

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Foster's Pond Corporation. Thank you for joining us. I should note that 2024 is the 85th Anniversary of the FPC.

I'm Steve Cotton, President of the FPC.

It's great to see everyone in-person. One of the purposes of the FPC is to enhance the sense of community among everyone who treasures the Pond -- whether you live on it, or near it, or just occasionally visit. Our Annual Meeting is one way we try to fulfill that purpose

Foster's Pond is rich in history, and equally rich as an ecological resource. We'll try to savor both of those treasures this evening. And I'm really glad that you're here to take part.

So let's begin.

Agenda

- Welcome & Some More History
- Brief (!) Business Meeting
 - > Adoption of Minutes
 - > Adoption of Treasurer's Report
 - > Election of Directors & Officers
- The Main Event:
'Hop, Crawl, Slither: Hidden Lives of Andover's Amphibians & Reptiles' - Mike Jones
- Updates on the Dam and the Pond
- Looking Ahead to 2024
- New Business, Questions, & Comments

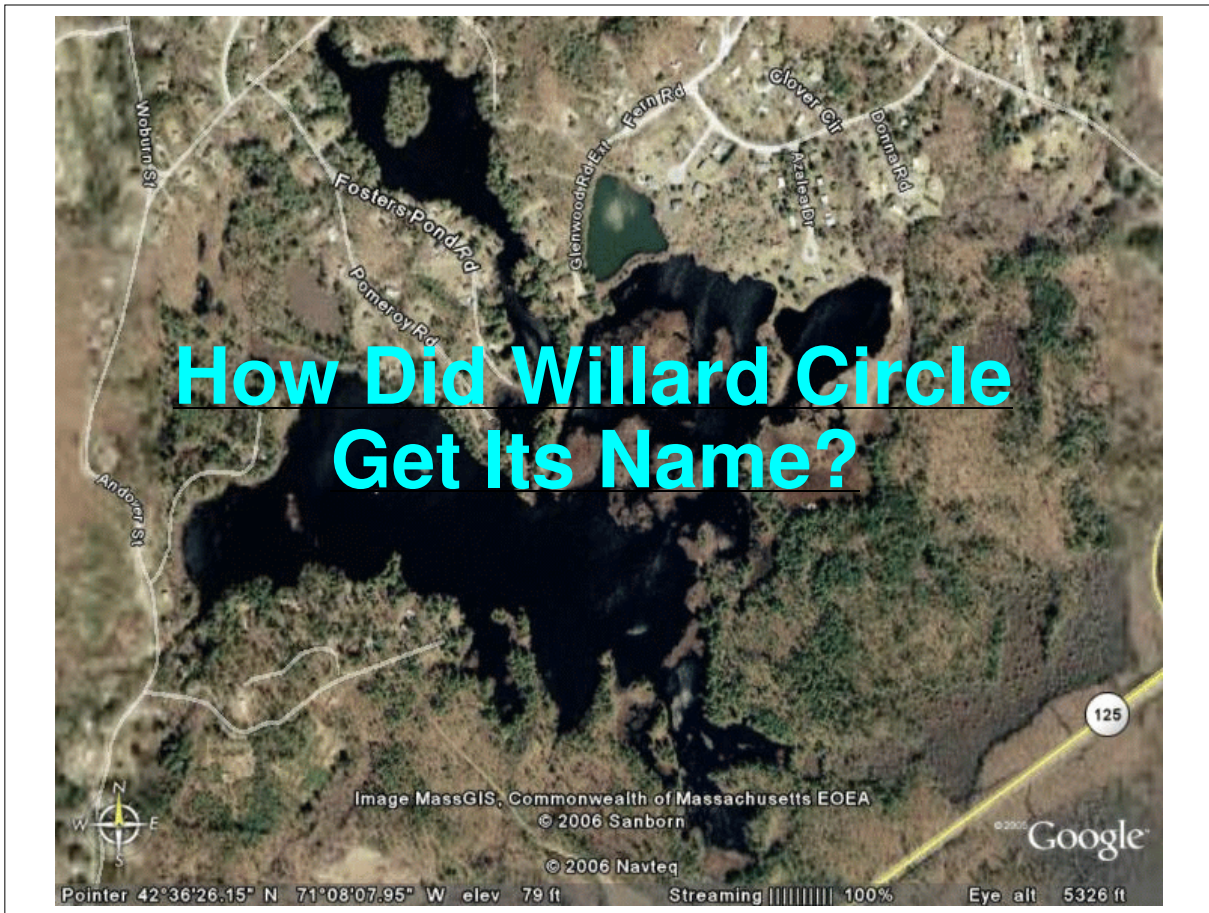


I hope you all got to see the slide show with some history of the Pond. Before we get down to business, I'm going to add a little more to that history

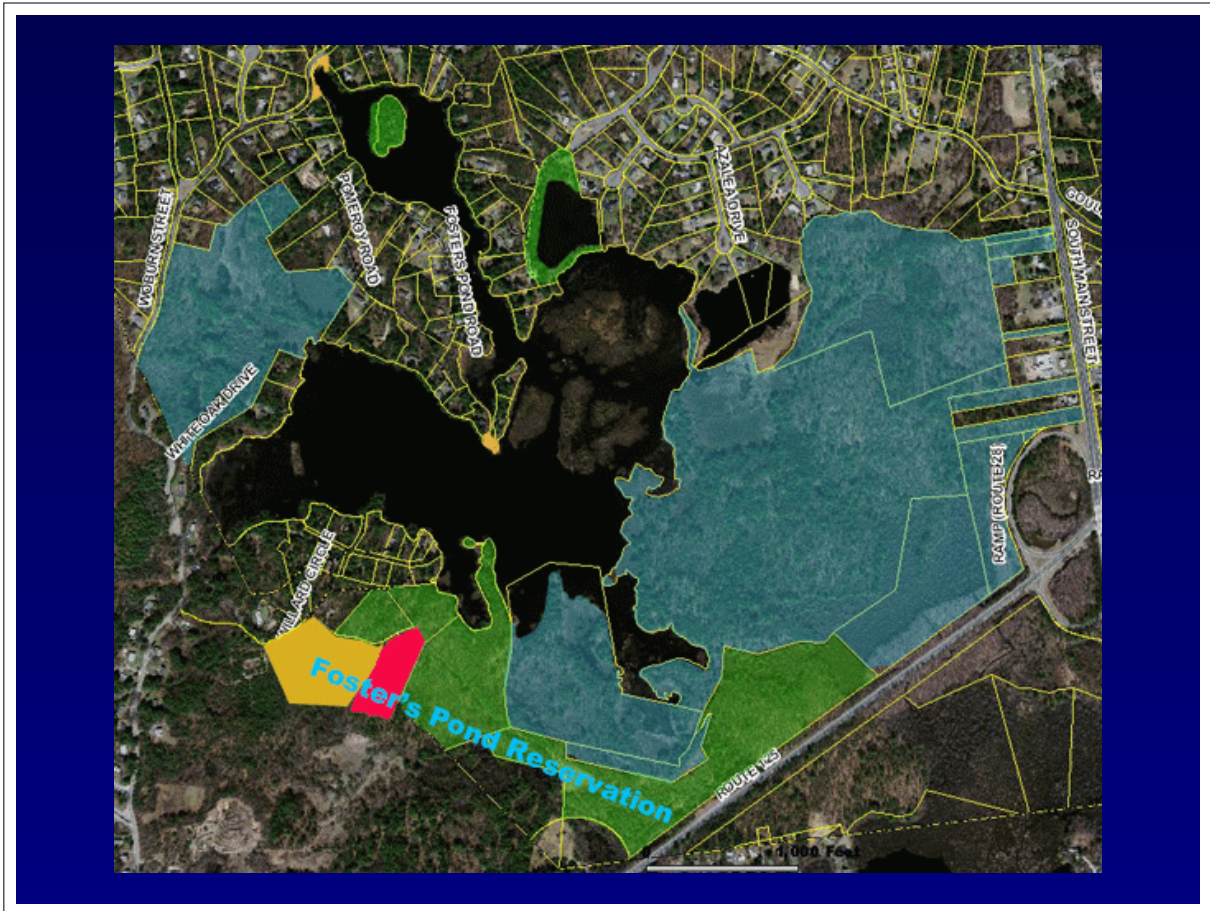
Then we have a few organizational obligations to fulfill, but this will be a very short business meeting so that we can get right to our program tonight.

