

# The Hancock & Sand Ponds Association Newsletter

*May 2022*

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## Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 2, 2022, 9 to 11 am  
Denmark Town Hall

Guest Speaker: LEA's Maggie Welch on Loon Restoration Project

Please help us reach and update you more easily!

Send us your email address by including it with your dues or sending a message to  
[hspamaine@gmail.com](mailto:hspamaine@gmail.com)

**Hancock & Sand Ponds Association**

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**Check out our new website!**

**[hspamaine.org](http://hspamaine.org)**

*Joe Nagy - President*  
*Sue Neily - Vice President*

*Chris Perrin - Secretary*  
*Ben Peierls - Treasurer*

## **President's Message:**

After a year of Covid isolation, it was great to see so many in attendance at our July 2021 annual meeting. Fifty-four residents came out, compared to an average of 29-33 in the recent past. Thank you all for your participation and your support.

If we've learned anything from this ongoing Covid-19 ordeal, it is that we need each other. Nothing worthwhile gets accomplished on one's own. It's only when people work together that good things happen.

I've been reading the annual meeting minutes of the past on our website to better familiarize myself with our recent history, and I've been impressed by all the good people who have volunteered their time to care for the lakes. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before. And we owe it to them to pass on these beautiful lakes and their environs in healthy shape for those who follow.

### **What Each of Us Can Do**

This issue of the Newsletter focuses on some of the ways lakeshore residents can help guard the health of our local environment.

We can all be good stewards of our own property, taking steps to prevent runoff and erosion that can harm water quality. In the Meet Your Neighbors feature on page 10, we profile longtime Hancock pond residents Genie and Michael Silver, who last summer participated in the Maine Lakes LakeSmart Program, which guides shoreline owners on best land management practices to prevent erosion that can lead to excessive algae growth.

On page 11 is an article on how to become a pond watcher, looking out for invasive species such as milfoil on the ponds. Each fall Mike Gately, who heads the HSPA milfoil program, reports to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection on the number of volunteers and hours spent patrolling for invasive species. The report is part of our grant request to help pay for milfoil boat inspections at the town boat launch.

In his Milfoil Committee Report on page 7, Mike Gately notes that the Lakes Environmental Association has summer jobs available for courtesy boat inspectors at the Town of Denmark boat launch on Wabunaki Road. If you know a high school or college student in your family who is seeking a summer job, they can apply to the Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton.

The LEA is also offering a free training session for those who wish to be volunteer boat inspectors. It will be held on Saturday, June 11th, at the Wabunaki Road public boat launch, at 10 am.

On another note, please urge your guests and renters to keep their distance from loons, especially the young, and to obey the state regulation that prohibits boats from producing a wake within 200 feet of shore. A large boat wash erodes the shoreline and adds phosphorus to the lake, which contributes to algae growth.

Finally, when we work together we ought to celebrate together. On July 4th, 2001, Patty Sawyer organized a boat parade around Hancock Pond as a way of getting to know her neighbors. Although rain kept participation down, it seemed like a lot of fun, and Patty intends to make it an annual tradition.

### **Send Us Your Email Address**

We plan to send quarterly news updates to all members by email. This means that we will need your email address. So if we don't yet have your email, send it to us at [hspamaine@gmail.com](mailto:hspamaine@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you once again on the ponds.



## A New HSPA Web Page

HSPA has a redesigned website with a new, easier to use domain name: [hspamaine.org](http://hspamaine.org). Check it out!

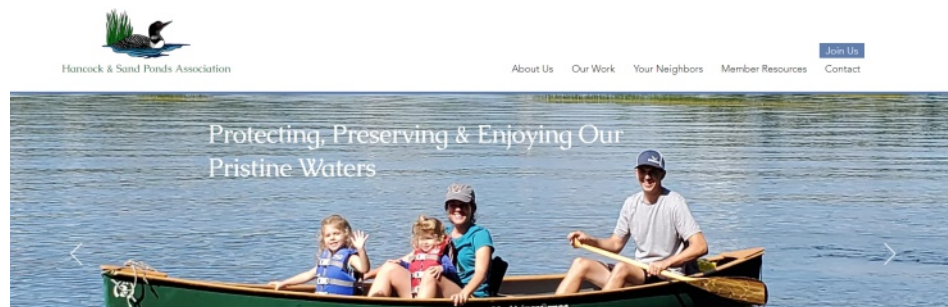
This winter the executive committee asked for a volunteer to redesign our site, and longtime pond resident Rebecca Gould stepped forward. Rebecca is a web designer with over 35 years of experience as a marketing communications professional. She has created a great design that is both eye-catching and easy to use.

