

2009 Clemons Pond Water Quality Monitoring Report

I am happy to report that 2009 was a good year for water quality on the pond. We continue to have water clarity numbers that are above the average for lakes and ponds monitored throughout the state. More importantly, there have been no negative trends in water quality parameters that we monitor. We monitor three measures of water quality:

1. Secchi depth - a measure of water clarity.
2. Dissolved oxygen – a sensitive indicator of water quality, and of the ability of the pond to support aquatic life.
3. Total phosphorus Concentration – the nutrient that most influences the growth of algae in a pond.

In 2009 our average water clarity was 5.8 meters over a five month period, slightly above our historical average. Dissolved oxygen readings were similar to past seasons with the usual later summer depletion of oxygen below 4-5 meters (12-15 feet). Total phosphorus concentration was 5 ppb which is slightly below what we typically average.

This season we have started out with water temperatures above average after an early ice out, very good water clarity thanks to little rain, and oxygen readings that are typical for early in the season (that is well maintained throughout the water column).

Concerns for this summer as always are activities around the pond that contribute phosphorus including road runoffs, disturbing the soil and tree cover in the buffer zone immediately adjacent and upslope from the shore of the pond, use of phosphorus containing lawn fertilizers, and poorly maintained septic systems. We should all continue to be alert for the presence of aquatic plants that seem new to the pond as well as problems with excessive algae. Though we don't currently have anyone on the pond trained in identifying invasive plants, help is available if we need it. Anyone interested in becoming a certified invasive plant patrol person should let me know or contact the Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program at 207-783-7733 or on the web at mainevlmp.org.

Victor Lerish
5/30/2010