



Dear BLA Members and Friends,

November 15, 2023

Our mission is to protect Great and Long Ponds. Protecting the lakes means protecting the water quality of the lakes. Clear water unencumbered by invasive weeds or algae and the call of the loon on a mid-summer evening are the reasons we continue to defend our lakes.

The BLA membership raises funds to continue our efforts of controlling milfoil and preventing algal blooms; we thank you for your contributions. Those donations allow us to fund the CBI (courtesy boat inspection), YCC (youth conservation corps), Lake Smart, and milfoil reduction programs. In an effort to expand our membership we have added a new category - youth membership. By engaging the next generation early, we can continue the tradition of families being members for generations.

Crazy about Loons? We are too. Thanks especially to board members – Dick Greenan and Nattie and Blaine Horrocks for their hands-on work. The funding of loon studies/loon preservation project will continue. This summer 2 Colby interns monitored and tracked loon chicks on Great and Long Ponds. We are exploring the idea of having a “loon cam” where you can watch a loon on Great or Long Pond from anywhere in the world – stay tuned for further details.

Moving forward, we have been and continue to work with the 7 Lakes Alliance (7 LA) on Watershed Based Management plans for Great and Long Ponds. The goal here is to reduce the amount of dirt/phosphorous that gets into the lakes. 319 grants from the state and increased funding from the towns of Rome and Belgrade are aiding in our efforts. The herbicide treatment done by the State of Maine greatly reduced the need for pulling of milfoil in the Great Meadow Stream for the past two years. But we must remain vigilant in monitoring and remediating milfoil in our lakes. We continue to face new challenges like the catch on Great Pond by a CBI (courtesy boat inspector) of a fragment of Curly-leaved Pond Milfoil coming from another state. This could have been costly for our future. While the milfoil infestation in Great Meadow Stream has been knocked down by the herbicide treatment – we know full well that it can and will come back.

This year we were able to increase our funding to YCC and the CBI programs as a result of spending less on milfoil removal. CBI inspections will continue through Indigenous Peoples weekend. We assisted 7LA by providing \$20,000 to aid in the hiring of an erosion control manager and we gave \$20,000 towards the purchase of a \$37,000 truck which allowed the YCC crews to run much more efficiently. The results of these investments will help to keep the dirt and invasive aquatics out of the lakes.

So please consider donating to this – our annual appeal. We work to get as much as possible out of every dollar donated to keep our lakes healthy for your future enjoyment.

Best regards,

Bert Languet
President, BLA

The BLA is a registered 501 (C)3 organization. Dues and gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.