

**G.P.P.O.A**



**Georges Pond Property Owners Association  
PO Box 30  
Franklin, Maine 04416**

*Paul Grant, President  
Dana Shaw, Vice President  
Janet Staub, Secretary  
Hubene Brodie, Treasurer*

*Stuart Branch, Director  
Kathi Kelly, Director  
Brian Friedman, Director  
Diane Fucetola, Director  
Joe Jordan, Director*

**Mission Statement: We, the property owners of Georges Pond are united to: promote the protection and enhancement of the water quality of Georges Pond, preserve its ecological, economic, recreational and aesthetic value and work with members and other interested parties to monitor water quality, and promote responsible land use practices**

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Dear Fellow Property Owners of Georges Pond,

Last night, as I looked northward from the south shore, I was pleasantly pleased to see the glitter of lights that indicate that summer is almost upon us. I can see that some of you have returned once again to your little piece of heaven...a stark contrast to the single light that I saw one bitter cold evening late last fall. My greatest pleasure in the association has been your acquaintance and friendship. To all of you who write the little notes with your dues, I sincerely treasure every word of kindness and encouragement.

For now, I am only here for the weekends as work & family commitments keep me very busy during the week. Some years I have plenty of time off in the summer, others are bad years...this will be one of the worst...I hope by mid July, things will change and I will be here all week long despite the long commute to work...it is worth it.

While this past winter was mild and we enjoyed every moment; it is with sad heart, that I tell you of the passing of one of our members- Ed Rodgers passed away last fall after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was a good friend and neighbor and I will miss him dearly.

On the brighter side of things, I am aware that two of my very close friends and neighbors have beaten their battle with cancer. YEAH! Go LT & SC...And while getting older is really something that most of us dread, returning for another season on Georges Pond is a good thing and well worth celebrating. Speaking of celebrating, you will want to keep your eyes on the sky on 4<sup>th</sup> of July (weather permitting)...I don't know where they come from but you can always depend on a good show from the diving rock or elsewhere on the pond...I promise...

This past year has been a very good year for Lisa and I. We had all four of my children in college, a statement that I am very proud to make. Kirk graduated with his Masters, Morgan

enters his 4<sup>th</sup> year in Microbiology, Aaron enters his second year in Mechanical Engineering and Miranda continues her education without a clear major in mind at this point...and I am OK with that...And, they are all doing it pretty much all on their own...another statement that I am very proud of...Lisa's practice in Ellsworth (Primary Health) continues to grow even in this tough economy and I am still gainfully employed at the mill in Bucksport. I am dumb, fat and happy...what could be better...

For those of you who are lucky enough to spend the winter on the pond, this spring has surely been a spring to remember. While the exact statistics escape me at this moment, I recall that most points; south of Maine, had more snow in February than we did...While some parts of the state (Western Mountains and Northern Maine) had heavy snowfall, the downeast coast had little to no snowfall after February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Before I begin to list our accomplishments, I would like to apologize for the long time since your last newsletter. As with most busy people, the things that we must do tend to get in the way of things that we want to do...and this is the case with me... The officers of the association are also very busy people and they willingly set aside some of their time to work on association issues...I thank them all for their efforts over the past three years.

When I took on this job, I had a lot of ideas on what needed to be done and how to grow the organization. Unfortunately, a lot of these ideas have fallen by the wayside as we completed those things that were higher on the priority list.

Some of you are probably wondering if the GPPOA is still alive, I assure you that we are alive and well, but we need to grow the membership and membership involvement. All of us are smarter than any of us and it is our unity that will make us a strong presence. As an association, we are still in the infancy of our development. For the past three years, the officers of the association have been busy trying to carry out the mission of the association on the behalf of the membership and I am very proud of our accomplishments. This year, most of us are up for election. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to give up a little of their time to be the leaders of the GPPOA.

For those of you who financially support the organization but for whatever reason do not or have not been able to attend the meetings, I sincerely thank you for your support and I will try to capture some of the highlights.

- First and foremost: We have our own web site...GPPOA.org...Brian Friedmann first built the web site in 2007 and this past winter built a new one...He has lots of nice information on the site but needs our help with information...Go to the web site and see for yourself. Please reward Brian for all of his hard work with some personal input...be it a receipt, a story or other information that would be nice to have on our web site.
- Water quality testing continues, thanks to the Water Quality Team of Dana, Joe and the brains of the outfit...Dick Hall. This past winter; Dick did some additional testing and I cannot do the analysis justice here in this letter, so I will send the letter and test results to Brian for the web site... For those of you who may not know, water testing is very expensive. We have spent a several hundred dollars testing samples of water from several points around the pond. I can assure you from personal experience, water quality testing is very expensive, and we are doing it at a fraction of the cost thanks to our water quality

team. The good news is that our water quality is good. Thank you so much for your hard work and technical data that reassures us that our pond is a healthy place for our children and grandchildren to play.