Our goal was to create a site that both educates and informs, so that members have the information they need to keep our ponds healthy. Therefore Rebecca designed the site around the mission of HSPA: "To protect and preserve the pristine waters of Hancock and Sand Ponds as a treasured natural resource for today and for future generations."

She created four categories that cover our main functions: Environmental Protection, Loon Protection, Lake Management, and Member Resources. Under these headings you will find the latest reports on water quality, milfoil protection, loon monitoring and protection, buoy and dam management, and lake profiles. There are also links to non-profit agencies such as Lakes Environmental Association and state and local agencies related to lake protection.

Rebecca says that "Bill Buckley and I have owned property on Hancock Pond since 1993 and spend as much time at the lake as we can all year round. We and our sons, Will and Lisle Buckley, are deeply invested in the health of our lakes. I design websites professionally, so this project was a happy fit for all of us."

Screen shot of new  
HSPA website



## Be LakeSmart

Shoreline erosion and stormwater runoff are major causes of excessive algae growth in lakes and ponds. The runoff contains phosphorus and nitrogen, which contribute to the growth of algae and other plants. According to Maine Lakes, a non-profit devoted to lake conservation, "runoff from developed land can contribute 8 to 10 times as much phosphorus to lakes than runoff coming from forested areas."

Algae is an important food resource for many lake animals, but too much algae can turn lake water cloudy, and at its worst into something that resembles pea soup.

Preventing runoff from entering our lakes is one of the best ways that property owners can protect water quality. Maine Lakes and the LEA offer a program called LakeSmart, which helps lakefront homeowners manage landscapes in ways that protect water quality. The program is free, non-regulatory, and voluntary. Participating homeowners receive suggestions for keeping pollutants in stormwater out of lake waters.

Trained volunteers perform property assessments for participating homeowners. Homeowners get recommendations to use natural landscaping strategies to manage runoff from rooftops and paved areas that would otherwise wind up in the lake. Some of the suggestions include creating rain gardens to capture and filter stormwater, installing a drip line trench below rooftops, and planting vegetated buffers that catch sediment before it reaches the lake.

Sites that score well earn the LakeSmart Award, consisting of two distinctive signs that can be posted at the waterfront and driveway.

More information about the program is available from the LEA website, [mainlakes.org/resources/lakesmart/](http://mainlakes.org/resources/lakesmart/). Hancock and Sand Ponds do not yet have a LakeSmart program, but property owners who wish to have their property evaluated can call Lauren Pickford at the Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton (207-647-8580) to arrange a visit.

## Treasurer's Report 2021:

HSPA finances remained healthy for 2021 and we ended the year with a positive cash flow of \$3,180. We received dues from 118 members for 2021, about 49% of shorefront properties or 47% of the names in our list. This is up slightly from last year's participation of about 48%. A grant of \$2000 from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME-DEP) helped offset the cost of courtesy boat inspection time, as did donations to the Milfoil Fund. Expenses included support for advanced water quality monitoring, courtesy boat inspections, and printing and other miscellaneous costs.

Looking ahead to this year, Mike Gately reports that we were awarded a \$2200 grant from ME-DEP for boat inspections, which will be needed as hourly rates for inspections have increased this year. We still encourage continued contributions to the Milfoil Fund, which would pay for more inspection hours, with the option of adding inspectors on Fridays and Mondays. It would also allow us to be better prepared to handle mitigation costs should invasive plants be discovered in our ponds. **To donate to the fund, you can send a check, payable to the Hancock and Sand Ponds Association, to PO Box 856, Denmark, ME, 04022, with a note stating that it is a donation to the milfoil fund.**

As long as we maintain our dues participation rate, our finances for 2022 should remain stable. Dues to HSPA go towards supporting boat inspections for invasive aquatic plants like milfoil, water quality monitoring by Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), loon protection, and dam expenses. I encourage you to maintain your membership and send in your dues today. If you haven't given to HSPA before, I ask you to please join us in protecting the health and quality of the treasures we call Hancock and Sand Ponds.

