



Dear BLA Members and Friends,

November 15, 2024

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. Views of the night sky and sounds of stillness in the morning fog are all part of what we cherish about our lakes.

The BLA membership raises funds to continue our efforts to control invasive aquatic plants 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, erosion control, and milfoil reduction programs. Our expanded membership option, the youth membership, has been a success and getting the next generation involved is vital to our future.

Funding of the loon studies/loon preservation project will continue. This summer we again had two Colby interns monitoring and tracking loon chicks on Great and Long Ponds.

Moving forward, we will continue to work with the 7 Lakes Alliance 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. Section 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 three years. But we must remain vigilant in monitoring and remediating milfoil and other aquatic invasive plants, such as curly-leafed pond weed, in our lakes. 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. We again assisted the 7 Lakes Alliance by providing \$20,000 to aid in the funding for an erosion control manager this year. The results of these investments will help to keep dirt and invasive aquatic plants 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