



Dear BLA Members and Friends,

December 14, 2020

While Covid-19 may have kept some of you from coming to the lakes this year, the work of the BLA continued with modifications. Great Pond saw a greater than normal amount of boats due to folks utilizing the lakes for recreation when many other venues were closed due to Covid-19. Our annual meeting was virtual yet was well attended with over 200 participants. We hope that by next year we will be able to return to our live annual meeting where we can all get together and celebrate. Our two main efforts continue to be water quality and invasive milfoil.

Water Quality is affected by the amount of phosphorous in the lakes. The summer of 2020 was one where both Great Pond and Long Pond remained reasonably clear. However, our neighbors in North Pond saw their lake turn green with an algal bloom in mid-July putting a damper on their summer usage. And so, it is now more important than ever to continue our efforts in stemming excess phosphorous from entering the watershed. Our fundraising continues to aid programs like LakeSmart, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) and the research done by the 7 Lakes Alliance and Colby College. Watershed management plans are being developed for both Long Pond and Great Pond that will guide us in keeping our lakes healthy for generations to come.

Invasive Variable Milfoil does not stop growing. Our ongoing efforts continue to thwart its spread and we need to remain vigilant. It is a problem that will likely not go away, but we are managing to keep it mainly contained in the Great Meadow Stream in North Bay. We spent \$120,000 on Milfoil prevention in 2020 through our partnership with the 7 Lakes Alliance and New England Milfoil-more than 60% of the total 2020 cost.

In addition, we continued with our Loon Preservation Project in 2020. It was a tough year for chicks and, thankfully, we are proactively studying the situation. You may have seen the photos and posts on our Facebook page and Newsletter. A clean lake with no milfoil would still not be the same without the call of the loons.

Please know that we use the funds that you send to us very carefully and prudently.

\$120,000 for Milfoil work
\$33,880 for Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)
\$15,000 for Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)
\$20,000 for Erosion Control efforts and LakeSmart
\$15,250 for the Long Pond Management Plan and inspections
\$10,000 for our Loon Preservation Project
\$5,000 was budgeted for our Septic System initiative

Our partner, the 7 Lakes Alliance, facilitates most of these programs for us while we provide the funding. We ask that you continue to donate to this annual appeal and encourage your friends to do so as well. Together, we can make a difference and we can keep our sacred lakes special.

With great appreciation,



Carol Johnson, President and
Your BLA Board of Directors

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| George Atkinson | Paul Feinberg | Joy Intriago | Jack Schultz |
| John Atkinson | Liz Fontaine | Richard Labelle | Maggie Shannon |
| Polly Beatie | Kirt Furbush | Bert Languet | Bill Shontell |
| Andy Cook, PhD | Stephanie Gardner | Lynn Matson | Steve Smith |
| Pat Donahue | Dick Greenan | Gail Rizzo | Dr.Alex Wall |