

GPA Newsletter

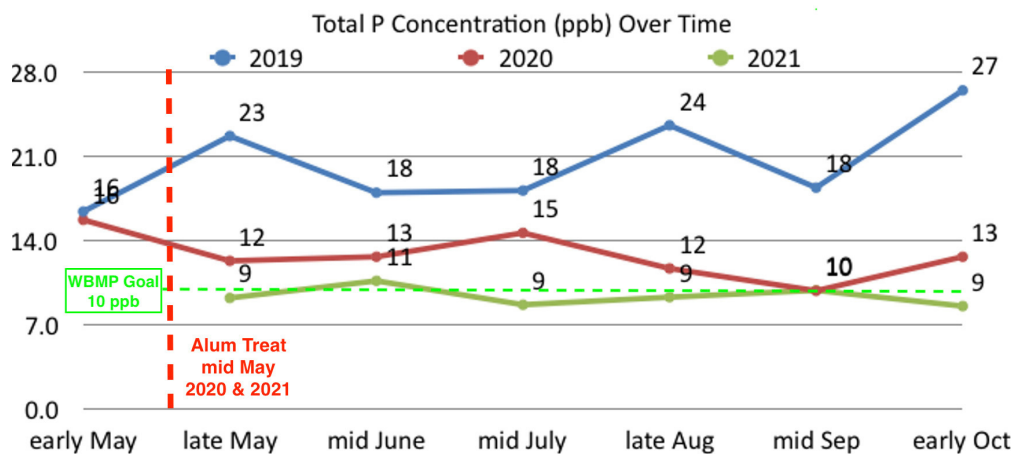
News from the Georges Pond Association

Measuring Our Success: The GPA Story

Our story over the last 10 years is **about a community successfully coming together** in response to heartbreak. We had always enjoyed clear water and good fishing. That changed in 2012 with our first algal bloom, which happened again in 2015, 2017, and 2018. We couldn't swim, families didn't visit, and people sold camps. We didn't know what was wrong or how to fix it, and people offered many different opinions and solutions.

We focused on a common goal – clean water, encouraged people to act immediately to improve their properties, and asked the community for a year to collect data, formulate a plan, and raise money.

After considering many options, **an Alum treatment was recommended to reset the natural chemical balance in the lake** by inactivating sediment phosphorus. In May 2020 and 2021, we engaged HAB Aquatics Solutions to apply Alum, and Lake Stewards of Maine actively monitored water quality during treatment.



Our community is **thrilled with our progress**. Secchi readings have improved. Total Phosphorus levels have dropped. GPA membership has grown. The GPA has raised over \$365,000, and more than half of all property owners have completed LakeSmart surveys.

We're grateful that our community has united so strongly to protect clean water. In pursuing this goal, we've come to appreciate, time and again, how **"the clarity of our lake will be a reflection of how well we take care of it."**

Read the full story, "Featured Lake: Georges Pond," on the Lake Stewards of Maine "Maine Lakes" website at <http://lakesofmaine.org/index.html?r=1640030698>

Be Septic Smart: Handout for Visitors and Renters

Welcome! Did you know this property is served by a septic system?

Please help us be SepticSmart by taking steps to ensure that our septic system continues to operate as expected – helping protect the environment and ensuring a good stay. Whatever goes down our toilet, sink, or shower pipes ends up in our septic system and affects how well it works.

Please do your part to be SepticSmart by taking these simple steps:

- ✓ **Think at the Sink!** Please keep grease, fats, harmful chemicals, and hair out of the drain. They can clog or damage our system and can cause an expensive plumbing mess.
- ✓ **Don't Overload the Commode!** Please do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diapers, wipes, hygiene products, or hair.
- ✓ **Be WaterWise!** Stagger use of water-based appliances among house guests. All of the water in this home's pipes ends up in the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.
- ✓ **Be Mindful of Guests!** If there are more people staying in our home than our septic system was designed to support, your guests may overload the system and mess up your stay. This is one reason why we cannot accept more than the maximum number of guests.
- ✓ **When in Doubt, Follow an Easy Rule of Thumb:** Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. If you perceive an issue with our plumbing, please call _____. In the rare instance that sewage should back up into our home, avoid contact with it.

Following these easy steps will not only avoid septic system issues but will also help ensure an enjoyable stay.



Winter on the Pond

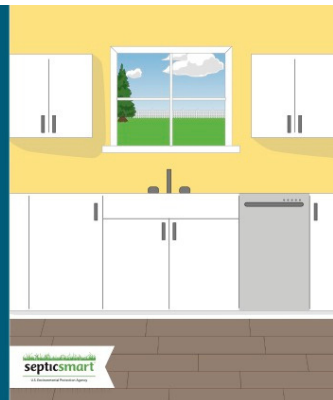
Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

This home has a septic system. To prevent plumbing problems, keep hygiene products, hair, wipes, medicine, trash, and other products out of the toilet and drain.



Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

To protect this home's plumbing, please keep grease, fats, and harmful chemicals out of the drain.



319 PHASE 1 WATERSHED PROTECTION PROJECT

"Restoring the Pond by Protecting the Watershed"

Thanks to a two-year (2020-2021) **Maine DEP 319 Phase 1 grant** for watershed restoration, the Georges Pond Association has completed a variety of projects to improve conditions in the Georges Pond watershed, including a workshop on "Beefing Up Shoreline Buffers" and improving gravel roads, all **for a single purpose**: to improve and protect the Pond's water quality.



Residential 319 project: Improving a buffer

Funding

A **generous Federal 319 grant** of \$45,960 when combined with homeowner contributions of \$21,332 and GPA volunteer hours worth \$19,193, has yielded **a total investment of nearly \$86,500** for upgrading the Georges Pond watershed.

Accomplishments:

- 31 LakeSmart assessments
- 9 New LakeSmart awards
- 30 Residential site visits
- 10 Residential projects
- 5 GPA newsletters
- 2 Gravel Road Improvement plans
- 2 Gravel Road projects
- 2 GPA annual meeting presentations
- 1 Public Workshop: "Beef Up Your Buffer"
- 1 Handout on native plants

Projects Completed:

10 Residential Sites

- Sweet Fern Lane: 2
- Georges Pond Road: 4
- South Shore Colony Road: 3
- Cousins Road: 1

2 Road Projects

- Cousins Road
- South Shore Colony Road

319 grant funds reimburse a property owner as much as 50% of the cost of materials or paid labor to complete a residential project. Phase 1 grants ranged from \$90 to \$3,096.



Ditch work on South Shore Colony Road

Phase 1 Pollution Prevention

Lake Facts

Town: Franklin, ME
Watershed area: 1 sq mile
Lake surface area: 358 acres
Shore length: 4.4 miles
Max depth: 45 ft
Mean depth: 14 ft
Flushing rate: 0.45 flushes/yr
Lake elevation: 164 ft
Average clarity: 13 ft (3.9 m)
Invasives: None known

BMPs

Best management practices prevent soil erosion and reduce pollutants from getting into the Pond that would otherwise feed algae and reduce water clarity.

Pollutants Reduced

Sediment: 2.2 tons/yr
Phosphorus: 1.0 lbs/yr
Nitrogen: 3.5 lbs/yr

Water clarity of the Pond is now the best on record.

Residential Project



South Shore Colony Road



Residential Steep Slope Project



Cousins Road Project

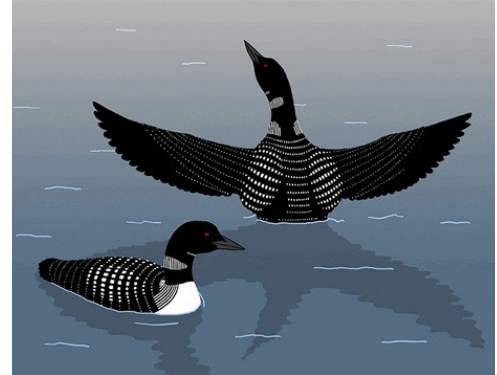


Acknowledgments

The Georges Pond project was sponsored in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine DEP in Partnership with EPA. Ecological Instincts served as the managing consultant for the Georges Pond Association. In-kind contributions included volunteer assistance from the Georges Pond Steering Committee, which includes representatives from GPA, local road associations, Maine DEP, and local residents. Gravel road plans were developed by Maine Environmental Solutions. Developed by Ecological Instincts and Georges Pond Association, January 2022.

Note from a 319 residential grant recipient:

"I can't thank you enough for the tremendous amount of work you've done at my house. The results are amazing to me. No matter how I tried to imagine the work, I couldn't have pictured it as great as it turned out. AMAZING! And what a lot was done! This is so reassuring to know that there is now adequate drainage installed and that my property will be less damaging to the pond. And it looks so darn good! I am so grateful and this has inspired me to keep active by planting more native plants as buffer."



Interested in signing up for a 319 residential grant?

Send an email today to GeorgesPondAssociation@gmail.com and find out more about ways to protect the pond while making improvements to your property. Free consultation and site planning available!

Time to Renew

Renew your GPA membership for 2022 **online** at www.GeorgesPondAssociation.org **or** send your check to **PO Box 30, Franklin, ME 04634**. Thank you!





Even in winter, water monitoring never stops.

Georges Pond Association
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