



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Friends of Moody Pond is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to preserve and protect Moody Pond and the surrounding neighborhood as a treasured resource for the enjoyment of the Saranac Lake community.



A Message From Our Board of Directors



FMP volunteer Board of Directors: (L-R) Heidi Kretser, Pres., Tristan Glanville, Treas., Jay Federman, V. Pres., Susan Rdzanek, Fndrng., and Donna Walsh, Sec.

Dear Friends,

In 2018, the discovery of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Moody Pond mobilized a group of neighbors to come together in search of a solution to bring the aquatic invasive plant under control. To date, we have received more than 350 contributions from individuals, businesses, and grants, making it possible to remove over 5000 individual plants totaling more than 1000 pounds of milfoil!

Volunteerism and community support has been a key component to our success. It is this support that allows the Friends of Moody Pond to raise the funds, enlist the dive teams, and rid the pond of EWM before it becomes unmanageable. We are making progress, with each harvest yielding less milfoil than the last, and we're hopeful that this will be the year we bring it under control.

One of the best means of managing the milfoil long-term is our individual diligence and collective perseverance. Stop aquatic hitchhikers by checking for and removing any plant remnants on watercraft (paddleboards, canoes, rafts) and fishing gear (rods, reels, bait buckets, and water shoes) before and after using them in Moody Pond. Clean, Drain, Dry, in every waterbody, every time.

Thank you, for your loyal commitment to 'preserve and protect Moody Pond as a treasure for all to enjoy.' We hope to see you around the Pond!

FMP Board Members: Heidi Kretser, Jay Federman, Tristan Glanville, Donna Walsh and Susan Rdzanek

Managing Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)



Aquatic invasive, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM).

In the springtime, there's no sign of the Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM); but if we look below the surface, beneath the decaying dieback of the bottom, we'll see its root crowns lying in wait. This aquatic invasive species (AIS) spreads easily and grows at an alarming rate. It crowds out native plants, reduces biodiversity, diminishes fish habitat and negatively impacts wetlands. If left unmanaged, it can form thick, floating mats of vegetation, clogging the water and hindering recreation. In short, the pond's entire ecosystem is threatened.

Hand-harvesting

Three years ago, after consulting with numerous environmental organizations and lake associations, *the Friends of Moody Pond (FMP)* made the decision to remove the invasive plant by hand-harvesting. We are making progress each year and in the spring of 2023 the *Upper Saranac Foundation Aquatic Invasive Dive Team* entered Moody Pond to begin pulling and bagging the invasive milfoil early in the seasonal growth process. The divers will return again during the summer months, and a third time in early fall. We have been advised that this approach will capture the plants in the growing season prior to them having the ability to grow, fragment, and seed the next generation.

We are determined to restore Moody Pond to the sparkling, pristine waterbody it's always been, but hand-harvesting has a high price tag. Hiring a 3-person dive team for three weeks comes at a cost of \$19,200, so *FMP* must continue its fundraising efforts. Once the invasive EWM is controlled we will revisit our strategy and focus on long-term management.



A diver hand-harvests Eurasian watermilfoil from Moody Pond.

Water Quality Monitoring & Tracking

Water Quality Testing



(L-R) Lija Treibergs, AWI Research Assoc., and Lisa Dumas, FMP member, collect water samples from Moody Pond.

Since 2021, the *Friends of Moody Pond* have been participating in the *Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP)* water quality monitoring program. *ALAP* is a joint project between *Protect the Adirondacks (PROTECT)* and Paul Smith's College *Adirondack Watershed Institute" (AWI)*.

Water sampling and monitoring is important to understanding how a body of water changes over time, what may be affecting the environment, and the overall health of its ecosystem. *FMP* volunteers collect water samples from Moody Pond throughout the summer, then *AWI* analyzes the samples for pH, alkalinity, conductivity, color, nitrogen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, transparency, chloride, sodium, and calcium. Over several years of collection, we expect the results will furnish *FMP* with a better

understanding of the effects of environmental pollutants and various stressors (ie. dog waste, salt, fertilizers), so that we can make informed decisions regarding the future health and stability of Moody Pond. Participation in this program is made possible through the generosity of *Lisa and Tim Dumas*.

Lake Management Tracking

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) partnered with the *Adirondack Park Agency (APA)* and the *Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA)* to develop a mobile monitoring tool, the *Lake Management Tracker*. Using GPS coordinates, dredging rakes, aqua scopes, and a cell phone, *FMP* volunteers monitor forty locations prior to and after hand-harvesting *EWM*. Information is uploaded to a database and results reported to assess the progress of our pond management efforts. We are proud to be the first to implement this tool prior to beginning *EWM* remediation.

Educational Outreach

A Walking Exploration Around Moody Pond



(L-R) Donna Walsh, and Dorothy and Jay Federman, are guided by Margaret Worden with 'The Green Handbook'.

Find Out More

There are several ways to learn more about *Friends of Moody Pond* online: Go to MountainLake.org to watch Jack LaDuke's online video for the *Adirondack Journal*, 'Tackling Milfoil', a first-hand look at our efforts to remove the EWM from Moody Pond. We also maintain an informational website and a social media presence on *Facebook*, *Instagram*, and *Twitter*. Our members occasionally set up informational tables on the pond. Watch for us when you visit!

