

Cushman Pond Dive Report for Saturday July 18th 2015

Conditions:

Surface water temp 73⁰; Estimated water temp at 8' = 58⁰;

Thermocline at 8' depth;

Air temp 62⁰ and cloudy;

Water visibility at depth approximately 2'.

Participants:

3 divers - (Doug Faille, Scott Gregory, Jackey Bailey)

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

2 snorkelers – (Charlie Boyle, Jim Buck)

6 Boat & Barge Support- (Dianne Buck, Brian Rowe, Gene Spender- Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee (LIPPC), Joe Davis, Todd Fulshaw, Sue Fulshaw)

2 Ground Support & Visitors- (Selectman Bob Drew assisted with transportation and ground support, Selectman Turf Ramsden visited)

15 Total Participants

Dive Summary:

The July 18th survey had a delayed start due to poor weather conditions and began after 10AM. The survey found a total of 6 plants for a volume of approximately one quart (.25 gallons) bringing the year-to-date for 4 surveys to 19 plants and approximately 1.25 gallon volume. (5 quarts) In comparison through the end of July in 2014 we had found 36 plants for an estimated volume of 5 gallons. (20 quarts) This means that we're not only finding approximately half as many plants as last year (19 vs 36 plants), but those plants that we're finding are much smaller with only 20% of the volume. (5 quarts vs 20 quarts)

The survey focused on checking the deep water areas in and adjacent to the outlet cove. The five divers (3 scuba & 2 hookah) tried a shoulder to shoulder grid search but had difficulty maintaining alignment. Nonetheless they scoured the deeper water of the cove and into the pond with particular attention to the edge of the cove where plants were found last September.



In addition to the deep water dive 2 snorkelers circumnavigated the entire pond covering areas not checked during the July 4th dive. No plants were found by the snorkelers.

Plant # 1 was found in 3' depth near the hanging tree off Joan Cope's lot. (A frequent site) It was the largest plant found at approximately 2' in length and had 5 or 6 stems.

Plant #2 was found to the right of Cliff Rowe's dock near the original milfoil site. It was also found in 3' depth.

Plant #3 was found approaching Keith Rowe's property on the Northwest shore outside the cove. A small plant was found in 5-6' of water near a tangle of submersed pine logs.

Plant #4 was found just outside the cove of the south shore adjacent to the Fulshaw's dock in about 10' of water. It appeared to be an old broken plant that had re-rooted. It had an old faded stem nearly 2' long and another new 10" stem.

Plants 5 & 6 were found in 6' of water to the right of Cope's leaning tree. (A frequent location) They were smaller plants growing amidst a group of mats. The site was matted after harvest.

The harvest is shown in the enclosed picture.



Diver hours for this survey were 10.5 hours. Year To Date Diver Hours are: 30.5 Hours with 13.5 each for Doug Faille & Scott Gregory and 3.5 for Jackey Bailey.

Hookah Hours for this survey were a total of 6. Year To Date Hookah hours are: 12.

Volunteer hours totaled 29 including the preparation of this report. Year to Date Volunteer hours are: 152 hours.

Approximate plant locations of the July 18th and Year To Date Dives are displayed in the attached maps.

News and Future Plans:

As noted in the attendee list Selectmen Bob Drew and Turf Ramsden visited the July 18th survey and thanked everyone for our continued dedication and effort. Turf had to head to work but Bob was able to stay around and helped transport some benthic mats.

In other news, Gene Spender informs us that on July 16th the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a PHAB study of the pond. A PHAB Study is a Physical Habitat study which performs a physical inventory of the pond along the shoreline assessing plant life, percentage of coverage, rocks, boulders, amount of wood on the bottom, trees along the shore, bird life, fish live. It also included a clarity measurement of the pond from ten different sites around the pond all equally spaced. No invasive plants were found during their study.

In future plans, we were recently contacted by Tom Hughes of LIPPC who heads the LIPPC Lake Surveyor subcommittee. Tom and some of his members hope to come to one of our upcoming dives as a practice exercise, possibly see some milfoil, and assist as boat support with our survey. The date has not been determined at this time. This is another example of adding more eyes to check the water.

Finally, we're also working with LIPPC with plans to potentially add a Cushman Pond page to their website. In addition to being a repository for reports and results, the page would provide contact information and survey dates to anyone not on our email list.

Next Survey is: Saturday August 8th 9:30AM at the Town Landing.