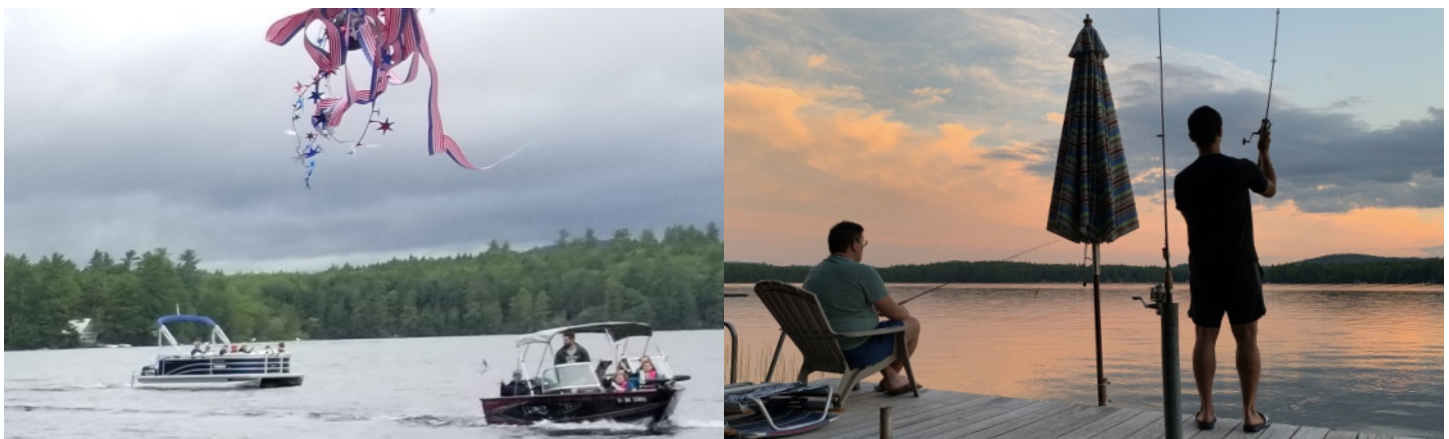
HSPA Cash Flow January-December 2021	
<b>Opening Bank Balance:</b>	<b>\$9,452.68</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	\$5,950.00
Donations	\$460.00
Milfoil Inspection Fund	\$1,415.00
DEP Invasive Cost Share Grant (CBI)	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$9,825.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Fees, Printing, and Other Costs	-\$966.00
Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)	-\$4,160.00
LEA Advanced Testing Initiatives	-\$1,510.00
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>-\$6,636.00</b>
<b>Cash Flow Balance:</b>	<b>\$3,180.00</b>
<b>Ending Bank Balance:</b>	<b>\$12,641.68</b>

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please enclose your \$50 check payable to the Hancock and Sand Ponds Association and mail by June 30th to:

Hancock & Sand Ponds Association  
 PO Box 856  
 Denmark, ME 04022

**Thank you for your support!**





## Loon Committee Report:

**By Amy March**

The annual Audubon Loon Count was held on July 17, 2021. On Sand Pond, Judy Coleman reported two pairs of loons but no chicks. There was a great deal of cooing (associated with mating) in the south end of the pond, but no observable nest-building. In the north end, Milo Robinson observed an abandoned nest and egg.

On Hancock Pond, Joanne Webb, Gayle Dangers-Meusel, Mary Stitzell, and Melissa Nairn each took responsibility for one of four sections. They counted six adults and one chick. The loons nested on the small island near the Dugway. Dana Belisle reported seeing an abandoned egg left on the nest.

### A Loon Raft for Sand Pond

The Loon Committee is participating in the Loon Restoration Project, a partnership between the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), Maine Audubon, Maine Lakes, and the Penobscot Indian Nation. It is a five-year program to increase loon nesting success and decrease loon mortality. The program is funded by the state, with money from a court settlement as the result of an oil spill in Buzzards Bay off Massachusetts in 2003. The loons wintering in the Bay were badly affected and their population has not rebounded to pre-spill levels.

Maggie Welch, who is overseeing the program for the LEA, says that the project's first goal is to consider placing loon nesting platforms on lakes in our area where there have been few successful chicks in recent years.

After discussions with Maggie, the Loon Committee decided to build and deploy a modular loon raft at the north end of Sand Pond this spring. We placed it near the site of the failed nest last year. A loon pair had built a nest in the reeds, laid an egg and abandoned it. When Milo Robinson inspected it, the nest was flooded — probably due to heavy spring rain.

Judy Coleman, who carefully watches the loons at the southern end of Sand Pond, has noted that although the loon pair there had surviving chicks for several years, they have not successfully nested for the last two years.

The LEA is providing supplies, and David Rogers, Ben Peierls, and I assisted in assembling the raft. The raft was deployed at the beginning of May.

