

## **Cushman Pond Dive Report for Saturday July 4th 2015**

### **Conditions:**

Surface water temp 71<sup>0</sup>; Estimated water temp at 9' = 61<sup>0</sup>;

Thermocline at 19' depth;

Air temp 68<sup>0</sup> and partly cloudy;

Water visibility at depth approximately 2'.

### **Participants:**

**2 divers** - (Doug Faille, Scott Gregory)

**2 third lung-** (hookah) divers (Greg Buck, Bryant Buck)

**4 snorkelers** – (Marissa Arsenault, Charlie Boyle, Jim Buck, Steve Cullen)

**21 Boat & Barge Support-** (Samantha Arsenault, Bridget Boyle, Lindsay St Cyr, Paul Arsenault, Scott Buck, Brian Boyle, Dianne Buck, Brian Rowe, Caleb Rowe, Jan Newhouse, Joe Davis, Nancy Crones, Jane Davis, Rick Andersen, Nick Arsenault, Brandon Mailhut, Jim Rowe, Mia Crones, Matthew Crones, Mike Roberts, Karen Rowe)

**11 Ground Support-** Reporting, photography, equipment, transportation; ( Gene Spender-Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC), Mary Boyle, Patty Boyle, Barbara Buck, Kristen Buck, Parker Buck, Hadley Buck, Elaine Bertwell, Kathy Cullen, Seamus Cullen, Liam Cullen )

**40 Total Participants**

### **Dive Summary:**

We had a record turnout for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with 40 total participants. Because of the great support, we were able to put 8 divers in the water (2 scuba, 2 on the new hookah, and 4 snorkelers) plus an armada of 10 boats and also plenty of ground support.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> survey found a total of 4 plants for a volume of approximately one quart (.25 gallons) bringing the year-to-date for 3 surveys to 13 plants and approximately one gallon volume. In comparison through the end of June in 2014 we had found 16 plants.

During this survey we were also able to use two new tools for the first time; the airline hookah and the "barge." The airline hookah, a.k.a. third lung, consists of an air compressor floating on the water with two 60 foot air lines supporting two independent divers.



Last October, a group of us visited the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) in Bridgton where they did a dry demonstration of the hookah and explained their process and techniques. After the demo we decided that the Hookah would be a good way to put more divers in the deeper water where the last plant mass had grown.

The “barge” was toggled together by Brian & Caleb Rowe. It consisted of their rowboat towing their swimming raft powered by an electric motor. Thanks to Gene Spender, who got us a permit from the State to use electric motors during the milfoil surveys.

Sorry I didn’t get any pictures of the barge.

The hookah divers performed a survey of the deep waters of the cove and then working with the barge removed 5 of the mats from near the buoy. Working with a float bag, this was reported to be the easiest removal of the mats ever.

The scuba divers and snorkelers broke into two groups and each started at sites away from the cove to get a different perspective from our usual surveys. One crew started at Doug Faille’s dock at the southeast corner and almost immediately found 3 relatively small plants growing near the site of the find in the June 14<sup>th</sup> dive. This site had not been matted and this appeared to re-growth from the roots in the area.

This spot was matted after the plants were removed.

The second group of divers put in at the Bucks' docks and made their way back to the cove. A single plant with one large stem was found near the outlet north of the dam. The plant was growing in a heavily matted area between two mats.

This spot was matted after the plants were removed.

All four of these plants appear to be new 2015 growth and were smaller plants from 13-28".

While these activities were taking place, Jan Newhouse, standing in his ~~paddleboard~~ canoe, checked the inlet weedbed in the northwest corner. No plants were found.

The east and north shores were not checked in this survey.

Following the survey, with permission from the owners, some of the group removed fallen tree limbs from the water near the fallen birch at the edge of the outlet cove. The limbs provided an excellent hiding spot for milfoil to root and also were a danger to snorkelers and divers in the surveys.

The harvest is shown in the enclosed picture.



We continue to believe that we have last year's large plant mass under control and are making progress. The next 8 weeks will tell.

**Diver hours** for this survey were 4.0 hours each. Year To Date Diver Hours are: 20.0 Hours with 10.0 each for Doug Faille & Scott Gregory.

**Hookah Hours** for this survey were a total of 6. Year To Date Hookah hours are: 6.

**Volunteer hours** totaled 65 including the preparation of this report. Year to Date Volunteer hours are: 123 hours.

Approximate plant locations of the July 4<sup>th</sup> and Year To Date Dives are displayed in the attached map.

### **Future Plans:**

Our next dive plans to focus on the deeper water beginning in the outlet cove. We'll try to have the scuba & hookah divers swim almost shoulder to shoulder in an organized grid search for as far as possible.