After Mike's presentation, I'll bring you up to date on what we accomplished last year and hope to get done this year. And we'll also have our usual open forum for new business, wildlife sightings, questions, and comments.

Mike will answer questions at the end of his presentation. If we have to move on before we've gotten to all your questions, Mike will take more questions during that last item on the agenda. That's when I'll take any additional questions, as well.



I usually start these meetings with a little extra history, Tonight I want to pay special tribute to Judy Goonyep. Because of Judy's dogged determination - and if you know Judy, you know that referring to her as dogged is the highest possible complement - the FPC was able to acquire and preserve in perpetuity some land that has been in her family literally for generations.



Judy sold us 4 acres for a fraction of its value. It's shown in red on this map, and as you can see it lies in the heart of the Foster's Pond Reservation. It's probably the last significant piece of undeveloped land that will ever become available for preservation that close to the Pond.

Judy practically grew up on the Pond. She and her husband Ed Goonyep bought their own Pond house in 1974. After Eddie died, Judy lived in that house until 2015, when she moved to the Cape. But Foster's Pond is in her DNA. Her heart is here. And saving land that she loved is her legacy.

I told Judy that I wanted to pay tribute to her but also to the entire Davis family. As you're about to see, Davis family history is part of the lore of Foster's Pond. Judy, at my request, shared a trove of crumbling scapbooks, faded snapshots, and memorable anecdotes. After I had spent hours going through all these family treasures, Judy pleaded with me to keep it short, so I wouldn't cut into Mike's presentation.

I'll try to honor her request, but the Davis family has had an extraordinary impact on the Pond. And her grandfather loved a good yarn,.

To set the scene, I'm going to take you back a couple of decades before Judy's grandparents started renting a camp the Pond 93 years ago.

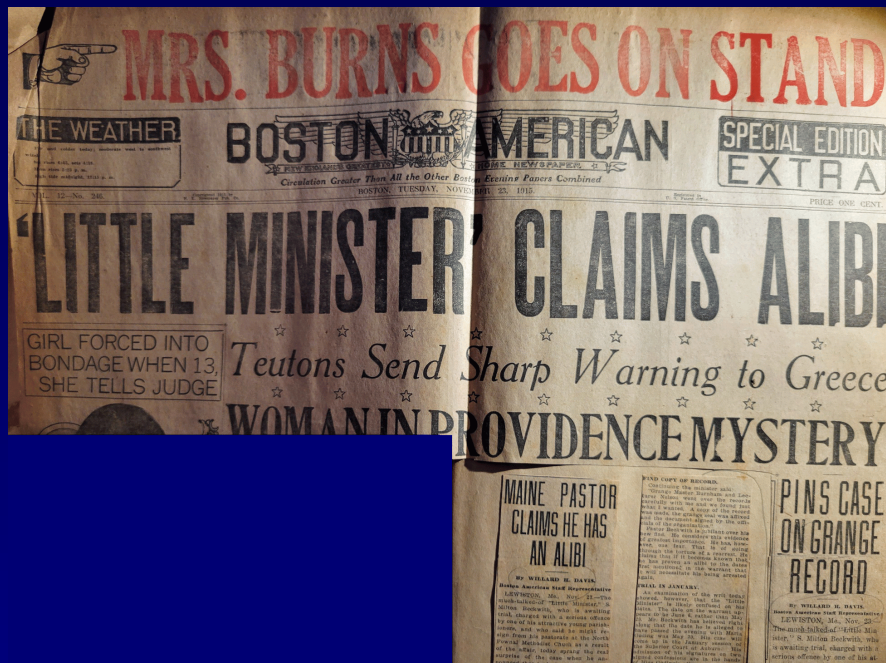


Meet Willard Davis. On the right, his young wife Irene, holding their first-born, Esther. Esther will come up again towards the end of this story. I'll be focusing mostly on Bill and Irene.

He was 25, she was 19 when they married in 1913.



In 1915, when Ester was born, Bill and Irene were renting a flat in this Dorchester triple-decker for \$20 per month.



Bill was a cub reporter for the Boston American, one of William Randolph Hearst's flamboyant broadsheets. No story was too sordid or too sensational for a Hearst paper. (To add an historical footnote: today's Boston Herald is a direct descendant of the old Boston American.) Bill was assigned to the police beat. This story is typical. A pastor in small-town Maine accused of adultery. The story is so salacious it rates an extra edition. Newsboys in downtown Boston singing out "Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" Bill milked the scandal for reams of copy.

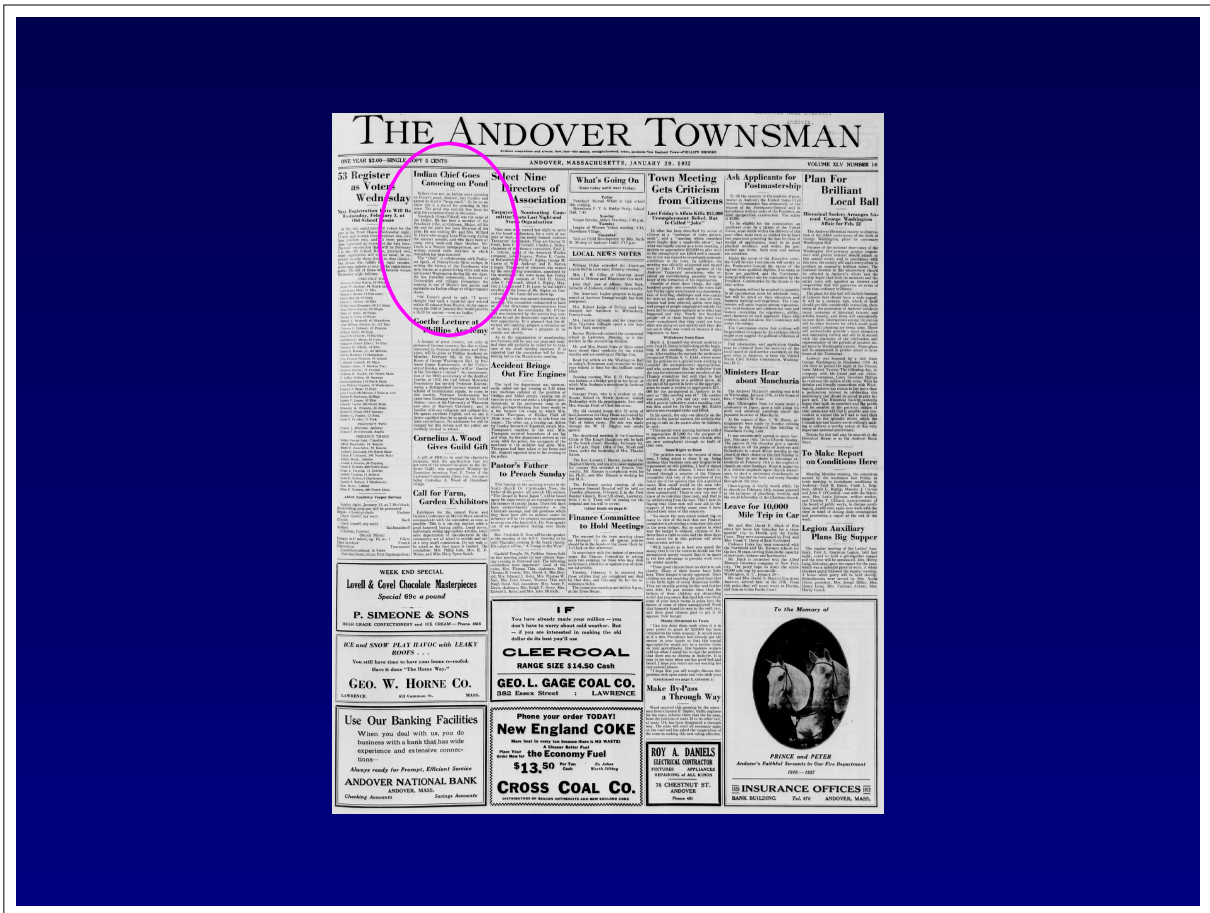


His big break came in 1916. President Wilson mobilized 140,000 National Guard troops to back up Army regulars on a fruitless expedition to Mexico to capture Pancho Villa. As it happened, Massachusetts sent one of the only two regiments that got as far as the border, and for the most part all they did was sit on the American side standing guard.