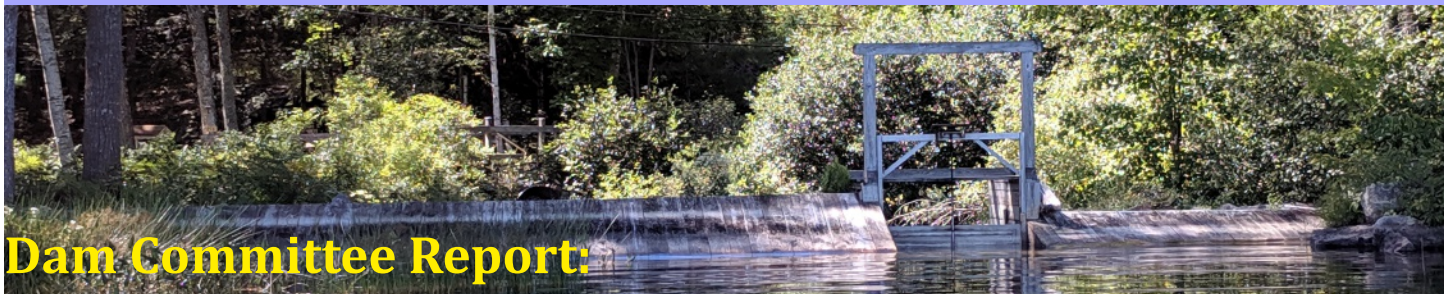
There will be opportunities for volunteers to engage in weekly monitoring on both ponds throughout the spring, summer, and early fall. If you are interested in participating, email Amy March at [amymarch852@gmail.com](mailto:amymarch852@gmail.com).

We can consider deploying the old raft on Hancock again. I will leave that decision to the folks on Hancock. My suggestion would be that we don't deploy it again since it has not been successful. It has been home to turtles, and last year the folks that took it out found it very waterlogged. Instead, we could spend this summer doing more careful observations under the leadership of the LEA and plan to place a new raft on Hancock next summer with LEA assistance.

Special thanks to all those wonderful people who have put up signs, repaired and placed the loon raft, and watched out for the loons! Protecting them from all the problems humans create is a team effort!

HSPA members and anyone else interested in loons are invited to join the Committee or the email list to receive updates. Email Amy March at [amymarch852@gmail.com](mailto:amymarch852@gmail.com).





**Dam Committee Report:**

**A Strange Spring**

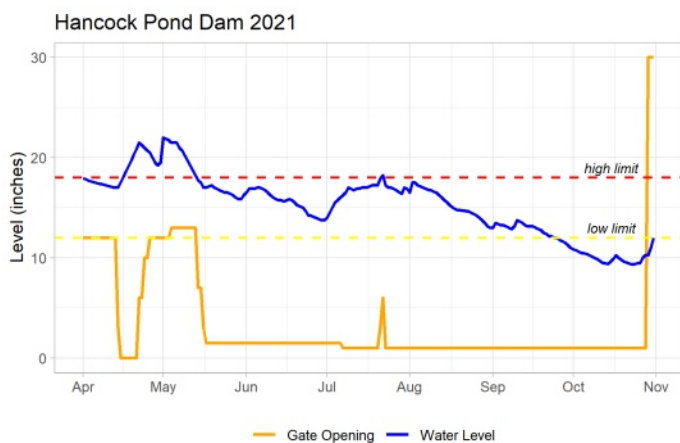
**By Bill Van Voorhis**

We had some strange issues last spring, with not much snow and not much runoff. As a result, the lake was super low in mid-March, down to around 9 inches. I ran down to the dam and closed the gate almost completely to try to build the water level back up. I went away for the first three weeks in April and gave my gate key to Larry Clark, who diligently watched over the situation.

While I was gone, the rains came and the level rose back up to around 25 inches. Also, while the gate was so low, the State biologists were in and needed the gate opened up, as the smelts were locked in below the dam. They also netted ten pails of smelts and released them above the dam. So the gate was opened and closed right back up until it rained. We then opened the gate so there was a 13-inch opening under it, until the water level dropped to 19 inches. Then we lowered the gate to 8 inches until the water level stabilized at around 16 inches. We then closed the gate to two inches to try to hold this level.

By July 1, the lake was back up to 16.5 inches from 14 inches before the rain. The gate was closed to one inch for the remainder of the summer to prevent it from going down below our goals, with another drought expected. Many lakes in northern and western Maine are bone dry — pure dry sand bottom. We are lucky that ours are holding their own.

As usual, the gate was opened way up in mid-November for the winter.



Hancock Pond Water Level Comparison (inches)			
Year	Early May	July 1	September 1
2015	12	15	12
2016	12	9 1/2	4 1/4
2017	13	18 1/2	12 3/4
2018	22	14 1/2	12 1/2
2019	27	20 3/4	12
2020	13	16	12
2021	21	14 1/2 (18 on Jul 22)	13

Notes:

- The water levels are measured at the dam gate.
- Low water in September is the result of a prolonged drought.
- In most cases, the gate is lowered down to one inch all summer to try to hold the water level to the 12-18" levels as voted on at the 2015 annual meeting.
- The gate is opened in late October–November for the winter.