All are welcome to attend any surveys. 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 your planning, here's the schedule for 2015:

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

7. Saturday, September 5th - 9:30AM – followed that evening by the Annual Picnic

LWRMA Close Out Survey – To be scheduled

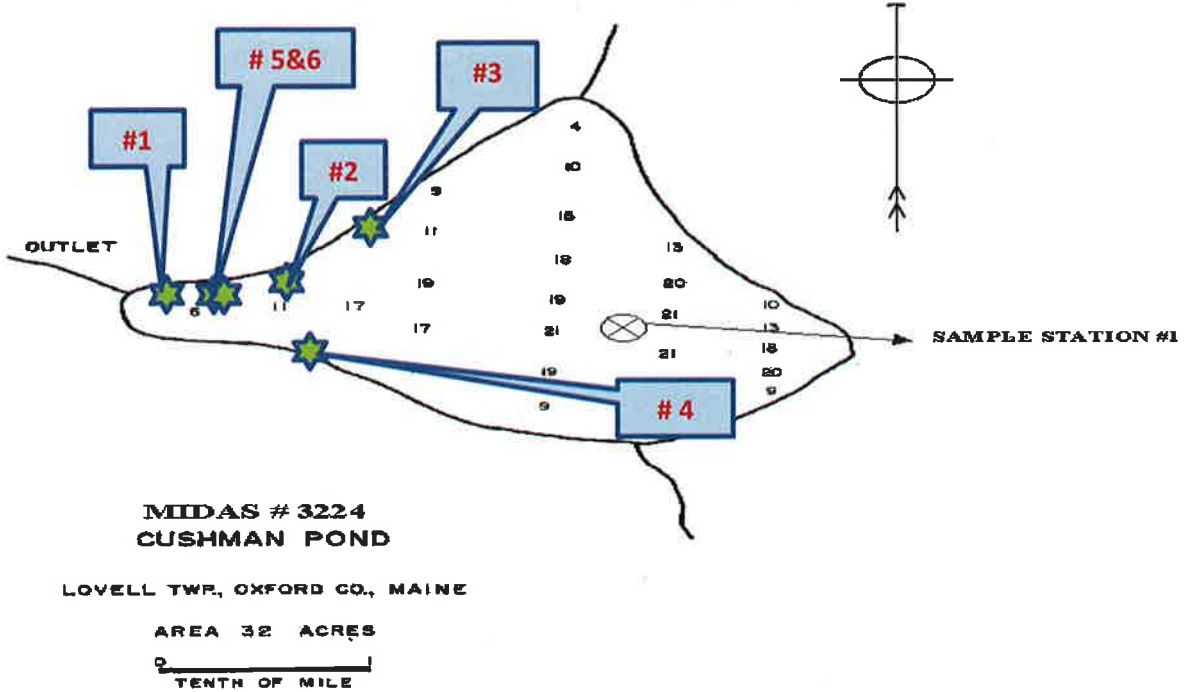
Thanks for you continued support,

Jim Buck

Cushman Pond Milfoil Surveys						
2014 Month End July Results						
Date:	31-May	28-Jun	26-Jul		YTD Total	%
Location:						
Cove/Town Landing	5	6	9		20	55%
SE Weedbed	1	10	4		15	42%
NorthWest Shore	0	0	0		0	0%
South Shore	0	0	1		1	3%
Total	6	16	14	0	36	100%
%	17%	44%	39%	0%	100%	
Est Volume (Gallons)	0.50	2.50	2.00		5.00	Gallons
# Participants:	5	19	13		37	
2015 Year To Date (YTD) Results						
Date:	24-May	13-Jun	4-Jul	18-Jul	YTD Total	%
Location:						
Cove/Town Landing	4	4	1	4	13	69%
SE Weedbed	0	1	3	0	4	21%
NorthWest Shore	0	0	0	1	1	5%
South Shore	0	0	0	1	1	5%
Total	4	5	4	6	19	100%
%	21%	26%	21%	32%	100%	
Est Volume (Gallons)	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.25	1.25	Gallons
# Participants:	17	14	40	15	86	
	YTD July 2014			YTD July 2015		
# Plants	36			19		
Volume (Quarts)	20.00			1.25		
# Survey Participants	37			86		

Cushman Pond Milfoil Sightings for July 18, 2015

= 6 Plants Harvested for approximately .25 gallons (1 quart)



Cushman Pond Milfoil 2015 Sightings through July 18, 2015

= 19 Plants Harvested for approximately 1.25 gallon (5 quarts)

