

Where We Are, Where We're Going

Eliminating Algal Blooms on the Pond

What We Know

The problem: Georges Pond has experienced major algal blooms in 2012, 2015, and again in 2018. Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) identifies the pond as one of 162 Maine waterways in distress.

Blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) flourish in water where the percentage of phosphorus exceeds 15 parts per billion (ppb). In May, the pond's phosphorus level was 30+ ppb; in September, 26 ppb. This problem will not magically disappear; it will only be corrected by our collective efforts to care for the pond.

Causes: Storm runoff and erosion are leading contributors to the buildup of phosphorus in the pond. Problems include old, improperly maintained or improperly installed septic systems, garden fertilizers, and excessive rainwater running across gravel and dirt driveways and channeling into the pond.

Treatment: Scientific data-gathering is currently underway to determine the best course of action. Quite likely, the most effective fix will be an alum treatment at an estimated cost between \$250,000 and \$500,000. However, all potential remediation options are being examined.

Timeline: 2-3 years. The solution -- from plan to implementation to observable results -- requires our diligence and our collective resolve to help restore the pond we love.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the 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

Find us on Facebook



What We're Doing

The GPA Board has adopted an ambitious Action Plan. Four committees are at work: **Big Fix** (co-chairs Lisa Branch, Chuck Dawes, and John Eliasberg)

Pond Stewardship (co-chairs Chuck Dawes, Ginger Eliasberg, and Marie Phero)

Communications (co-chairs Callie Carr and Nancy Cooper)

Membership, Fundraising, and Grants (co-chairs Callie Carr, Lynn Durkin, and Marvin Ellison)

Water Monitoring: State funding and other grants are contingent upon data collection and analysis of pond samples over a 12-month period. Maine DEP will be collecting samples from August 2018 to August 2019. We are working with Linda Bacon from the DEP and consultant Ken Wagner to gather sediment and water samples.

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Eliminating Algal Blooms on the Pond, cont.

Consultants: The GPA has hired two consultants: Jen Jespersen, a consultant with considerable expertise in water management and one of the architects of the East Pond Watershed Plan; and scientist Ken Wagner, who also worked on the East Pond restoration project.

Both Jen and Ken have experience in overseeing action plans, applying for grants, and expediting the process. Jen, Linda, and Ken will visit Georges Pond in early October.

Communication: Attendance reached 200+ participants in two open forums and at the GPA Annual Meeting. GPA emails, Facebook, and website continue to inform members and friends of events, as well as the latest scientific data and progress. The *Bangor Daily News* published an article about Georges Pond. Read it [here](#).

LakeSmart: The LakeSmart monitoring program helps property owners figure out best management practices to protect the pond. To request a survey of your property or to join the LakeSmart team, check out the GPA website at www.georgespondassociation.com/lakesmart.

Funding: The GPA's budget for Phase 1 of the Big Fix is \$30,000, which will cover costs for water and sediment sampling and revision of the Watershed Management Plan, necessary for DEP permits and grants. The GPA Board is in the process of planning a major fundraising campaign to be launched later this fall.

What can you do?

Join the Georges Pond Association – be sure to renew your membership for 2019.

Become better educated about how to avoid adding phosphorus to the pond.

Join the volunteer **LakeSmart** monitoring program; promote Best Management Practices.

Volunteer to **join a committee:** Big Fix, Pond Stewardship, Communication, or Membership, Fundraising, and Grants.

Donate to the remediation effort online at www.georgespondassociation.org/give or by sending your check to the GPA, P.O. Box 30, Franklin ME 04634.



LakeSmart at Georges Pond

The LakeSmart program was initiated at Georges Pond this past summer. LakeSmart volunteers from the Maine Lakes Society, Abrams Pond and Cold Stream Pond trained 13 people from Georges Pond, who are now able to conduct LakeSmart surveys for GP property owners. This all-volunteer team, led by Ginger Eliasberg, has surveyed 20 Pond properties this year; 18 more are already on the wait list for next year.

Want to know more?

georgespondassociation.org/lakesmart

GPA Membership Doubles

Good news! Membership in the Georges Pond Association has more than doubled. In 2017 we had 56 dues-paying members; to date, we have 136 – and counting.



In September, we mailed invitations to 75 ponders who are not yet members. We look forward to their joining the GPA because only together can we restore the pond.

DID YOU KNOW



Volunteers removed the broken-down, abandoned ice shack from the Pond in September. Thank you to Chuck Dawes, John Eliasberg, Steve McMullen and David Nichols!



GPA Board Raises \$8,250

Restoring Georges Pond depends on all of us. The eleven members of the GPA Board have pledged \$8,250 toward this year's goal of \$30,000.

The Board's 100% participation rate is impressive; so is the average gift of \$750.

Now It's Your Turn

Phase 1 -- conducting scientific research to determine the best solution for the pond -- will take a full year. Consultant Jen Jespersen is working with Maine DEP and other scientists to gather the data we'll need in order to apply for major grants and then treat the pond. Won't you step up and make your tax-deductible gift for fixing the pond?

In early December expect an appeal letter in your mailbox from the Georges Pond Association. If you wish, go ahead and send your check today, payable to the GPA and marked "Big Fix," to P.O. Box 30, Franklin ME 04634. You may also donate online at www.georgespondassociation.org/give.



The future of the Pond depends on all of us making a smart investment today.

We thank you!

Remembering Two Long-Time Ponders

Carleton "Babe" Brodie (born April 14, 1938; died August 13, 2018) and Hubene Brodie, his wife of 52 years, along with their "Brodie bunch" have summered on Georges Pond for many years. Babe dedicated his life to service as a member of the Coast Guard, the U.S. Postal Service, the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department, and, along with Hubene, as a GPA Board member.

William "Bill" Chi-Wen Woo, born in Shanghi, China in 1929, died September 13 in New Haven, CT. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joan Hong-Sling Woo, and by his children Gregory (Sarah) Woo and Ginger (John) Eliasberg. His obituary read in part: "Bill was pragmatic, direct, and exuberant, particularly when mastering gourmet Chinese dishes, listening to classical music, [or] fishing on his beloved Georges Pond."

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