## **Milfoil Report**

**By Mike Gately**

### **Expanded Hours for Boat Inspections**

In February 2022, I submitted our grant application to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to help pay the salaries of courtesy boat inspectors (CBI) on weekends throughout the summer at the town of Denmark boat launch on Wabunaki Road. This year, the state awarded us \$2,200 for the 2022 season, up from \$2000 last year. Thanks to the state grant, along with money that has been donated to the HSPA Milfoil Fund, we are expanding the days and hours of our courtesy boat inspection program this year at the public boat launch. We have increased the holiday weekend coverage for Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day weekends from three days to four days (Friday to Monday).

We are also increasing the hours each day from 8 hours to 10 hours. We will have two shifts, 7-12 and 12-5. The remaining weekends between the holidays will be Saturday and Sunday coverage.

The Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) will continue to hire, train, and monitor the paid courtesy boat inspectors. Our cost to the LEA has increased from \$16.00 to \$18.00 an hour, in an effort to attract and retain boat inspectors. This includes an administration fee to process the payroll and oversee the program. LEA continues to be a great resource to us, providing assistance if plants are detected on boats or in our lakes that need to be identified.

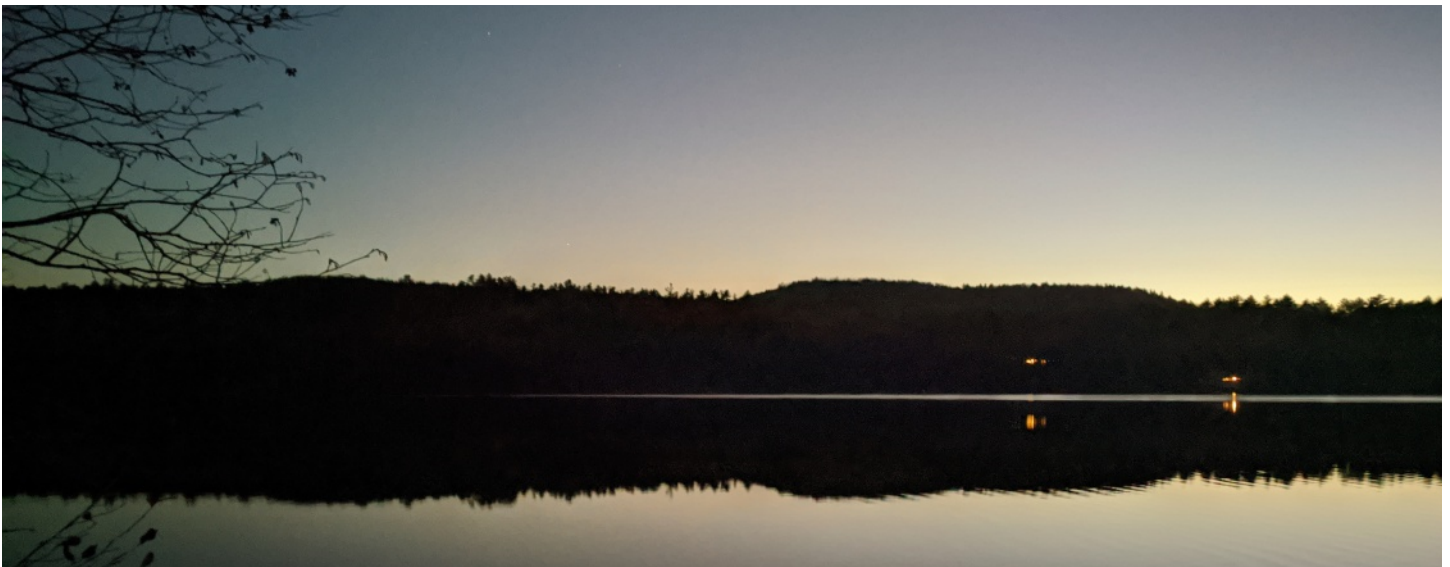
### **Summer Jobs Available**

If you know of anyone looking for a part-time job over the summer that gives you some time to soak up the sun and keep your feet in the water when not inspecting boats, please have them submit an application directly to LEA. The application can be found on their website, [mainelakes.org](http://mainelakes.org).

### **Volunteer Training Scheduled**

LEA will also be providing volunteer CBI training to anyone interested in volunteering at the public boat launch or the other private launches on our ponds. This training will be held on Saturday, June 11th, at the public boat launch, 10 am rain or shine. We are in need of volunteers to help cover a sudden absence by a paid CBI employee, but more volunteers would also allow us to add more hours and days.

The increase in hours and the new hourly rate will increase our total cost of the program by more than \$1,800. This will nearly deplete the current funds in our Milfoil account. Please continue to send your donations to our treasurer marked Milfoil funds to ensure these expanded hours continue year after year.