We'll also have the snorkelers perform another check of the shallow shore water and perform a quick survey of the north and east shores that weren't covered during the July 4 survey.

We'll need additional snorkelers, gear is available, if anyone is interested.

### **Next Survey is: Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM at the Town Landing.**

To help with your 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 Complete~~
3. ~~Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – 9:30AM Complete~~
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 – followed that evening by the Annual Picnic

LWRMA Close Out Survey – To be scheduled

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.

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

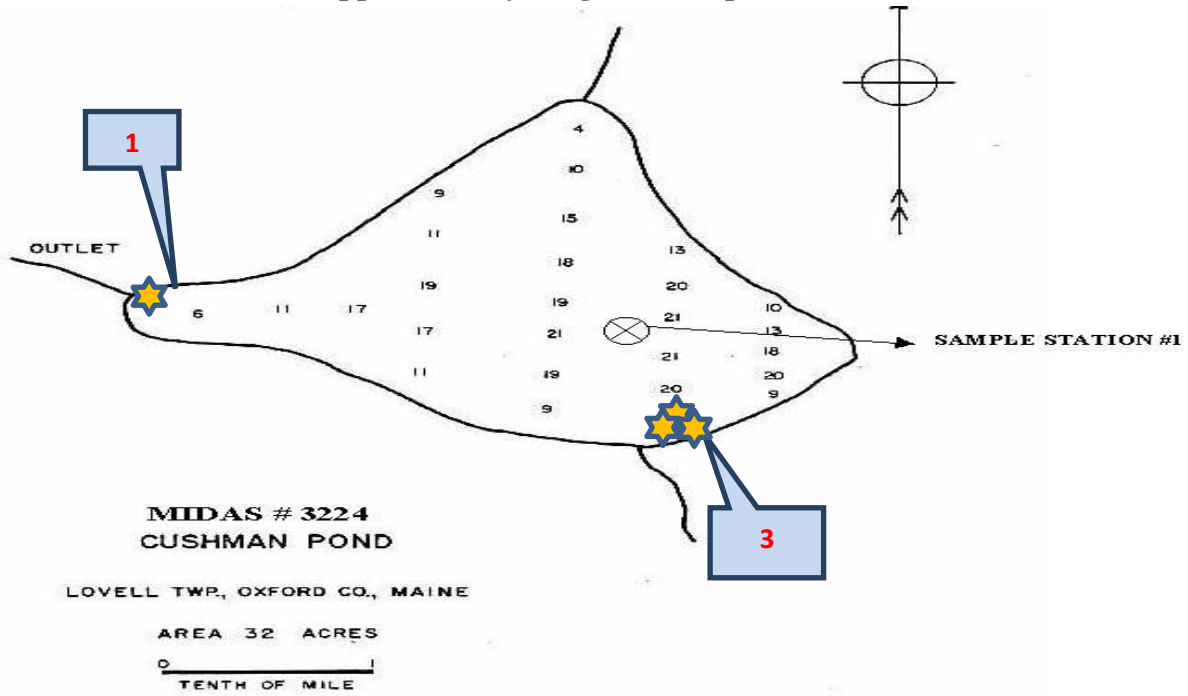
Thanks for you continued support,

Jim Buck

<b>Cushman Pond Milfoil Surveys</b>								
<b>2014 Results</b>								
<b>Date:</b>	<b>31-May</b>	<b>28-Jun</b>	<b>26-Jul</b>	<b>9-Aug</b>	<b>30-Aug</b>	<b>21-Sep</b>	<b>2014 Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Location:</b>								
Cove/Town Landing	5	6	9	9	6	23	58	74%
SE Weedbed	1	10	4	0	0	0	15	19%
NorthWest Shore	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	4%
South Shore	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b># Participants:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>97</b>	
<b>2015 Results</b>								
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24-May</b>	<b>13-Jun</b>	<b>4-Jul</b>	<b>18-Jul</b>			<b>2015 Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Location:</b>								
Cove/Town Landing	4	4	1				9	69%
SE Weedbed	0	1	3				4	31%
NorthWest Shore	0	0	0				0	0%
South Shore	0	0	0				0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Est Volume (Gallons)</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.25</b>				<b>1.00</b>	<b>Gallons</b>
<b># Participants:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>40</b>				<b>71</b>	

**Cushman Pond Milfoil Sightings for July 4, 2015**

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



**Cushman Pond Milfoil 2015 Sightings through July 4, 2015**

**= 13 Plants Harvested for approximately 1 gallon (4 quarts)**