But young Bill got the call from his editor and was one of three correspondents from the Boston American sent by train to Texas to cover our boys at the front. That made Bill a war correspondent. He loved it. He hung out with veteran reporters from other Massachusetts papers, grew a mustache, and sported a pipe or a cigar. In the picture on the left, that's Willard seated, with pipe, holding a camera; in the one on the right, that's him kneeling, a cigar clamped in his mouth.

His career flourished. Within a couple of years, he moved on to the Boston Globe, then the Christian Science Monitor, and finally, in 1928, to the weekly trade publication for the travel industry in New England, the Hotel & Restaurant News.

He was managing editor, a post he would hold for 21 years.



What's all this have to do with Foster's Pond? Well, one thing leads to another. [CLICK] (Don't try to read the article I've circled; I'll get to it in a moment.)

Bill was popular and well-known in newspaper circles, but his new position made him even more visible in the Boston business community and throughout New England. He wrote a regular column of business news and personal musings that was widely read. He held honorary memberships in travel industry associations, including the Epicurean Club of Boston, and was active in Masonic Lodges, including the Flourth Estate Lodge comprised of newspapermen.

As it happened, in his new post, he covered the annual New England Sportsman Show, which was a very big deal in those days. He became a sportsman himself. And that's probably where he first encountered the Chief.



So let's look at this little story on the front page of the Andover Townsman in the winter of 1932. There's a lot to unpack. The article is obviously written by Bill, the veteran journalist and publicist. He is unabashedly promoting himself and an Indian Chief named Nee-DAH-beh - but note that "chief" is in quotes. In later stories, Bill doesn't bother with the quotes, printing the legend as fact.

We learn that Bill and Irene are new to the Pond, apparently starting to rent a camp as of 1931. They live on the Pond part-time - just in the summer - though the article says they have been spending week-ends at their camp since October. Their camp is named "Lone Pine," [CLICK] and a family photo shows us why. Its location is that tiny island at the end of the peninsula in what is now the Foster's Pond Reservation. (You saw it from another angle in the introductory slideshow.)

We also learn that Bill's relationship with the chief is both business (writing scripts for radio shows) and personal.

And, this being the early 1930s, the PR leans heavily towards stereotype. The chief is quoted as saying he likes canoeing on the Pond in January "heap much," and it was a "thrill" - "even for an Indian." [CLICK] And though Needahbeh was Penobscot, in his countless stage appearances he favored the war bonnet of the Plains Indians and movie westerns, rather than the traditional garb of his own tribe.



Chief Needahbeh was a frequent visitor to Foster's Pond. To Irene's distress he was a fixture at the Davis camp for two decades. He crops up a lot in Bill's writings about Foster's Pond including in the Townsman and Bill's column in the Hotel & Restaurant news. Bill wrote in 1944 that Needahbeh spent most of his time at Foster's Pond - meaning the Davis camp - when he wasn't traveling the country "lecturing."

Needabbeh was himself a minor celebrity. Master of Ceremonies at the annual New England Sportsman Show for years, and performing at similar shows around the country. By Bill's account, Needabbeh had fished and hunted in every state in the Union, published two books, and advised university professors. That's Ted Williams standing on stage with the Chief at a sportsman show in 1940; the picture hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame. [CLICK] On the right, that's Needahbeh promoting a fishing lodge in Alaska. [CLICK] In the middle, that's his stage dress for sportsman shows. [CLICK] And you can still buy flies which bear his name.

He spoke in Andover elementary schools and to the Andover Service Club, demonstrating native dances and spinning stories about, as Bill put it, his "exploits" on Foster's Pond.

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The ANDOVER TOWNSMAN

Andover's Own Weekly Newsmagazine

Volume 54, No. 18 ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS February 12, 1942

Loony Murder At Foster's Pond

Three men who were fishing through the ice down at Foster's Pond last Thursday night had an experience the like of which they won't have again for a long time. And in addition, they've all taken the pledge.

Just at dusk as they were gathering up their tackle, the cry of a woman, either drowning or being murdered, brought them to their feet in a hurry. They stood "frozen to the ice." Again came that mournful, moaning call, followed by a hysterical laugh. They pulled themselves together as best they could and started in the direction from whence the call for help came.

They tracked it down to Bill Davis's camp. Bill is a well-known Boston newspaperman, sportsman, legal resident in Andover who lives about eight months of the year with Mrs. Davis and son Dick, in their snug camp on the edge of the pond. On this particular occasion Mrs. Davis was away and son Dick is with the Marines with Bill Pomeroy, another Foster's Pond resident, at Farris Island, South Carolina.

In the camp with Bill was his friend of many years, Chief Needahbeh, who for the last fourteen years has been Master of Ceremonies at the Sportsman's Show. For all the years Mr. Davis has lived on the pond, the Chief has made the Davis camp his headquarters. He is widely known in Andover, having lectured at most of the schools.

Well, to get back to the "murdered woman": the three fishermen approached the camp stealthily. Bill and the Chief could see them coming. They were peering out a camp window. Finally one got up enough courage to come up on the porch and knock hard on the door. Hospitable Bill opened the door, and the biggest of the three said gruffly:

"What's going on in here. Where's the woman?"

At that precise moment Chief Needahbeh, who had gone into the back room, "donned" his great feathered head-dress and stripped to the waist, with smudges of lipstick all over his face, and waving his famous, huge war club, rushed into the room, looting out war-whoops, yells and brandishing his big stick.

Two of those guys got down on their knees right then and there, and the other jumped a space of ten feet clear, right through the screen in porch. He hasn't been seen since.

Then and only then did the surviving member learn that the "murdered woman" was none other than the Chief, practicing the loon call for which he has become famous. He opens and closes the Sportsman's Show with that call at each performance.

(Willard H. Davis, managing editor of the Hotel and Restaurant News, swears it's all true. Chief Needahbeh is the same Indian mentioned in the *Townsmen* two weeks ago who was caught on Foster's Pond at the middle of January.)

Fred Doyle has returned to his home on Chandler road from the Lawrence General Hospital, and is steadily improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph B. Wilkinson, 24 Canterbury street, attended a conference of the American Savings and Loan Institute held in Boston Saturday.

THE ANDOVER TOWNSMAN

This 1942 story, clearly provided by Bill, captures the good-natured bond between the two showmen. Remember, this is Bill's account.