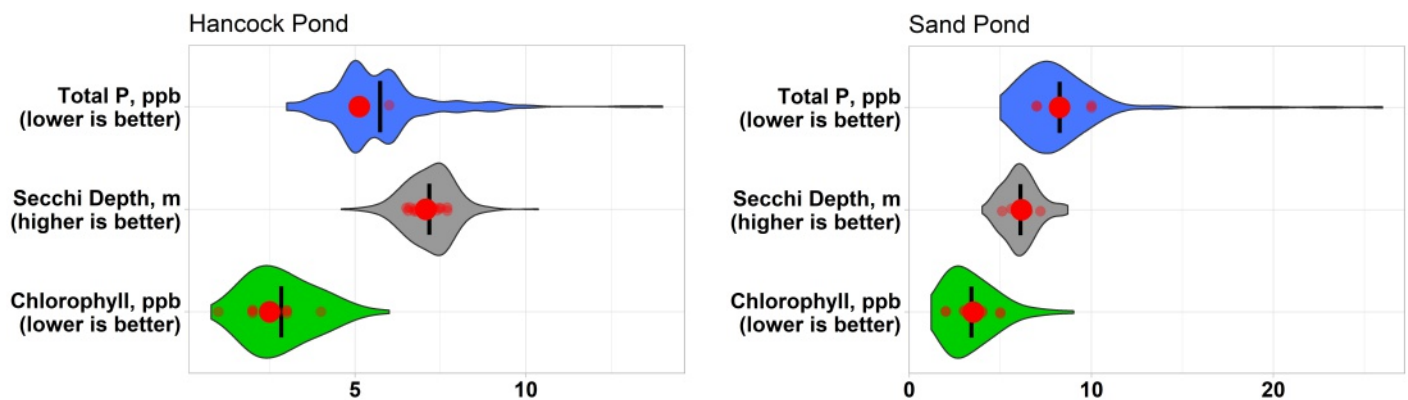
## Lakes Environmental Association – Water Quality Report :

The Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) monitors water quality in 41 lakes and ponds in southern Oxford County and northwestern Cumberland County. The Hancock and Sand Ponds Association has been a member and financial supporter of LEA since its founding in 1970. For over fifty years, LEA has produced annual reports summarizing and interpreting critical indicators for each of the water bodies it monitors.

Overall water quality conditions were relatively good in 2021 for lakes monitored by LEA. Only eight lakes had water clarity, phosphorus (P), or chlorophyll values that indicate lower quality. When looking over the long term, 84-85% of lakes had increasing or stable water clarity trends (measured by Secchi depth), 90-92% of lakes had decreasing or stable P trends, and 95-96% of lakes had decreasing or stable chlorophyll concentration (a proxy for algae) trends.

LEA reports that Hancock Pond maintained good water quality in 2021, with all indicators registering as moderate, an increasing trend in clarity, and decreasing trends in P and chlorophyll over the long term. Sand Pond's condition was similar with moderate values for all three indicators and stable long-term trends (i.e., no change) for P and chlorophyll. Water clarity showed a slight decrease over time, but it remains greater than the threshold for low clarity (3 m). Oxygen depletion at depth remains a concern since it reduced or eliminated suitable cold-water fish habitat by July for Sand and August for Hancock.

Full testing reports and additional advanced monitoring results for both Hancock and Sand Ponds are accessible at the Lakes Environmental Association website ([mainelakes.org/water-testing-report/](http://mainelakes.org/water-testing-report/)).



2021 water quality data (light-red dots) and average (large solid red dot) compared to long-term average (black line) and distribution (colored areas) of phosphorus, clarity, and algae data. Colored area thickness indicates frequency of measurements at each value (e.g., few measurements at extreme values). Note different x-axis scales.

LEA Measures of Water Quality						
	Oxygen Depletion	High P at Depth	Clarity Trend	Phosphorus Trend	Chlorophyll Trend	Cold Water Fish Habitat
<b>Hancock</b>	<i>Present</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Increasing</i>	<i>Decreasing</i>	<i>Decreasing</i>	<i>Mix</i>
<b>Sand</b>	<i>Significant</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Decreasing</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Mix</i>



## **Buoy Committee Report**

### **Twelve Buoys Repaired**

Last spring Andrew McClean met with Timothy Thurston, a representative of the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, who explained that in the late '70s the HSPA signed up in a state program in which the state pays for mooring blocks, buoys, chains and shackles, as well as a GPS for locating the buoys. We are one of only two lakes that are part of this program. Other lakes must pay for everything. Thurston said that it would cost us \$2,000-\$4,000 to pay for our buoys and moorings.

In April 2021, Andrew repaired 12 buoys that needed new chains and blocks, which were paid for by the state. When removing the buoys in November, Andrew found that one buoy anchor would not come out. Thurston recommended just leaving it in place. He said either it would be there in the spring or the ice would have forced it loose.