- Rocco and Chuck Blatherwick conducted a survey of the plant-life around some of the shallow areas of the pond. (We all need to educate ourselves and be more aware of invasive plant species...information is on our web site...check it out...Hint... Hint) Rocco reported that they did not find any dangerous or destructive invasive plant species growing. Again, thank you very much...
- In 2008, Dick conducted a suite of tests for those chemicals that might be used around blueberry fields (herbicides or pesticides.) The test results and report indicated only minor traces (0-2 parts per million) of some of those chemicals. Dick thinks that this is probably residual traces of chemicals from days gone by when those chemicals were thought to be safe.
- Brian took some Secci Disk readings. This is a test of water clarity and is used as a signal of water quality problems. Again, ours has not changed that much over the years. You can read more about it on GPPOA.org...Thank you very much Brian.
- For the past two years, association members and others have conducted a clean-up walk on Georges Pond Road. It is surprising how much trash we collected. I expect that we will be doing it again this year so please look forward to the announcement and pitch in...This is the driveway to our home, why wouldn't we pick it up?
- Some of the things that take place around the pond are acts of kindness by property owners on behalf of the association. Such is the case with Merl Cousins and the marking of the loon nests and the middle ground rocks. You can see Merl and his wife gliding around the pond on the party boat with tons of people on board most good days...Say thanks if you see him...
- Other friends, who live on or near the pond year round, frequently check their neighbor's camps for damage after a snow storm or period of high winds.
- Others write letters to the selectmen, advising of them of issues that may adversely affect the pond.
- Some have written letters to Cherryfield Foods (local blueberry growers) to request that they stop aerial spraying of the fields in close proximity to the pond as required by law. Many of you may remember the days before it became unlawful to use aerial spraying in close proximity to the pond.
- I am sure I have not covered it all...but to all of you who give of your time; I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This is just a sampling of the things that we have accomplished. Our work does not stop here. We need your help to continue...

As the president of the association, it is my responsibility to uphold the mission statement and bylaws of the association. Frequently, we receive requests for funding some event or cause which does not support our mission. So far, I am happy to say that we have been very frugal with the spending of your dollars. However, we need to have checks and balances in place so that your money continues to be spent on those things that you see as appropriate. This year I will be introducing some bylaw changes that I hope will accomplish this task.

As a point worth noting, the Georges Pond Property Owners Association has a friend on the Franklin Board of Selectman. This past spring, Ian Staub was elected as First Selectman to the Franklin Board of Selectman. Ian and his wife Janet live on the Georges Pond Road on the north shore of Georges Pond. Janet is the association secretary and Ian has been a very active member of the association ever since they moved here a few years ago. Congratulations to Ian and hooray for us...

As you may or may not know, the diving board on the diving rock in the middle of the pond was placed there by Paul Giles. Paul put the diving board there several years ago at his own personal expense of several hundred dollars. He did this because as a young man he remembers having a similar board on this rock to jump from. My guess is that this board is much nicer... The diving board is for you to use at your own personal risk. If you have young children that want to use the rock, you should take the time to go out there and see for yourself how safe he has tried to make the area. Please make sure that your children know where and how to jump safely.

Paul also is responsible for the flag pole and flag that flies on this same rock. This past winter, Paul removed it to make some repairs. Paul told me that this is a new flag that now flies over the rock. He said, "I buy the good ones." This spring, Paul approached me and inquired if the association might be willing to make a small donation for the flag and flag pole maintenance costs. I told him I would bring it up and ask the membership. I would like to here from you. I would like to know what **members think** we should do.

This year is the election years for most of the officers. Elections will take place in August. There will be more information put out later in the year but for now, we need volunteers to fill most positions. Two of our officers have met the term limits according to our bylaws. One of them has indicated that he/she will not be running again. I have someone who is willing to take over as president; I see this as a good thing as I have not had the time to commit to the association as I thought I would have. I do plan to stay active, but in less of a leadership role.

In closing, I would repeat my requests.

- I encourage you to support the association financially with a \$25.00 annual contribution and get involved if you are willing. This pays for GPPOA activities, dues and expenses.
- I encourage you to check out the [GPPOA.org](http://GPPOA.org) web site and provide some input.
- Tell me what you think about a contribution to the Diving Rock Flag fund.
- If you know someone who would be willing to run for an office, please let me know

Hope to see and here from you soon.

Sincerely,  
Paul Grant  
President, GPPOA  
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