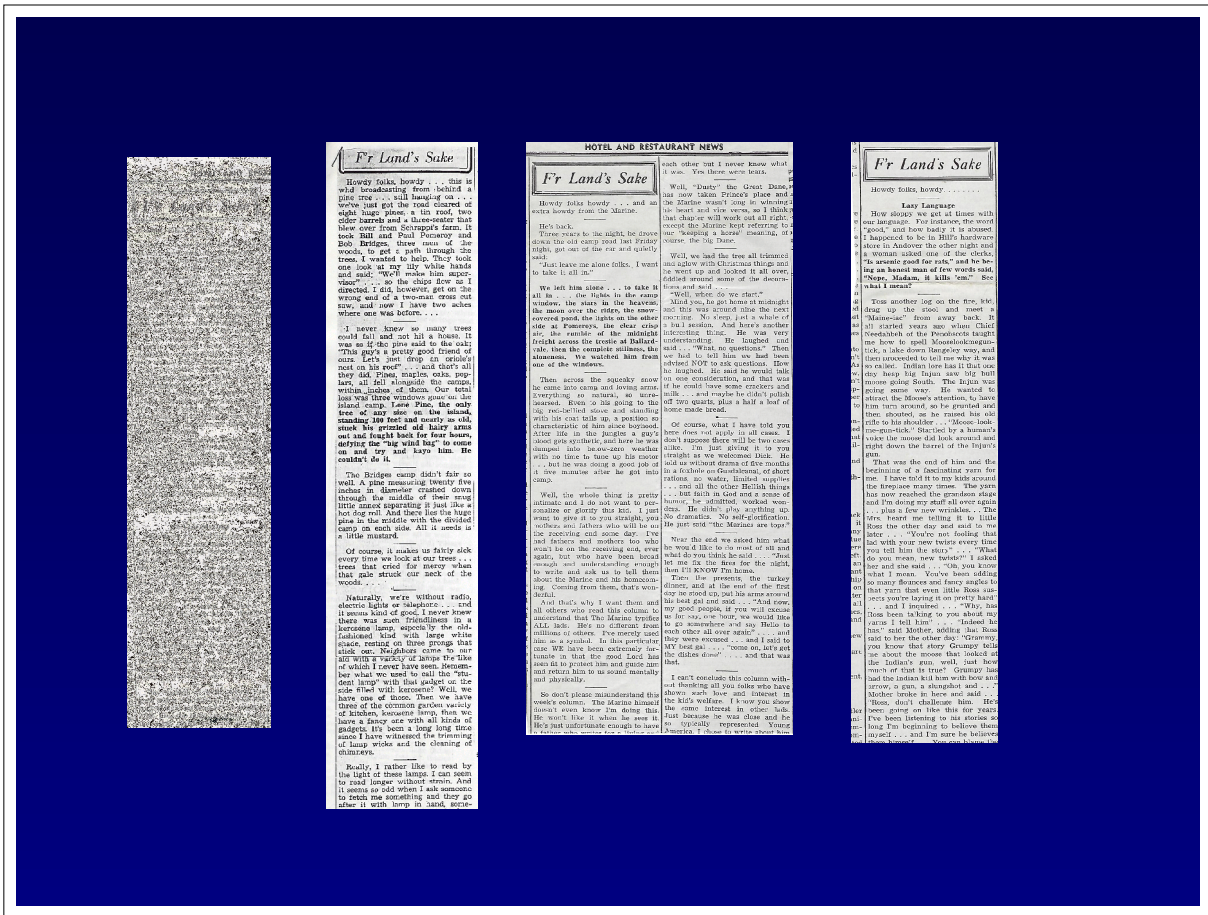
Needahbeh was visiting Bill, per usual. Bill slips in the fact that "the Chief has made the Davis camp his headquarters for many years."

The Chief was practicing his "celebrated" loon call "for which he has become famous," opening and closing every performance at the Sportsman's Show with the call. On a recent night, three ice fisherman out on the Pond heard the eerie sound, traced it to the Davis camp, and knocked on the door to inquire.

They suspected a woman was being strangled. Bill invited them in. The Chief, meanwhile, slipped into the back room, stripped to the waist, put on some warpaint, and donned his feathered head-dress. On cue, he burst in, waving a huge war club.

Two of the fishermen fell to their knees in prayer, while the third jumped out the window and "hasn't been seen since."

The article concludes: "Willard H. Davis, managing editor of the Hotel and Restaurant news, swears it's all true."



Bill's column for the Hotel and Restaurant News was titled F'r Land's Sake. He opened every column with the same line: Howdy, folks, howdy, and signed them all w.h.d. in small letters. He wrote about anything he felt like. And they were long; these clippings are just fragments.

Many were about Foster's Pond - his family, the Chief, the neighbors. He wrote about Angelo Sciarrapa, the Italian immigrant who owned (and whose family still owns) the large farm next door. He wrote about the evening his son Dick - Judy Goonyep's father - returned from World War II, having enlisted in the Marines and landed with the first wave on Guadalcanal. He wrote about calling muskrats with the Chief on Foster's Pond, and about watching the Hurricane of '38 take down the Lone Pine at camp.

And he also wrote about Irene. Bill quotes Irene telling their young grandson Ross (that's Esther's boy, and I should note, Ricki Garcia's brother) not to challenge Bill's endless repertoire of tall tales. "I've been listening to his stories so long I'm beginning to believe them myself," says Irene. "I'm sure he believes them. You can blame the Chief."



There were three camps on the property Bill and Irene rented for so many years: Lone Pine, the Mainland camp (now the residence of Kenny Tamarkin and Jean Roberts), and the Ridge camp (on the peninsula leading to the island). And while none was properly insulated for comfortable winter residence, they were magnets for family, guests, neighbors, and - of course - the Chief. When Judy's father remarried, the ceremony was conducted at Lone Pine.

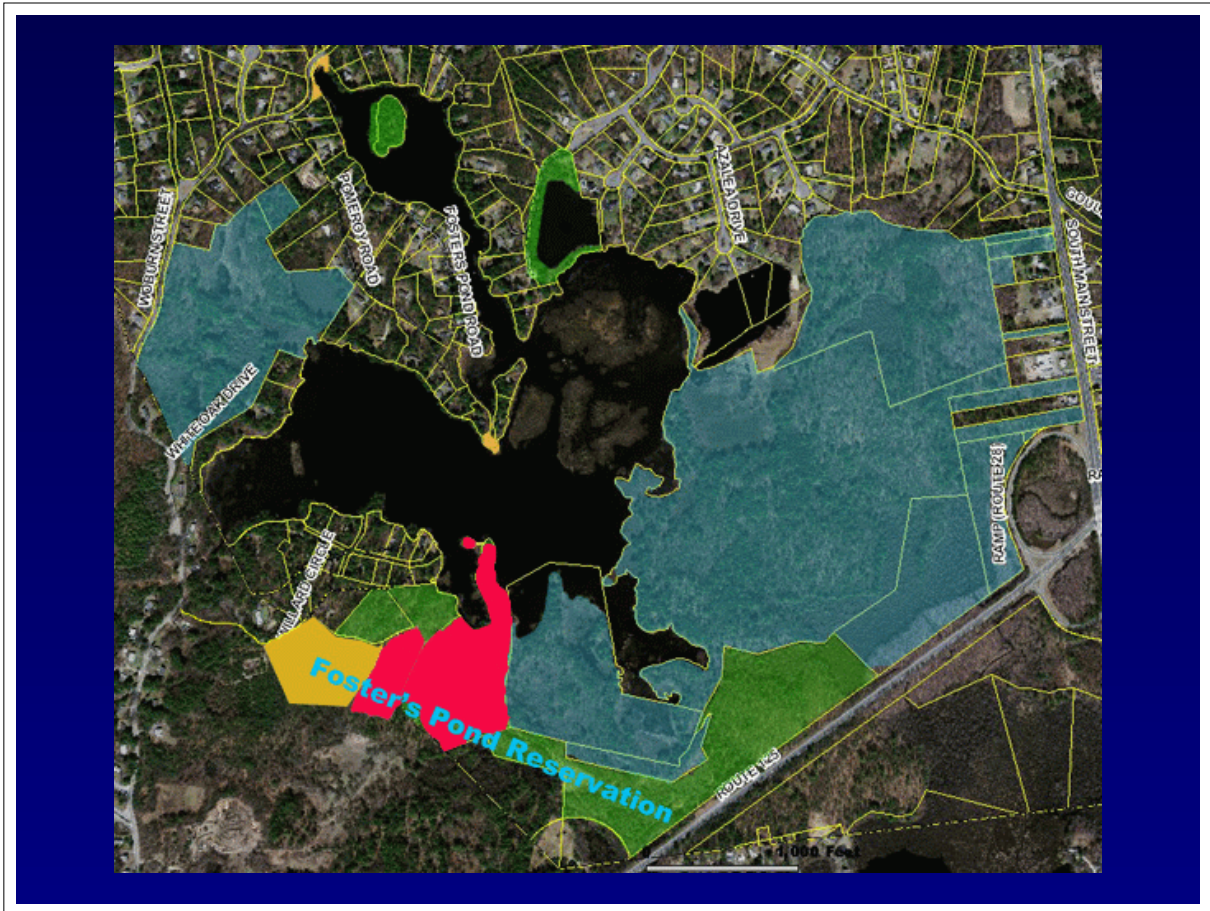
Bill was a celebrated piano player. A side hustle in the early years was playing piano for silent pictures in Boston theaters. He also directed and played piano for rollicking minstrel shows performed by his Masonic Lodges. Judy remembers the annual ritual, every spring when the ice melted on the Pond, of loading a baby grand piano onto a large, broadbeamed rowboat and rowing it from the mainland to Lone Pine. Then in the fall, before the pond froze, the piano would be rowed back to the mainland for winter storage.