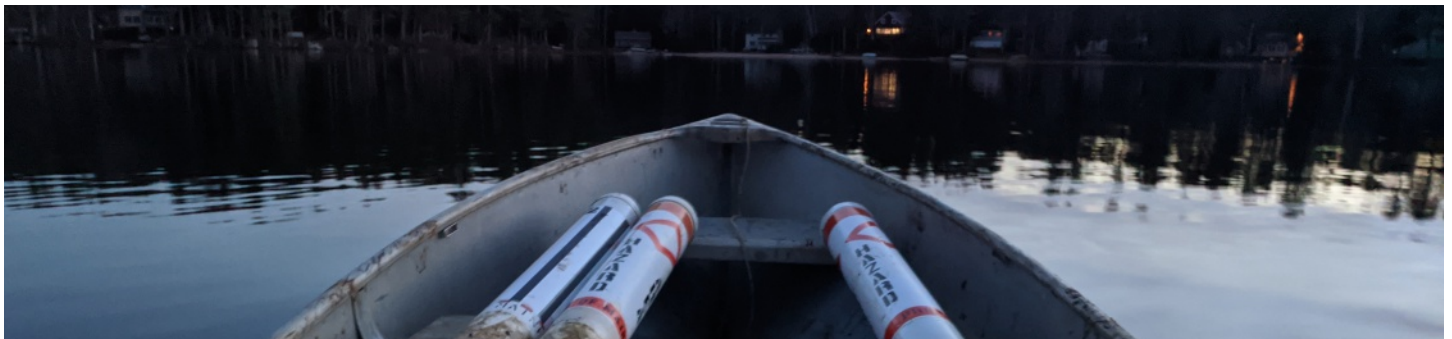
On the first weekend in May, Andrew placed 34 navigational buoys on Hancock Pond. The buoys must be in place by Memorial Day to qualify for the state assistance program.

Andrew bought a 13-ft inflatable boat and fixed it up for the job. It will hold 4-5 buoys and two people. He says that it's easier with two people and one more on shore to stack them in order.

He says, "The inflatable boat works ok, but the ideal boat would be a 17-ft Boston whaler or Carolina skiff or an open pontoon boat. Those boats could take a bunch of buoys out and would be more stable for doing the job in any weather."

### **New Storage Site**

For many years, Dick and Sheila Johnson have graciously agreed to allow us to store the Hancock Pond navigational buoys on their property. However, they have asked that for next winter we find an alternative location. Bill Van Voorhis quickly stepped up and offered a site on his beachfront near the dam. "I think it will work out well," said Bill. "It's central to the whole lake and a easy beach to get to."



## **Bass Tournament Report**

### **By Dave Rogers**

There were three bass tournaments held on Hancock Pond in 2021: May 1, June 19, and July 18.

I spoke with each coordinator before the tournaments. The main points of discussion were the importance of boat inspection for invasive plants, care and caution when using the boat ramp (not to power on their trailers), and general courtesy. Each conversation went well, and I was assured by each coordinator that their clubs are equally concerned about preserving water quality and preventing the spread of invasive species. Below are the recently enacted state requirements for inspection. Each coordinator confirmed that they are abiding by the state requirements and have multiple members certified by the state for inspection.

Since 2020, all bass clubs have been required to participate in standardized training on aquatic plant and live-well inspection, and all tournament related inspections must be performed by individuals that have received this training.

All clubs need to provide documentation along with their 2021 affidavit that at least two members have participated in an aquatic plant and live-well inspection training program endorsed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) within the last five years.

## Meet Your Neighbor:

*In 2019, we introduced a series of sketches of Hancock and Sand Ponds' neighbors. We enjoy a community environment that brings us into close contact with a select group of people. Nevertheless, the seasonal nature (not to mention weekly commutes) of most of our lives means that we miss opportunities to become more well-acquainted with most of our fellow pond residents. As it turns out, our "neighborhood" is populated with a great many interesting and accomplished individuals. We can't introduce everyone to everyone, but the Association is taking a modest step toward greater familiarity with our neighbors continuing this series of "Meet Your Neighbor" profiles.*

### Genie and Michael Silver of Hancock Pond

Genie and Michael Silver purchased their property on Hancock Pond in 1988, and built their home on Kingfisher Way in 1991, when there were only a few camps on the road. Until recently the Silvers, who live just outside Philadelphia, have come up to Hancock Pond throughout the year, cross-country skiing in the winter, but for the last five years they are summer residents only.

Last summer their property was approved for the LakeSmart Award, given by Maine Lakes for lakeside property that meets environmental standards that reduce runoff and protect water quality (see "Be LakeSmart" page 3).

Genie has a long history at the ponds. She has been coming to Denmark since 1959, where she spent "a very happy seven summers" at Camp Walden on Sand Pond, until her junior year of high school.

