

2017 Groton Pond

Lay Monitor Report

This year I sampled a total of eleven times. The good news is, in my last sample on August 28, I was able to see the Secchi Disk down three meters for the first time this summer. Up until this, I was getting readings as low as 1.5 Meters. I do not have this year's results of the Phosphorus and Chlorophyll test results. I have provided some copies of the 2016 results that are posted on the State website; which can be obtained from Googleing "Vermont Lay Monitoring Program". Once you are on the State website you can scroll down to any lake you want and find the reports they offer. I assume this year's results will be posted at some future date.

As far as this year's report is concerned, our Lake Trend Score is "Fair", Water Quality Standards Status is "Stressed" (because we are what is known as a pH sensitive lake), Acidic because of "acid rain", and there is no limestone in our soil and bed rock to filter the water and balance the pH. Water that only Jack Daniels can boast about! The Watershed Score is "Minimally Disturbed" which is good! We are surrounded by forest, undeveloped land, and not a lot of farm land using fertilizers and spreading animal waste. Our summer Secchi Trend is "Highly significantly decreasing", which means the visibility or water clarity is getting worse. Our summer total Phosphorus is "Significantly Increasing".

When I questioned Mark Mitchell, Lay Monitor Coordinator, about our overall water quality and the possible link to our Bladder Wort Problem he referred me to Josh Mulhollem, Aquatic Invasive Species Management. The answer; "Typically, bladderwort is a desirable native species and one that often indicates a "healthy" ecosystem. HOWEVER, a steady increase in prevalence of the plant (or any others, for that matter) could point to nutrient input problems in the watershed. Since this is reflected in the phosphorus trends that Mark mentioned, then I would say, YES, there is probably a link between the bladderwort issues of the past couple of years and water quality. That being said, plant growth in general changes from year to year, and climate change may lead to increasing aquatic vegetation growth statewide. "

Consensus is: We need to identify how or why we have an increase of Phosphorus making its way into our water and cut it down.

Respectfully submitted, (but understandably not accepted)

Bob Ricker, Lake Groton Lay Monitor