiftieth anniversary as a statewide organization, Maine Lakes is recognizing **50 "Maine Lakes Heroes" across the state** who have "worked hard to keep our lakes and ponds clean and clear."

As reported in the GPA summer 2020 newsletter, **GPA president John Eliasberg has also been recognized** as a Lake Hero by Maine Lakes. Congratulations, Marvin and John!

In response, Marvin said, "Because of the enthusiastic support and truly amazing generosity of GPA members and friends of the pond, my work is easy. **Thanks, everyone, for making me look good, but you're the real champions!**"



Marvin at Doubtful Sound, New Zealand -- on his own dime

LakeSmart update

Statewide LakeSmart by the Numbers: 2020

- 12 New evaluators attending virtual trainings
- 100 LakeSmart evaluations completed
- 48 LakeSmart awards granted
- 7 Lake associations participated
- 143 Lake associations in Maine



AN UNEXPECTED YEAR-END DONATION ARRIVED WITH A NOTE: "HERE'S SOME EXTRA. THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK!"

GPA LakeSmart by the Numbers: 2020

- 7 GPA's team of trained evaluators
- 27 LakeSmart evaluations completed in 2020
- 72 Total number of GPA LakeSmart evaluations

Not to brag too much, but the GPA LakeSmart team, headed up by Ginger Eliasberg, completed 25% of all the LakeSmart evaluations done statewide in 2020! To date, the GPA has conducted LakeSmart reviews of 50% of the 144 Georges Pond properties.

Sign up today for your summer 2021 LakeSmart survey by emailing GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com.

Thanks from Habitat for Humanity

GPA volunteers have worked several summers on a Habitat-for-Humanity house-build on Georges Pond Road, and we're delighted to welcome the Campbell family, our new neighbors on the pond. We received this kind thank-you note:

WITH THANKS: Through careful site management (by Construction Mgr., David) and by following enhanced state and CDC COVID-19 safety guidelines, we were able to continue our Franklin build after a Spring hiatus and now look forward to its completion. Thank you to all of our volunteers (too numerous to name), the Unitarian Universalist and United Baptist Churches of Ellsworth, the Georges Pond Association, and to the below area businesses and groups who contributed free or significantly discounted goods or labor to the project. A special "thank you" to Bar Harbor Bank & Trust for their donation of two parcels in Franklin, including the lot for the Campbell's home.

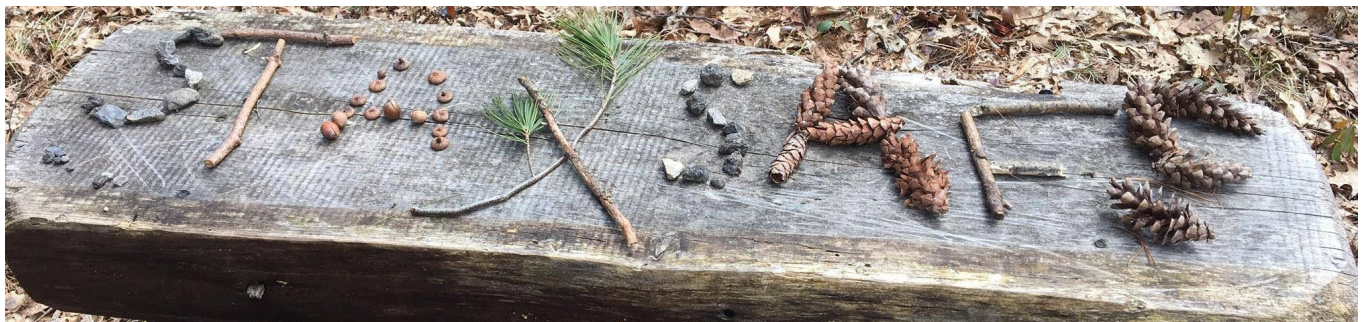


Photos: Samantha protects the floors; the family on a special work day; Derek cuts flooring; and Pastor Scott Connors works on painting out the bathroom.

A newly hatched October turtle.



Photo courtesy John Eliasberg



Tips for protecting Georges Pond

**Source: North American Lake Management Society
Lakeline (summer 2020) found at www.NALMS.org**

1. Pump out your septic every 3-5 years.
2. Do not bathe, shampoo, or wash boats, pets, or other objects in the lake with soap or phosphorus-containing detergents.
3. Do not use fertilizers near any area that drains to waterbody.
4. Keep land clearing and alteration to a minimum.
5. Divert runoff from rooftops to rain gardens or divert to a vegetated area.
6. Do not burn brush or leaves near the shore.
7. Do not allow animals or humans to urinate or defecate into the lake.
8. Do not feed ducks or other aquatic life.
9. Plant native shrubs and other vegetation to reduce shoreline erosion.
10. Use phosphate-free fertilizers.
11. Clean up pet waste.
12. Do not use powerful boat motors in shallow areas.
13. Avoid removing trees along the waterfront.
14. Reduce road salt use in sensitive drainage areas.
15. Promote wise land stewardship.

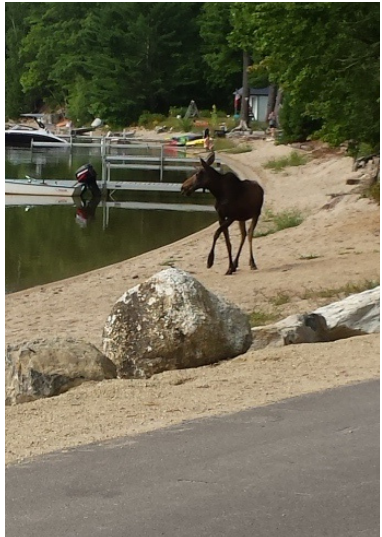


Photo courtesy Chuck Dawes

HAB Aquatic Solutions will conduct a second alum treatment of the pond during the week of May 10.



RENEW
YOUR GPA
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY --
ONLINE!



www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org

**Georges Pond
Association**

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