

FRIENDS OF MOODY POND

PO Box 1127, Saranac Lake, NY 12983
FriendsOfMoodyPond.org

May 2024

Dear

Moody Pond reflects more than just the sky, forest, and mountains; it reflects us, too. For the last two centuries our community has become an increasingly influential component of the pond's watershed; it holds much of the history of Saranac Lake in its sparkling waters. In the early 1900's it was the site of a sliding club featuring a bobrun down Mt. Baker and an outdoor curling rink; Horse trotting races were introduced in the 1920's, a skating house was built, a ski area created, and a semi-pro hockey team called the pond home. Today, Moody Pond is still a place to enjoy skating, cross-country skiing and ice fishing in the winter. Now that spring has arrived and warmer temperatures have brought a showcase of migrating birds, fish, and wildlife, many of our community members can be found fishing or paddling its quiet waters, or recreating along the paved 1-mile circuit, finding comfort in nature's springtime renewal. Unfortunately, some of these influences have changed the pond in undesirable ways.



When Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered in Moody Pond in 2018, community members quickly formed the *Friends of Moody Pond (FMP)* nonprofit organization. Since its inception, FMP has consulted and continues to work with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Adirondack Lakes Alliance (ALA), Upper Saranac Lake Foundation (USF), and others to implement a management response to the infestation. Our strategy from the beginning of our removal efforts in 2020, has been to bring the invasive plant under control within three years, progressing to a maintenance phase within five years. Since then, we've fundraised and procured grants to enlist trained and certified dive teams to hand-harvest the EWM and 'Save the Pond.' We are decidedly not a shore owners association but a community nonprofit, and we're hoping that you'll help us **'Reflect; Restore; Celebrate; Moody Pond.** Please, read on to learn about what we've been up to and how you can donate.

Tackling Eurasian watermilfoil

From the surface the ecosystem certainly appears to be a healthy one, but if you look deeper, you'll find the dormant root crowns of the aquatic invasive, Eurasian watermilfoil, lying in wait. Once the water warms, the plants will grow as much as an inch a day, branching, expanding, and reaching 20 feet or more, multiplying not only through the roots, but also by seed. Fragmenting of the plant's tiny needle-like leaves occurs in the fall, spreading throughout the waterbody and germinating a new generation. For this reason, it is a necessity to harvest the weed several times over the summer months. It has now been three years with each harvest yielding less EWM than the last, but how we progress from here is critical to Moody Pond's recovery. The 2023 harvesting season consisted of 360 dive hours, divided over three week-long sessions in June, July, and September. A total of 1,553 plants were removed totaling just over 45 pounds. This year's harvesting will be conducted similarly, but with required diver hours expected to be reduced to 300 – 320, dependent on invasive growth with harvesting needs determined in the field.

Water Quality Testing

In 2021, the *Friends of Moody Pond* began participating in the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program water quality monitoring program. 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 watershed. Salting the road in the winter months raises sodium and chloride levels, animal waste raises nitrogen and phosphorus levels, and the introduction of an aquatic invasive plant (in this case, most likely from launching boats that were previously in a waterbody infected with Eurasian watermilfoil) depletes dissolved oxygen. In excess, each of these are known to be environmental stressors that endanger native aquatic plants, animals, and the overall health of the pond's watershed and ecosystem. *FMP* volunteers collect water samples from Moody Pond several times throughout the summer months and delivers them to AWI for analysis. After 5 years of collection, we expect the results will begin to furnish *FMP* with a better understanding of the

effects of these pollutants and various stressors so we can make informed decisions regarding the future health and stability of Moody Pond.

In the meanwhile, one of the best means of long-term management is our individual diligence and collective perseverance. We are working with the townships to reduce road salt, encouraging residents to use environmentally friendly fertilizers and pesticides, asking dog walkers to pick up after their pets, and educating the public to stop 'aquatic hitchhikers' by checking for and removing any plant remnants on watercraft and fishing gear before and after using them in Moody Pond. **Clean, Drain, Dry, in every waterbody, every time.**

Find Out More

There are several ways to learn more about *Friends of Moody Pond* online and around the pond:

- Go to adkwatershed.org/blog and listen to Adirondack Watershed Institute's 8/4/23 podcast for a first-hand account of our efforts to remove the EWM from Moody Pond;
- Check out our 2023 annual report, management plan, and management reports at FriendsOfMoodyPond.org, and follow us on Facebook, and Instagram;
- "*A Walking Exploration Around Moody Pond*" is a booklet published by *FMP* members that provides an educational opportunity for people walking around Moody Pond to notice, identify and enjoy the diversity of species that make their home around the pond. The handbooks are available for public use and are located in the gray mailbox across from 401 Forest Hill Ave. A digital version of the booklet can also be found on the *Friends of Moody Pond* website;
- Our members will occasionally set up informational tables on the pond, so be sure to watch for us when you visit.

Donate

Community support and volunteerism has been a key component to our early success. *FMP* has received more than 350 contributions from local governments, businesses, grants, and individuals like you. We're proud to tell you that **100% of your donation will go directly toward the expense of removing the Eurasian watermilfoil from Moody Pond**. Many of you have donated in the past to sponsor a diver. Additional harvesting will be required in 2024 and this is quite literally your donations at work. Although we are expecting that the required dive hours will be slightly reduced this year, the hourly labor cost will increase. With a projected cost of approximately \$20,000, each dollar donated will equate to the cost of approximately one minute of dive time. **A donation of \$30 will sponsor one diver for 30-minutes.**

It is your support that allows the *Friends of Moody Pond* to raise the funds, enlist the dive teams, and rid the pond of Eurasian watermilfoil. We welcome your donation of any amount, which can be made **online** by clicking the "**Donate**" button located on our website: www.friendsofmoodypond.org, or by **check, payable to 'Saranac Lake Rotary Foundation'**. Kindly reference ***FMP* in the payee line** or elsewhere on the check, then return your tax-deductible donation in the enclosed reply envelope to: **Friends of Moody Pond, PO Box 1127, Saranac Lake, NY 12983** via USPS.

We hope to see you around the pond!

Heidi Kretser
President

Jay Federman
Vice President

Tristan Glanville
Treasurer

Donna Walsh
Secretary

Susan Rdzanek
Fundraising Chair

P.S. In July, we invite you to participate in our **5th Annual Silent Auction**. The auction is very popular and packed with thousands of dollars' worth of donated items from local businesses. It **begins online on July 13th and concludes at our 5th Annual Ice Cream Social on August 10th, from 4:00p-7:00p.** (Rain date: August 11th) **This is a free community event** featuring musical entertainment and a children's magic show. Everyone is invited and we hope you'll join us on the pond at 331 Forest Hill Ave.