

## **Cushman Pond Dive Report for Sunday May 24th 2015**

### **Conditions:**

Surface water temp 55<sup>0</sup>; Estimated water temp at depth 42<sup>0</sup>; Thermocline at 7' depth

Air temp 62<sup>0</sup> and sunny

Water visibility at depth approximately 2', very silty

### **Participants:**

2 divers (Doug Faille, Scott Gregory)

0 snorkelers – Scuba Divers only

6 Boat Support (Bryant Buck, Ellen Delaney, Joe Davis, Jane Davis, Shannon Bell, Michael Bell)

9 Ground Support-Reporting, equipment, driving; (Jim Buck, Keith Rowe, Jim Rowe, Gene Spender-Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC), Diane Caracciolo (LIPPC), Elaine Bertwell, Barbara Buck, Joseph Kennett, and Melinda (Min) Kennett)

### **17 Total Participants**

Thanks to all who were able to attend the first survey and provide support. Some of the regulars were unavailable, but we were able to fill their spots with 7 new participants providing ground and boat support.

### **Dive Summary:**

The May 24<sup>th</sup> survey found a total of 4 plants for a volume of approximately .25 gallons. (1 quart) In comparison the first 2014 survey found 5 plants.

As in past years, this initial dive focused on the outlet cove. The 2 scuba divers performed a thorough survey of the area hindered by very poor visibility and cold water below the thermocline. Organized grid search or vectoring was not attempted as this was used as a shake-down survey to get the rust off. 4 boats provided assistance to the divers.

One plant was found between two mats under the arched tree off of the Cope lot. This has been a recurring site for plants. The plant was rooted and appeared to be starting new growth. This plant had one long stem of 20" and 4 other smaller stems.

3 other plants we found adjacent to the matted area approaching the south shore. These plants were lying across the bottom and possibly were broken off from larger plants in last September's surveys.

The harvest is shown in the enclosed picture. The larger rooted plant is shown to the right and the pieces to the other plants to the left. We couldn't reassemble them.



The marker buoy was reattached. No mats were moved.

Overall a good start to the year. We appear to have the large plant mass under control and last year's surveys left a relatively clean pond.

**Diver hours** for this survey were 3.0 hours each. Year To Date Diver Hours are: 6.0 Hours with 3.0 each for Doug Faille & Scott Gregory.

**Volunteer hours** totaled 30 including the preparation of this report. Year To Date Volunteer hours are: 30 hours

Approximate plant locations of the May 24<sup>th</sup> Dive are displayed in the attached map.

**Next Survey is: Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM at the Town Landing.**

This will be a full pond survey with 3 or more divers plus snorkelers. During this survey we plan to attempt having the boats/canoes guide the scuba divers in straight lines to perform a more complete search. We're adapting our surveys to hopefully avoid any misses of plants and the 2013 plant mass.

In addition to the dive we'll need ground support to cut up some of the larger old benthic mats to reconfigure them as smaller mats which are easier to move and adjust.

All are welcome to attend. We can always use more volunteers and encourage all camp, homeowners, landowners and friends of Cushman Pond to participate in the surveys even if only to stop by for the start.

To help with planning, here's the schedule for 2015:

1. ~~Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – 9:30AM Divers Only Cove Focus~~ **Complete**
2. Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 9:30AM First Full Survey
3. Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:30AM
4. Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:30AM
5. Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> - 9:30AM
6. Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9:30AM – If Needed
7. Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> - 9:30AM – Annual Picnic

LWRMA Close Out Survey – To be scheduled

There's more dives than in past years, but we want to maintain control and be milfoil free in 2019.

#### **Offseason News:**

Gene Spender, our man from LIPPC, was very busy for us this past winter and into the spring. In addition to getting our permits, Gene got us a grant of \$6,840 to cover our expenses for the year. This will fund a LWRMA year-end close out survey in September for \$3,900 and gives us \$2,940 to cover our material & dive expenses. For those who aren't aware scuba divers are reimbursed for their dive time during the surveys.

From year to year, our Cushman efforts are funded by the Annual Maine DEP grants and supplemented by the initial milfoil grant that was obtained by Judge Mike Miller. The Miller Grant now called the Cushman Fund was originally \$20,000 or more and now stands at approximately \$17,100. At our current spend rate of more than \$6,000 per year we'd deplete this fund in less than 3 years without grant funding so the Annual DEP Grants are critical to our efforts.