Willard died in 1949. 300 people attended his funeral in Boston. I couldn't find an obituary in the Townsman, but the neighborhood wanted to commemorate his passing. He had been a flamboyant participant in the summer clambakes on the Pond. He had been Treasurer of the Foster's Pond Improvement Association. He had served as President of the Foster's Pond Corporation. Indeed, he had been one of the original signatories on the papers incorporating the FPC in 1939. The neighbors decided on the name Willard Circle. The convention, of course, is to assign last names to roads and Ponds around here. It marked a level of affection that they agreed to use Willard's first name.

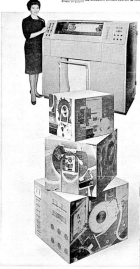
But that's not the end of this story. Later that year, Irene took the bold step of buying the camps that Bill and Irene had been renting for the previous 18 years. A couple of years later, she bought another parcel on Willard Circle, and her son Dick and his then wife bought two more parcels (the same land their daughter Judy sold to the FPC last year).

It's a complicated story, and I won't go into it, but the bottom line is this.



All of the land that Irene bought, with the exception of the Mainland camp that she sold to Kenny Tamarkin, together with the land purchased by Judy's father, is now conservation land, protected in perpetuity by either the Town or the FPC. It's shown in red on this map, and it totals about 17 acres.

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SCIENCE IN INDUSTRY

Speedy Printer Can Fill Mile of Paper in 8 Hours

By ARTHUR A. HELEY

Throughout the world today printers are doing a job that is nothing like anything else in the history of the printing industry. They are printing out a mile of paper in eight hours. This is the work of the ANELEX printer, a new machine developed by the ANELEX Corporation, a new company in the field of electronic printing.



PRECISION NATURE of print which is shown as electronic printer's paper and use of digital information.

The ANELEX printer is a high-speed printer that can print out a mile of paper in eight hours. It is a new machine developed by the ANELEX Corporation, a new company in the field of electronic printing. The printer is a high-speed printer that can print out a mile of paper in eight hours. It is a new machine developed by the ANELEX Corporation, a new company in the field of electronic printing.



8000 SPEED ANELEX PRINTER can print out figure data at 2000 lines per minute, other data at 1000 lines per minute. An eight-hour operation would cover 1 1/2 miles of paper.

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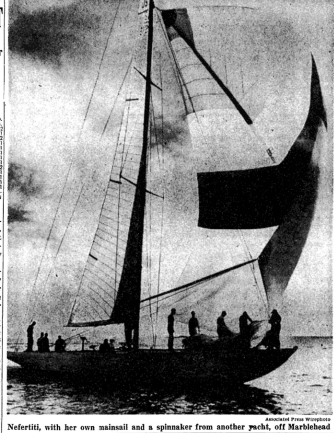
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8000 SPEED ANELEX PRINTER can print out figure data at 2000 lines per minute, other data at 1000 lines per minute. An eight-hour operation would cover 1 1/2 miles of paper.

Nefertiti Makes a Royal Impression in First Sail



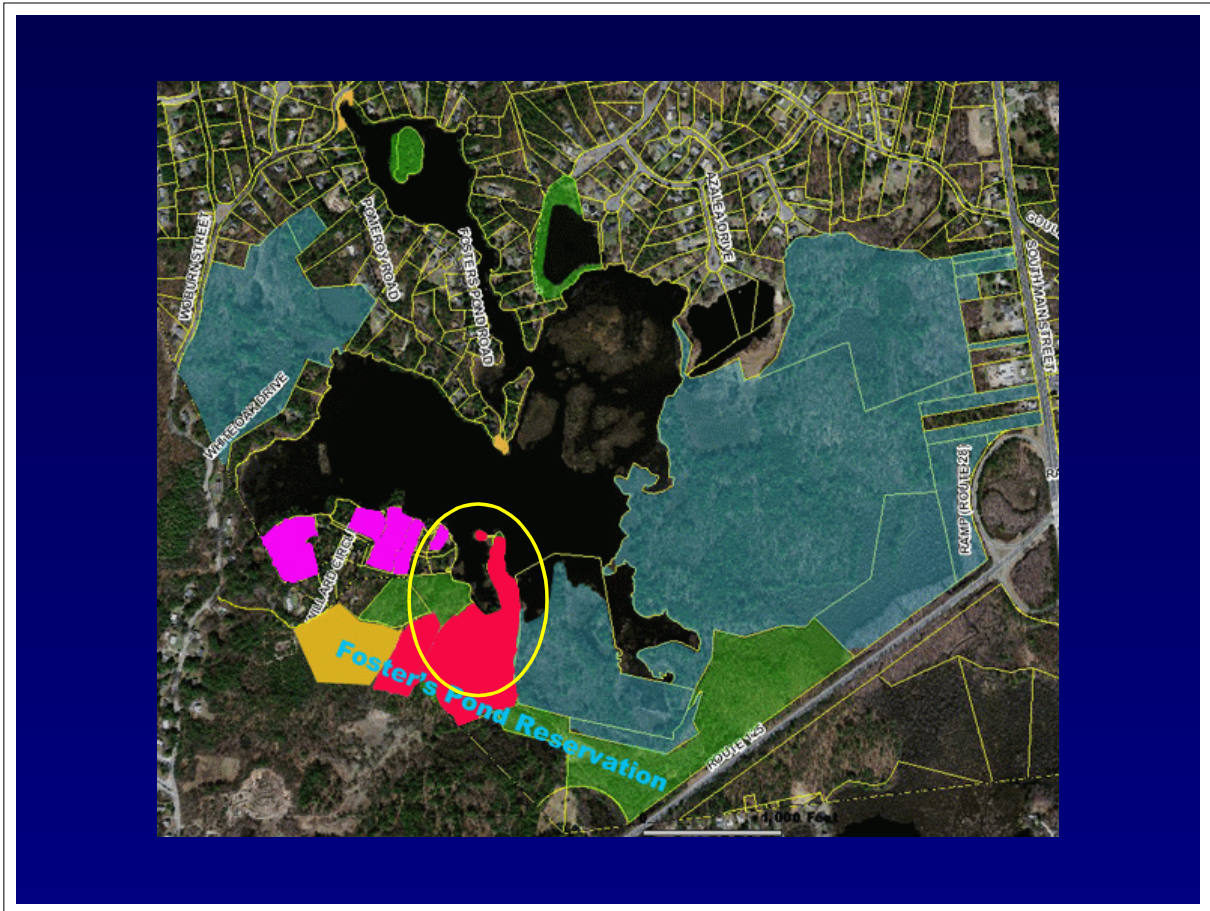
Nefertiti, with her own mainsail and a splinker from another yacht, off Marblehead.

Named in the New York Times...
 MARLBOROUGH Mass. July 28—The Boston Yacht Club's 12-Meter sloop Nefertiti went under sail for the first time today off the port and the impression she left on her

was pleased with Nefertiti's...
 "I thought she might have too much helm, windward or leeward, but she balanced almost perfectly and once laid out beautifully," Hunt said. Nefertiti appeared to be extremely able when sailing on the wind, showing only a slight heel as she tacked and moved through the water at a good clip.