She has participated in the annual Maine Audubon Society Loon Count on Hancock Pond, and has written many articles for the Hancock and Sand Ponds newsletter, including a four-part oral history of Camp Walden, interviewing the longtime director and owner of the Camp, Helen Herz Cohen. "She was a remarkable woman and mentor," says Genie. "She seemed to know what was going on with all of us and wasn't afraid to call us out or encourage us in ways that helped us become better people."



Genie is a retired professor who taught Women's History and Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr College, and Villanova. Her husband Michael is a child and adult psychiatrist who still practices full time. They married in 1972 in Baltimore, where Genie grew up. At the time, Michael was at Johns Hopkins Medical School, and Genie was getting her Masters in Social Work at the University of Maryland.

Genie's concern for peace and justice issues started in the 10th grade when she began tutoring inner-city youth every Saturday in Baltimore. She worked as a social worker in Baltimore before getting her doctorate in American History at the University of Pennsylvania.

When she was 23 she joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF),

which was founded in 1915 by Jane Addams, the American social worker, peace activist, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. In 1977, Genie was chair of the International Committee of WILPF, and testified before the House Armed Services Committee against deployment of a new breed of nuclear-armed missiles in Europe. The missiles were finally removed when the U.S. and Soviet Union ratified the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1988.

While Genie continues to work with WILPF promoting peace and justice, Michael says he works on resolving conflicts at the individual and family level. Together they make a positive difference in the world.

## **Be a Pond Watcher**

As part of the Department of Environmental Protection grant application each fall, Mike Gately asks volunteer pond watchers on Sand and Hancock Ponds to report their total hours over the summer on the water looking out for invasive species.

This information is very helpful to him when completing the end of year report to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for our milfoil grant.

The grant application asks us to report volunteer hours by pond watchers, who boat, canoe, or kayak looking for anything out of the ordinary. Last year Mike had 15 pond watchers who spent 200 volunteer hours on the water.

Mike Reports: "Jesse Dubin continues to be a great resource. Two of the latest volunteers are Susan Lyons and Paula Hill. Paula found one plant in Sand Pond that had not been seen in lakes previously. Fortunately, it was not invasive, but interesting nonetheless, as historically this plant has been found in farmers fields, not on the bottom of a lake.

I encourage all lake residents to regularly monitor the lakes in front of their camps or when out boating, and to let me know if anything looks out of place."

### **How to be a Pond Watcher**

Lake Stewards of Maine has many videos and information on their website, [lakestewardsofmaine.org](http://lakestewardsofmaine.org), to help folks learn about invasive plants and what to look for. You don't need to be an expert, just learn to spot anything out of the ordinary. There are a lot of ways to get information.

You can print out a chart of Maine's 11 Most Unwanted Invasive Aquatic Plants from the Lake Stewards website. It is available on our HSPA website, [hspamaine.org](http://hspamaine.org), under Member Resources/Stop Invasive Species.

You can also download an app designed by Lake Stewards, called Maine Aquatic Phenomena, for your phone, iPad, or laptop, for \$2.99, from the Apple Store or Google Play Store. It's a field guide to Maine's flora and fauna, with a special section on Aquatic Invaders, including color photos and descriptions of invasive species.

If you want to go further, you can explore the Lake Stewards volunteer training program. Click on Volunteer Resources/ Invasive Plant Patrol Monitors/ Training and Certification. They offer a free six-hour Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop to become a Certified Plant Patroller.

### **What to Do If You Spot Something Suspicious**

Lake Stewards of Maine has a site for Reporting Suspicious Aquatic Species that will guide you on what to do if you see a plant that you think is an invasive species. Click on Monitoring/Invasive Aquatic Species/Reporting Suspicious Aquatic Species.

The site includes a link to an aquatic phenomena photo submission form, where you can send a photo to Lake Stewards for identification.

There are also detailed instructions on how to safely remove a sample of the plant for a readable digital photo. Lake Stewards emphasizes:

"Be very careful when collecting a plant specimen. Fragmentation could result in an invasive plant spreading to other areas of the lake. DO NOT attempt to pull the plant out by its roots. (This is very important!)"

"When collecting samples from a live lake plant, please be sure not to remove the whole plant. Snip off one or two pieces of healthy stem from the plant (roughly 8 to 12 inches long) including as many different features as you can (flowers, fruits, leaves, etc.). For rooted floating leaves, be sure to include as much of the stem as possible.

"Keep the specimen in water, in a cool place such as a refrigerator. This will keep it fresh until you are ready to photograph or ship."

You can also mark the spot where you found the suspicious plant with a weighted buoy made from a common bleach bottle weighted with a brick.

Hancock & Sand Ponds Association  
PO Box 856  
Denmark, ME 04022

*May 2022 Newsletter*

