

FRIENDS OF MOODY POND

PO Box 1127, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 FriendsOfMoodyPond@gmail.com

May 2025



Reflect; Restore; Celebrate; Moody Pond.

Dear

Henry David Thoreau wrote in his book, *Walden*, that a lake is "a landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye, looking into which the beholder measures the depths of his own nature." Anyone who has seen Moody Pond lying still as a mirror and reflecting the sky, the surrounding forests, and the slopes of Mount Baker knows that Thoreau's description is as fitting here today as it was at Walden. The pond is loved by residents and visitors alike, a beautiful point of pride for Saranac Lake, the focus of a close-knit community that most people can only dream of living in, and a place that embodies the core principles of the Adirondack Park itself by blending humans and the wild in a mutually complementary mosaic.

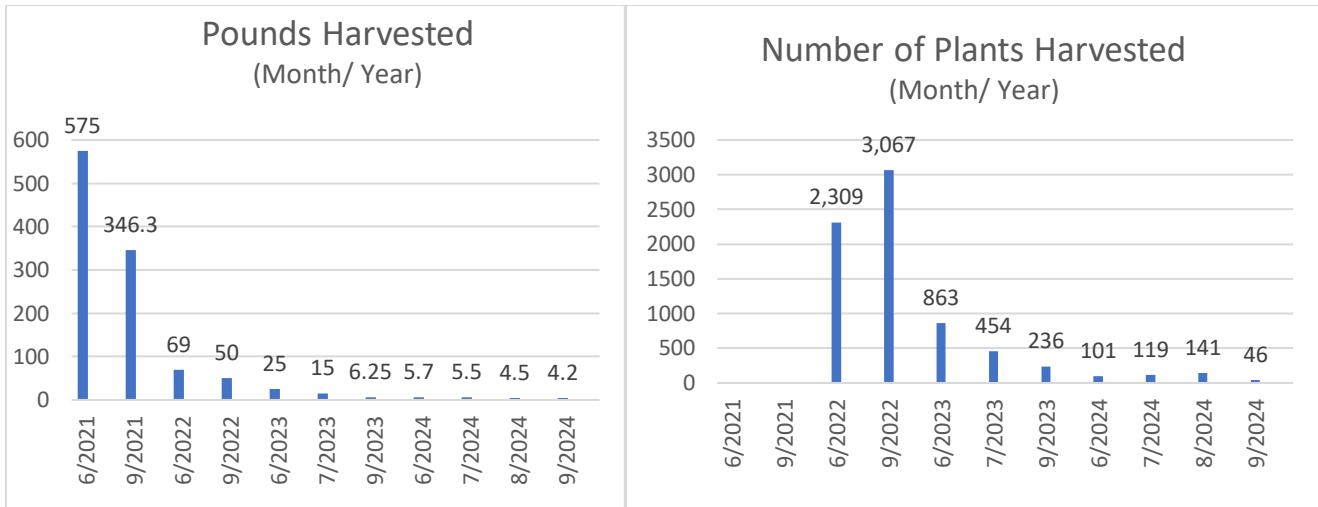
Thoreau's observation is a warning that Moody Pond reflects more than just the sky, forest, and mountain; it **REFLECTS** us, too. A lake is tightly connected with its watershed, and for the last two centuries, humans have become an increasingly influential component of Moody Pond's watershed. Unfortunately, some of those influences are changing the pond in undesirable ways. Whether such changes persist, intensify, or reverse in the future depends on how the people who live, work, and recreate here think and act. In that sense, Moody Pond truly is a mirror in which we can see the depths of our own nature.



2025 is the 6th anniversary of the *Friends of Moody Pond (FMP)* non-profit and the 5th year of enlisting invasive dive teams to remove Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) from Moody Pond. By harnessing the collective power of individuals, community businesses, and environmental organizations, we have battled, raised, and spent over \$100,000, bringing the Eurasian watermilfoil that invaded the pond under control. In 2021, the first year of our campaign to **SAVE THE POND!** more than 900 pounds of the invasive weed were removed. In 2024, that amount was down to 19.9 pounds harvested, accounting for 407 EWM plants, a dramatic reduction in the weight and number of plants from previous years.