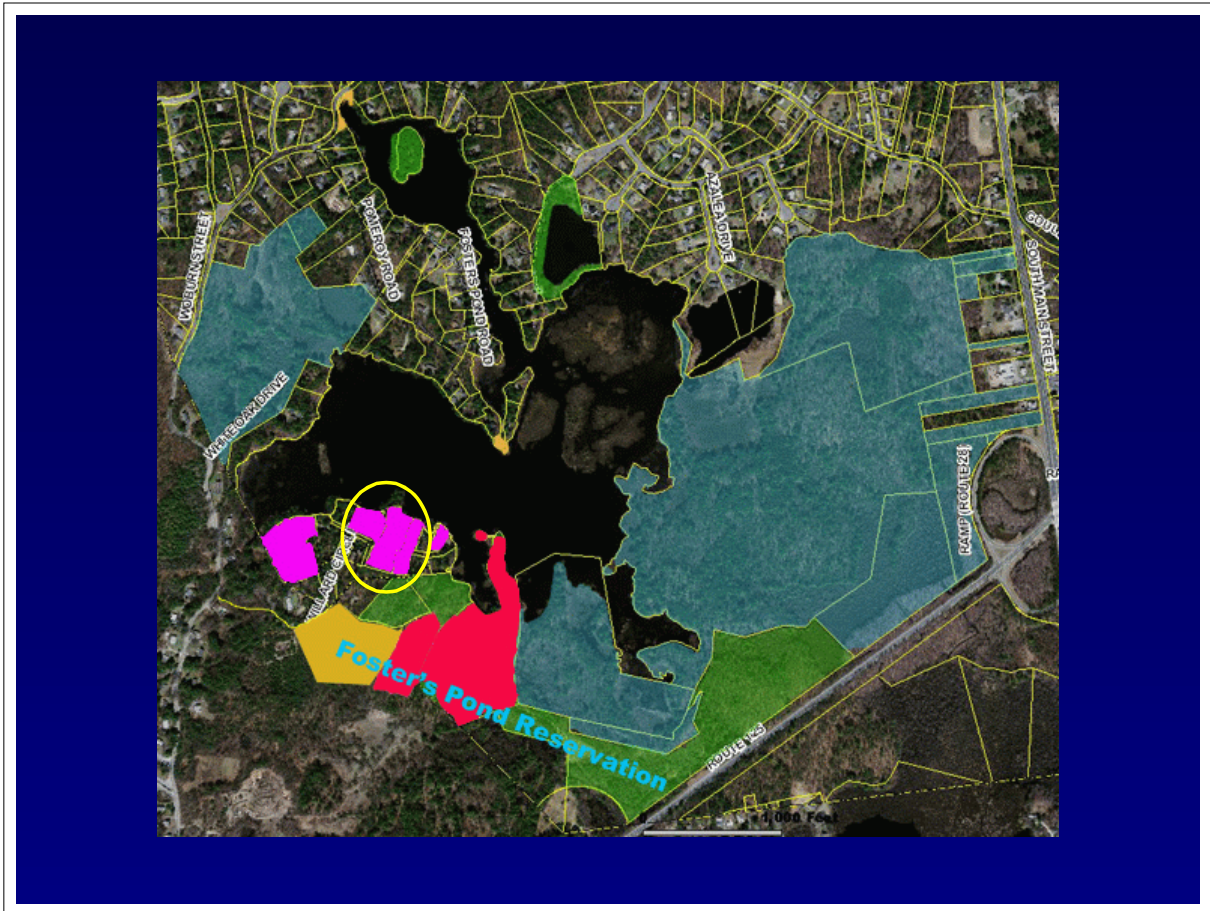
But that wasn't the only Davis imprint on the Pond. Remember Esther, who you met as an infant before Bill and Irene moved to the Pond? She spent much of her girlhood on the Pond, eventually marrying a fellow who became a prominent businessman. His name was E. Ross Anderson, He founded Anderson-Nichols, which mushroomed into one of the largest and most successful consulting and engineering firms in the country. And then he founded Anelix Corporation, which grew so big it absorbed Andersen-Nichols and went on to become the No. 2 manufacturer of computer printers in the world, second only to IBM.

[CLICK] Andy, as he was known to family and friends, was also a prominent yachtman.



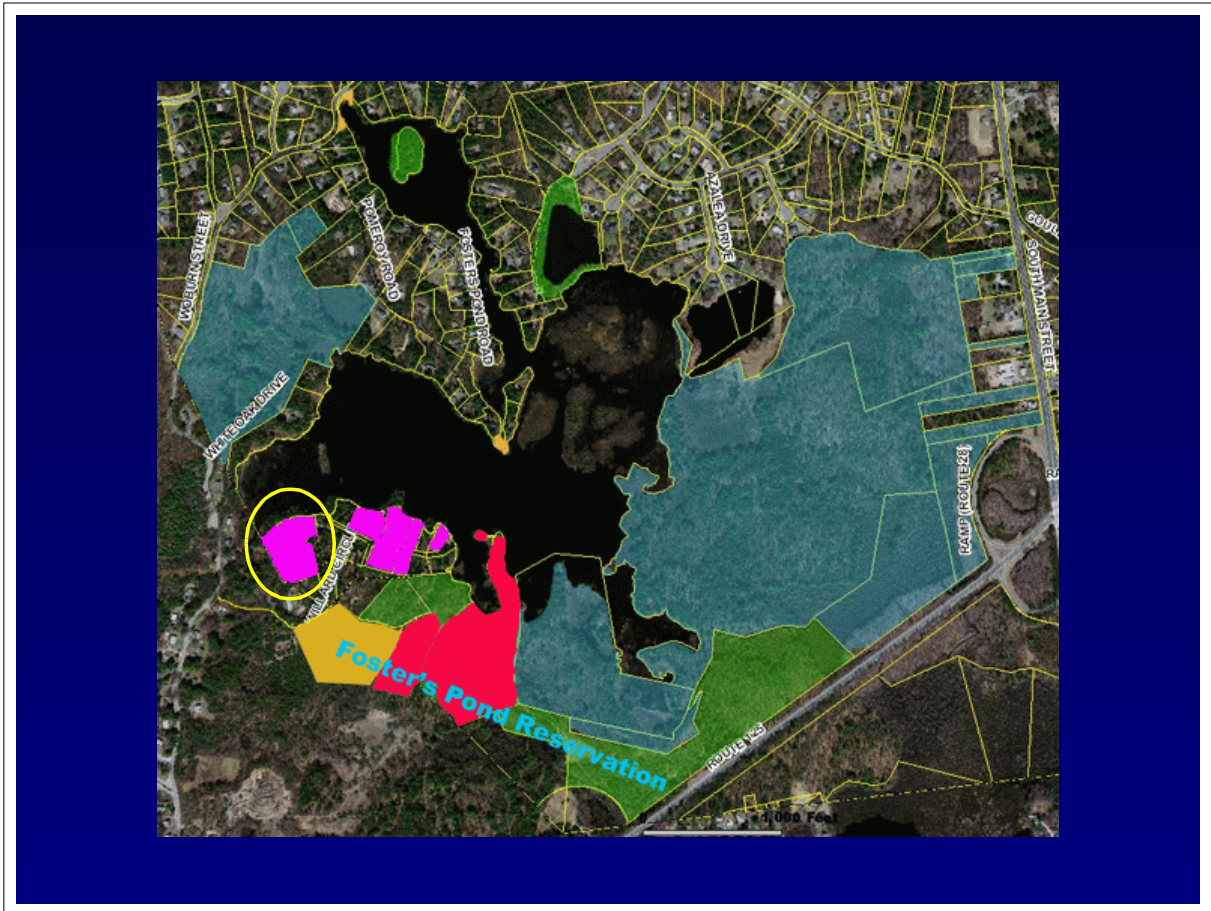
In 1967, Andy stepped back from business and focused on a new plan: buying houses on Foster's Pond to establish a family compound.

[CLICK] Irene already owned three houses. The mainland house, Lone Pine, and the Ridge camp.