Written by volunteers Kary Johnson and Margaret Worden, "A Walking Exploration Around Moody Pond - The Green Handbook" provides a self-guided, educational opportunity for people walking around Moody Pond to notice, identify and enjoy the diversity of species that make their home around the pond. Guided tours were offered in 2022 by Kary and Margaret using the handbook with good success and scheduled tours are planned for the future. The handbooks are available for public use and are located in the gray mailbox across from 401 Forest Hill Ave. They can also be found on the *Friends of Moody Pond* website at www.FriendsOfMoodyPond.org. The printing of the handbooks was made possible by the *Adirondack Garden Club* with an *Ellen Lea Paine Memorial Nature Fund grant*.



Bryce Barker, one of our volunteer members, shown tending an informational table on Moody Pond.

Fundraising & Thank you!

Annual Online Auction & Ice Cream Social Celebration

Each year since 2020, FMP members have organized an online auction featuring donated items and gift certificates from local businesses and artists. It's a fun way to participate in our fundraising efforts and we have always celebrated the conclusion of the auction by holding an Ice Cream Social on Moody Pond. As a **thank you to the community** for their support in preserving and protecting the pond, this event is entirely free and family friendly. Attendees viewed items and participated in the silent online auction while listening to **music performed gratis by local musicians *Tom Browne, Lisa and Klaus Meissner (Rustic Riders), Rocky James and Theresa Stephenson (Midnight Stargazers)*** Ice cream and supplies were donated by ***Donnelly's Ice Cream*** and ***Stewart's Shops***.



(L-R) Sarah Updegraff and Amy Ervin volunteer at the 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social.

Our In-kind Auction Donors

Adirondack Awards & Promo
Adirondack Carousel
Adirondack Health Fitness
Adirondack Lakes and Trails
Aldi Employees
Ampersound
Barley Sandwich
Barry Lobdell, local artist
Blue Line Compost Service
Blue Moon Café
The Book Nook

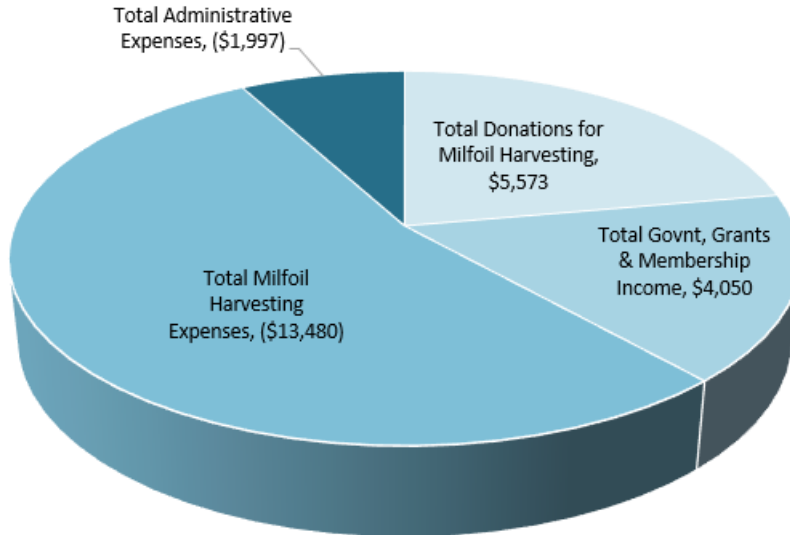
Bronx Zoo
Chris Brescia
Curtis Lumber
Gail Brill, local Artist
Carcuzzi Car Care Center
Cinderella's of Lake Placid
Coakley Home & Hardware
Craig Woods Golf Course
Dewey Mountain Friends
Donna Walsh
Downhill Grill

Dreamweavers
Jay Federman
Fiddlehead Bistro
Hamlets to Huts
HomEnergy Services
Hotel Saranac
Human Power Planet Earth
Just Nails
Mini EuroMart
Nori's Village Market
Palace Theater

Paul Smiths College VIC
Riverside Pet Supplies
Romano's Saranac Lanes
Rustic Riders
S & S Hair Design
St. Regis Outfitters
Eleanor Sweeney, local artist
Tractor Supply
Twin 'D' Automotive
Valerie Patterson, local artist
Wildlife Conservation Society
Woods & Waters

Financials & Membership

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Income & Expenses



Local Government Support & Grants

Town of North Elba - \$2,000
 Adirondack Garden Club - \$1000
 Town of St Armand - \$500

Beginning Balance	\$36,494
Deposits	\$9,623
Withdrawals	-\$15,477
Ending Balance	\$30,640

Our Members

Ona Allen
 Katie & Bryce Finnegan/Barker
 Heather & Tom Rudisill/Browne
 Lisa & Tim Dumas
 Stephen Ettinger
 Dorothy & Jay Federman
 Percy & Tristan Glanville
 Heidi & Andy Kretser/Keal
 Tammy LaLande
 Lisa & Klaus Meissner
 Tyler Merriam
 Shirley & Don Morgan
 Susan & Chris Rdzanek
 Margaret & Steve Worden/Sonnenberg
 Kary & Curt Johnson/Stager
 Donna Walsh
 Glenn White



Friends of Moody Pond
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www.FriendsOfMoodyPond.org