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Our Spring Appeal this year is special and has only been sent to our past donors; that's you. By supporting us in the past, you've 'told' us that you are connected in some way to Moody Pond and that you care about its future. Maybe you live close by, maybe you grew up here and bring your family back to visit, or your children are growing up here, or perhaps you discovered the pond as an Adirondack tourist while on vacation. In any case, in some way, you've probably experienced its mile-long walking loop, the *Mt. Baker* hiking trail, *The Pines* trail system, or maybe you discovered it while biking over from the most recent amenity, the *Rail Trail*. With your past support, our efforts to 'Save Moody Pond' have been very fruitful to date, with dramatic decreases in the amount of EWM harvested over time. This is good news, but as you can imagine, it becomes more difficult for the divers to find the plants (they are not only more sparse, but also smaller) in the 24-acre pond; therefore, harvesting continues to require significant dive time with inflationary cost each year. We appeal to you because we need your continued support.

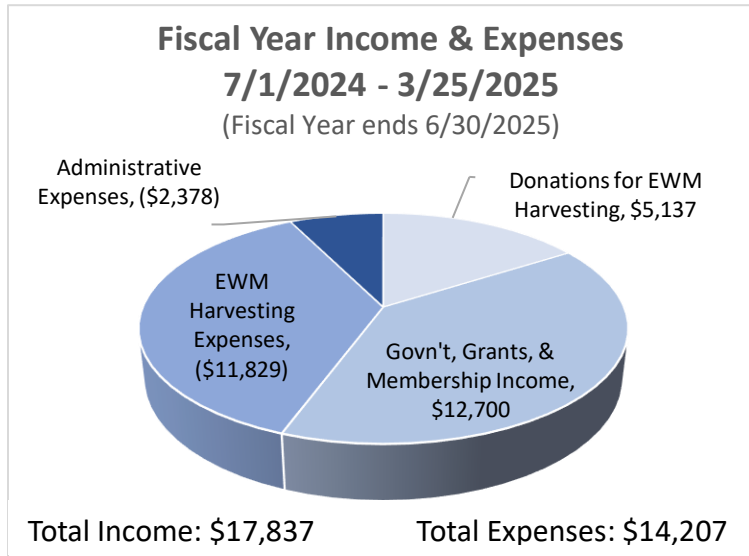
From the surface, Moody Pond's ecosystem appears to be healthy: the water sparkles, blue heron and painted turtles sun themselves on the log, and the call of the loon lulls us to a place of tranquility; so, it seems that the fight can now subside. This is not true. **If we stop fighting now, the EWM will come back quickly, growing as much as an inch per day and up to 20 feet tall.** The severity of EWM impacts varies from lake to lake, but because Moody Pond is relatively shallow and clear, enough sunlight likely reaches the bottom to allow heavy EWM growth across most or all of the lake bed. We could be right back at the beginning of the war in no time, and all of our efforts erased. To **RESTORE** Moody Pond, we must eradicate it. We can't afford not to, but actually...FMP can't afford to. At this time, our funds are such that we will be unable to continue the battle next year without your help.



Eurasian watermilfoil on the surface of Moody Pond in 2019.

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For several years now, donations have dwindled. In fact, in 2023 and 2024, our expenses exceeded our income. Even though the number of dive hours is expected to decrease again, **the cost of removal in 2025 will be \$12,000-\$15,000. Our bank account now has barely enough to take us through the year.** We are grateful for the \$10,000 grant we were awarded in 2024 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWC) and the Lake Champlain

Basin Program (LCBP); however, with the current state of affairs, grant funding is expected to be much more difficult. **We need your continued financial support.**

Community support and volunteerism have been a key component to our early success. *FMP* has received over 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.** Additional harvesting will be required in 2025 and 2026, and this is, quite literally, your donations at work.

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. All donations are welcome and appreciated. Many of you have donated in the past to **Sponsor a Diver**. This year, each minute of dive time equates to a donation of \$1.10. A donation of \$33 will sponsor one diver for 30 minutes. A donation of \$100 will sponsor a team of three divers for 30 minutes. Donations 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 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 at 32auctions.com/FriendsOfMoodyPond on July 12th and concludes at our **5th Annual Ice Cream Social** on August 9th, from 4:00p-7:00p (Rain or shine.) There will be free ice cream and entertainment. Come **CELEBRATE MOODY POND** with us.

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