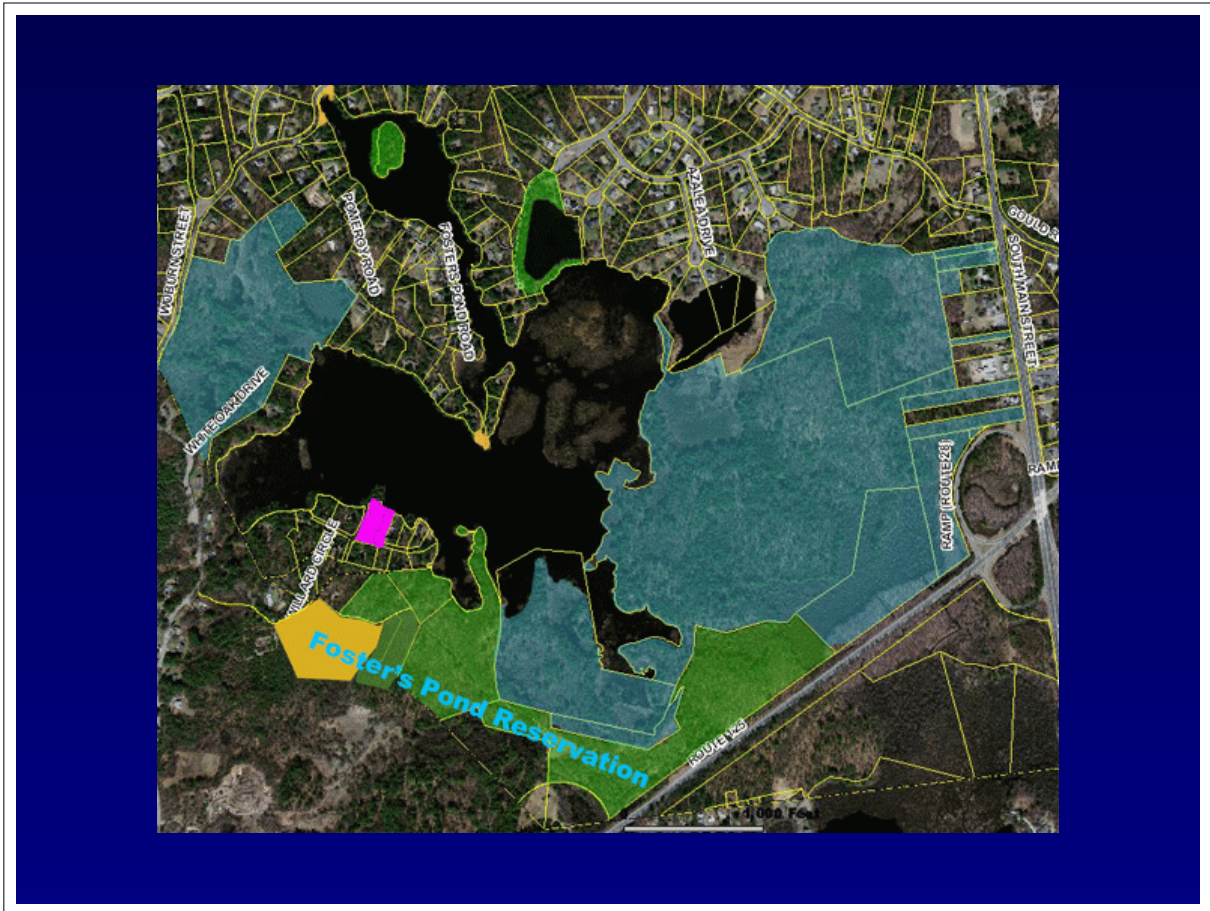


Andy's enterprise entailed the members of the family purchasing four more shoreline dwellings.

Andy and Esther's adult children - Ross (with his wife Gail), and Rachel (Ricki to her friends) with her husband Angel (or A), took up residence on the Pond, as did Ross's business partner Peter Allison and his wife Maureen.



Add the house that Judy and Ed Goonyep bought in 1974, and that makes a total of 8 houses acquired by the Davis clan. The family made, and continues to make, a major contribution to the social fabric of the community.



Today, Ricki and A continue to own the two rental houses they acquired in the late 60's. Like Judy, they are still friends and supporters of the FPC. Their son Craig, I believe, manages the property. So the Davis presence, dating back 93 years, endures to this day.

I want to close by thanking Judy again. Of the many people who have lived on Foster's Pond a handful have left it immeasurably better protected than they found it. That is their gift not only to the present generation, but to future generations. The Davis family is in that elite group, and we owe them a our gratitude.



Because this is the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, we have some small bits of business to conduct. I promise, this won't take long.

We have four votes to take.

Approval of Minutes

- April 24, 2023 Annual Meeting (slideshow)
- August 5, 2023 Summer Meeting



There are two sets of minutes to approve. Both have been posted on-line so that we don't have to make a lengthier presentation.

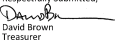

First, in lieu of written minutes, we posted the slideshow of the business portion of our 2023 Annual Meeting.

Second, we posted minutes of our 2023 Summer Meeting.

May I have a motion to approve the minutes? 2d? All in favor say Aye? Opposed, No.

The ayes have it, and the Minutes are approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Foster's Pond Corporation	
www.fosterspond.org David Brown, Treasurer 31 Glenwood Road Andover, Ma 01810-6250	
TREASURER'S REPORT	
For Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2023	
Assets	
Checking Account balance 12/31/2022	\$4,411.09
Money Market Account balance 12/31/2022	\$5,260.13
Certificate of Deposit - Eastern Bank	\$1,749.67
Accounts receivable: NFG contributions	352.45
Undeposited funds	0.00
Total Assets 12/31/2023	\$61,773.34
Total Assets 12/31/2022	\$70,163.25
Net change in Assets for year ending 12/31/2023	-\$8,389.91
Liabilities	
Prepaid dues & contributions for 2024	\$0.00
Accounts Payable: Solitude Lake Management	2,280.00
Net income for year ending 12/31/2023	-\$9,109.91
Income	
Dues Income	\$4,780.00
12 Individual memberships	
47 Family memberships	
26 Sustaining memberships	
Contributions (not including dues payments or grants)	\$14,447.00
73 Households	
Grants	
Boston Foundation (for dam & pond maintenance)	15,000.00
Interest Income	1,015.07
Amazon Smile contributions	33.74
Total Income	\$35,331.07
Expenses	
Dam Maintenance	\$ 870.00
Pond Maintenance	29,408.18
General Administration	1,037.04
FPC Picnic	258.76
Property Acquisition (Goonyep land)	12,867.00
Total Expenses	\$44,440.98
Net Income	-\$9,109.91
Respectfully Submitted,	
 David Brown Treasurer	
Report revised April 5, 2024	

The Treasurer's report was also posted on-line, and, as promised, our Treasurer is not going to read it. But I will ask Dave Brown to give an update on this year's contributions.

I also want to thank Arno Minkkinnen for donating 20 volumes of his acclaimed book Saga for award to the first 20 supporters to donate \$500 or more to the Corporation this year.

So once again, I will take a vote. All in favor of approving the Treasurer's report say AYE. Opposed, NAY.

The ayes have it, and the Treasurer's Report is approved.

Thank you, Dave.

Election of Directors

- Nominated for re-election for two-year terms ending December 31, 2025:
 - ▶ Amy Janovsky
 - ▶ Katie Workman



Under the by-laws, the Board of Directors consists of five directors and the four officers. The directors are elected for staggered terms of two years.

I recognize David Adilman to make a motion.

David: I NOMINATE FOR RE-ELECTION AS DIRECTORS Amy Janovsky and Katie Workman

STEVE: Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, we'll vote on this slate. If you are in favor of re-electing these directors, please say AYE. If you are opposed, say NAY.

The ayes have it. The directors are re-elected. I would like to thank all of the directors, including David Adilman, Steve Ellis and Dot Tyler, for the support and wisdom they contribute to this organization.

Election of Officers

- Nominated for re-election for 2024:
 - ▶ President: Steve Cotton
 - ▶ Vice-President: Marty Rabinowitz
 - ▶ Treasurer: Dave Brown
 - ▶ Secretary: Janet Kenney



Under the by-laws, officers are elected for a term of one year.

I will turn to David once again:

David: I NOMINATE FOR RE-ELECTION AS OFFICERS :

STEVE COTTON, PRESIDENT
MARTY RABINOWITZ, VICE PRESIDENT
DAVID BROWN, TREASURER
JANET KENNEY, SECRETARY

STEVE: I should note that three of the officers - Janet, Dave, and myself - have served since the FPC was reconstituted in 2003, and Marty has served nearly that long. That's over 20 years. I want to thank my fellow officers for their invaluable contribution and their endurance. I also want to say that all of us are well aware of the need to plan for succession. We would welcome younger members to take a more active role in the governance of the Corporation. I invite you to talk to me or another officer or director about becoming more engaged.

Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I am going to ask you to indicate whether you are for or against the motion to re-elect these officers.

If you are in favor, say AYE. Opposed, say NAY.

The ayes have it, and the officers are re-elected.

Again, I want to thank my fellow officers for the work they do, without which the FPC could not function.

And that concludes the formal business meeting.

The Main Event:

‘Hop, Crawl, Slither: The Hidden Lives of Andover’s Amphibians and Reptiles’



Our featured speaker this evening is Mike Jones.

Mike holds a truly unique position in Massachusetts government. He is the State Herpetologist. Mike was born and raised in Andover and spent 20 years here studying turtles. He explored Foster’s Pond and just about every other turtle habitat in Town. Mike completed a PhD in Evolutionary Biology and Wildlife Conservation at UMass Amherst in 2009 and has studied freshwater turtles at many locations throughout the United States and Mexico. Now Mike serves as MassWildlife’s top expert on finding and conserving endangered reptiles and amphibians. Mike lives in New Salem, Massachusetts with his wife and two sons.