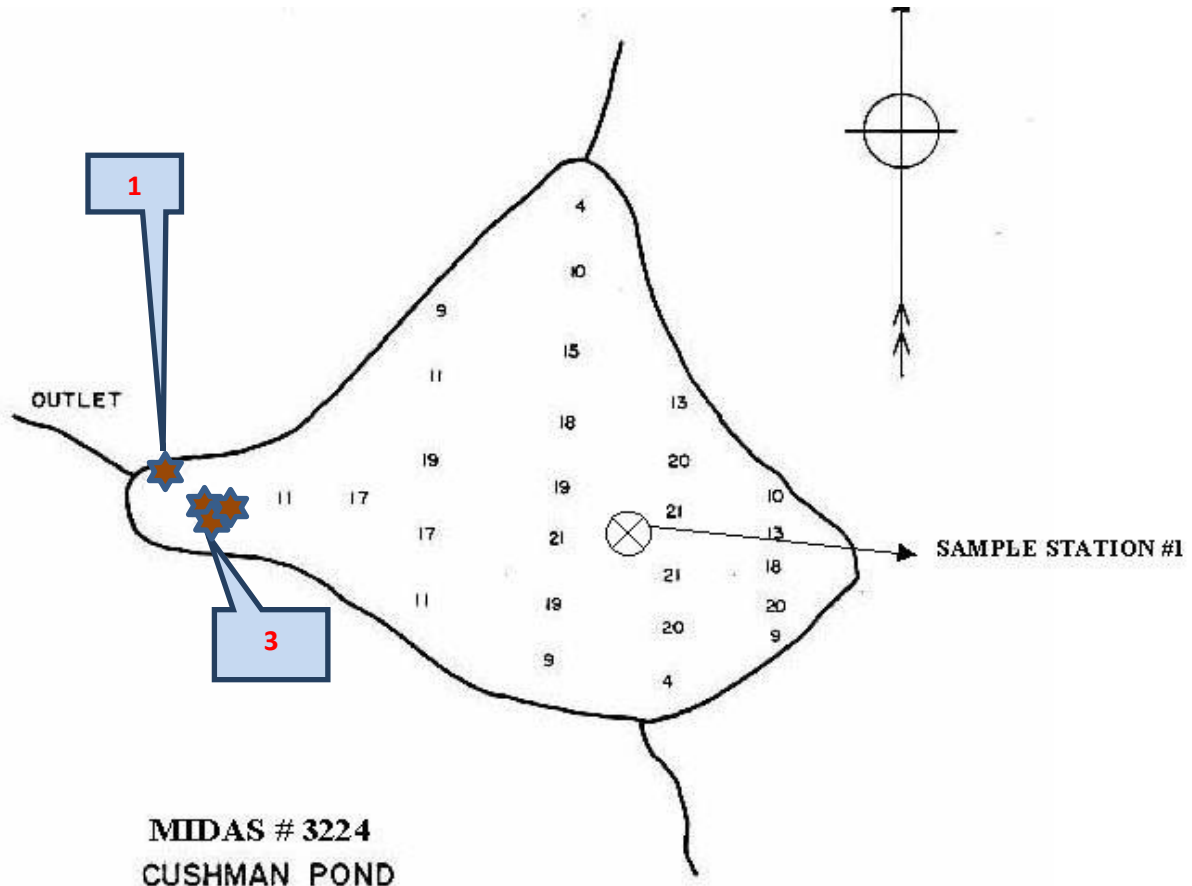
The grant proposals are scored competitively based upon eligible manual plant control activities and we have scored well. One of the scoring components is volunteer participation, so your attendance at the surveys helps us doubly, both in actual assistance at the dive and in improving our grant scoring in getting us funding.

More to follow throughout the summer. Thanks for you continued support,

Jim Buck

# Cushman Pond Milfoil Sightings for May 24, 2015

= 4 Plants Harvested for approximately .25 gallons (1 quart)



MIDAS # 3224  
CUSHMAN POND

LOVELL TWP., OXFORD CO., MAINE

AREA 32 ACRES

