

East Pond Association
Edith Cornwall, President
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To Whom it May Concern:

It is essential that the East Pond Association keeps Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBIs) on duty at the Public Boat Launch on East Pond as many hours as possible. This is by far our biggest expense each year and as such we are again asking for a donation from the town of \$2,500.

In 2020, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, owners of the East Pond Public Boat Ramp, removed the kiosk that acted as our only place to post information about invasive plants, water quality or fishing rules for the public.

In July of 2021, Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP), an invasive, highly aggressive, noxious, aquatic, perennial weed was discovered in the Serpentine, a 3 mile long bog/stream leading to the East Pond Dam which flows into Old Mill Stream and on to North Pond. Each CLP plant can have as many as 100 tiny turions, a type of bud that can continue to grow under the ice or lay dormant for up to 5 years. As the plants die back, it can result in masses of dead vegetation, increasing phosphorus levels and possible algae blooms.

In 2022, the 7 Lakes Alliance Dive Team spent most of their time from May until September pulling CLP plants in an effort to control the infestation. A floating buoy placed in the Serpentine by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife requests that boaters avoid the last ½ mile of the Serpentine prior to the East Pond Dam (the infected area). The CLP Invasion is a very serious problem which could potentially affect all of the Belgrade Lakes. We anticipate spending up to \$12,000 for remediation in 2023. To that end, the EPA has implemented a fund raising effort that is focused specifically on this issue.

The East Pond Association spent \$10,239.50 in 2022 for hired CBIs and supplemented additional hours using volunteers. We are obligated to educate the public about our CLP invasion by chatting with the boaters (many coming from other towns or states) and handing out our printed brochures. The Courtesy Boat Inspectors are our voice and our educators. Our Goal for 2023 is to increase the Courtesy Boat Inspection hours to include from Labor Day until October 12th. This is an extremely active boating period with fishing tournaments, boating visitors and residents who remove their boats as the season ends. We expect this expanded coverage to cost upwards of \$18,000 as it will require paid inspectors as many of our volunteers are seasonal residents.

The East Pond Association sincerely appreciates your continuing support. Please help us keep those essential Courtesy Boat Inspectors at the East Pond state owned Public Boat Launch.

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