



To Whom It May Concern:

The Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) Program developed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in 2000 is the first line of defense against the spread of invasive plants. The Courtesy Boat Inspectors are educated, teach the public about plant infestations, and assist boaters by inspecting boats, trailers and gear before entering and as they leave East Pond.

It is illegal in the state of Maine to transport ANY aquatic plant on the outside of a vehicle, boat, trailer or equipment and may result in hefty fines. As water temperatures rise, the opportunity for future infestations increases thus prevention and education become even more important. In 2020, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, owners of the East Pond Public Boat Ramp, removed (and continue to refuse requests to replace it) the kiosk, our only place to post printed material about invasive plants, water quality or fishing/boating rules.

As I am sure you are aware, about a half mile of the Serpentine, the area prior to the East Pond Coffin Dam, is infested with Curly-leaf Pondweed an aggressive and difficult invasive plant to manage. The 7 Lakes Alliance Dive Team has been diligently hand pulling plants in this area since 2021. Plans are to do borings in the infested area to evaluate the quantity of dropped turions, the small, hard pinecone like seeds that are lying dormant in the soil. These turions can remain dormant for up to 5 years before growth reoccurs.

We are pleased to announce that major repairs to the Coffin Dam have been completed, which should provide a safer environment for the future. We also surveyed the East Pond Watershed identifying erosion sites. Data is being compiled so that we might qualify for future Maine Department of Environmental Protection administered 319 Nonpoint Source grants.

The East Pond Association is dedicated to supporting the Courtesy Boat Inspections at the East Pond Public Boat Launch especially since many boats come from other towns, states and infested lakes. In 2024 we maintained paid and volunteer inspectors from Memorial Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day including fishing tournaments with expenditures being \$15,562.37. With the increase in Maine's minimum wages, our 2025 CBI expenditures will increase.

The East Pond Association sincerely appreciates your continuing support. Please help us keep the essential Courtesy Boat Inspectors at the East Pond state owned Public Boat Launch and help us "Keep East Pond Picture Perfect".

Edith Cornwall - President
289 Brickett Point Ests.
Oakland, ME 04963

edined@roadrunner.com

(207) 649-9896

The East Pond Association is dedicated to promoting the protection and enhancement of water quality in East Pond and to preserve its ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic value.

East Pond Association is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization
www.eastpond.org