What's Next

- Updates on the Dam and the Pond
- Looking Ahead to 2024
- New Business, Wildlife Reports, Questions, and Comments



Next up, I'll summarize how the Dam and the Pond fared in 2023, and let you know what's on the program for this year. That should take about 20 minutes.

Then I'll open the floor to more questions for Mike or me, comments, and New Business.



Maintaining our pre-Civil War dam was the main reason Homer Foster lobbied the community for ten years to create the Corporation. The Dam is beautiful, but as the mill owners and Homer found out, maintaining it is challenge.



When it comes to the Dam, no news is good news. I am therefore delighted to report that there's not much to report. The Dam just needed some routine maintenance last year, and that's all we're anticipating this year.

As you probably noticed, we began this year's refill of the Pond earlier than usual. That was done to accommodate hydro-raking, which had to be completed so as not to conflict with this year's weed treatment.

The first two stoplogs were inserted into the sluiceway on March 4, and the water rose almost exactly one foot in less than a week. That was enough to send water over the spillway on March 10. So we've had our lovely waterfall back earlier than usual. We're keeping one stoplog out for awhile, ever mindful of the Mother's Day Flood of 2006.



Managing nuisance vegetation is by far the Corporation's most expensive undertaking. Our aim is to safeguard the ecological balance of the Pond, and to protect public health.



Blue-green algae can cause gastro-intestinal problems in kids, and can be fatal to pets.

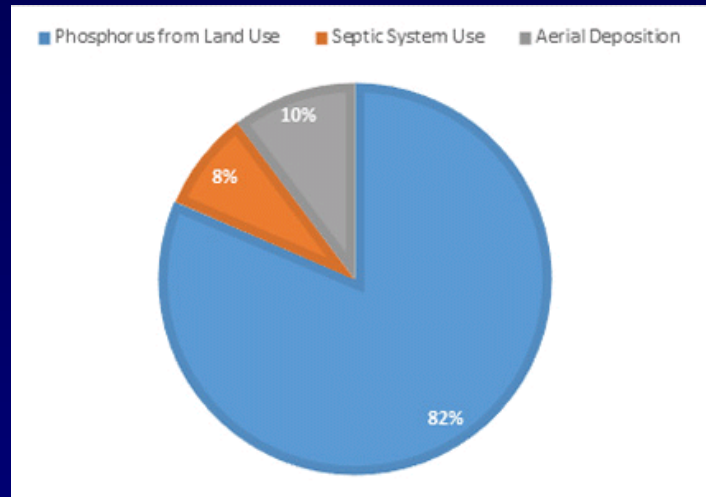


Like a lot of other ponds in Massachusetts, we have to contend with blue-green algae . This is a bloom I photographed from my dock in the Main Pond a couple of years ago.

Blue-green algae is nasty. It's especially bad for kids and pets. We've had to treat the Pond with copper sulfate most years since 2012. We contract with a laboratory to analyze water samples that volunteers draw from three locations so we can make informed decisions about when we need to treat. We treated the Pond once last year.

Copper sulfate works, and it's relatively cheap. It kills the algae it comes in contact with. But it doesn't prevent algae, and each treatment only lasts for a short time. Copper sulfate sinks to the bottom, where it has no more effect on algae and just accumulates, albeit in small amounts. The less often we have to use it, the better.

Algae and Phosphorous



Algae need phosphorous to grow. Of the 255 pounds of phosphorous entering the Pond each year, 208 pounds come from stormwater run-off.



The alternative to chemical control is prevention. The key is to starve the algae of a vital nutrient, and that usually means phosphorous. Which is why you're always hearing about the need to use detergents and fertilizers with low or no phosphates.

Here are some figures for Foster's Pond, from the Watershed-Based Plan we commissioned in 2017. Most of the phosphorous that flows into the Pond comes from stormwater runoff. That's the blue piece on the pie chart.

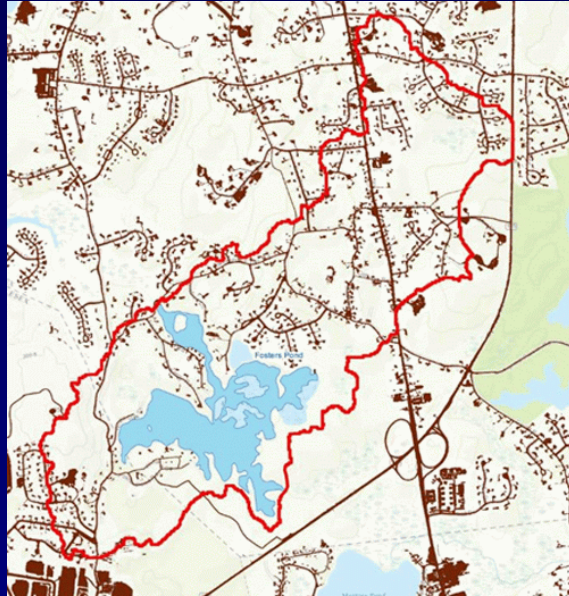
Now a major portion of the phosphorous in stormwater run-off can't be controlled. It comes from the decomposition of organic matter in the woodlands surrounding much of the Pond.

But some phosphorous in stormwater run-off can, at east theoretically, be reduced.

Algae and Phosphorous

Stormwater run-off anywhere in the Pond's 1.5 sq. mi. watershed eventually can flow into the Pond.

Residential land use contributes an estimated 72 pounds of P. We could markedly reduce algae if we cut P loading by just 25 pounds.



This is the Pond's 1.5 square mile watershed, outlined in red. It extends north of Faith Lutheran Church on Main Street, east to Rt 125, down and southwest to Fiorenza Drive and Ashwood Avenue off Andover Street in Wilmington.

Within the red lines, all streams, gulleys, catchbasins, and run-off from storms lead to Foster's Pond.

If we could reduce the overall annual phosphorous loading into Foster's Pond by just 10% - 25 pounds out of the 255 pound total - our algae problems could be very close to eliminated.

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Foster's Pond Corporation
www.fosterspond.org

How YOU Can Help Protect Foster's Pond!

- ✔ **"Just say No" to fertilizer.** Lawn fertilizer is transported to Foster's Pond by storm water runoff, fueling algae blooms that reduce water clarity and can lead to closures. Use natural alternatives to lawn and garden chemicals and establish low-maintenance, native vegetation on your property. 
- ✔ **Build a raingarden to manage stormwater runoff from your property.** Raingardens protect water quality while beautifying your home and neighborhood! For more information, see: <http://trout.cpa.ufl.edu/cap/cap09001.pdf> 
- ✔ **Rain barrels are a great way to re-use rainwater from roofs for gardening and landscaping.** A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Diverting this water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams. Rain barrels can be purchased at many home and garden centers. 
- ✔ **Keep litter, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains.** Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly. Do not dump these products in storm drains. These outlets drain directly into Foster's Pond or streams that flow into the Pond. 
- ✔ **Don't feed waterfowl!** Bread and snack food are harmful to waterfowl. Feeding discourages winter migration and encourages large bird flocks that degrade the Pond and its shorelines with droppings that contribute to the growth of toxic algae. 
- ✔ **Pick up after your pet!** Use biodegradable doggie bags to collect pet waste. Don't dispose of pet waste in storm drains. 
- ✔ **Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.** 



That is not an easy task. But there are some things each of us can do. This one-page list is on our web site. It's taken from our Watershed-Based Plan. I encourage you to read it, download it, print it out and pin it up as a reminder. Talk to your kids about it.

The advice is pretty simple. Clean up after your dog. Cut down on fertilizers, use only low-phosphate fertilizers. Or none! Put in native plants that don't need fertilizing. If you have a storm drain on your property that channels stormwater from a road into the Pond, put in some native plants to absorb the flow before it drains directly into the Pond. Even a little bit of prevention can help.

Before we began our lake management program in 2005, fanwort was the dominant plant in the Pond.



Before we started managing the Pond, fanwort covered more than half the open water. It's a terrible invasive that smothers native plants. It provides poor habitat for fish and animals. It becomes so dense it can actually suffocate fish.

We're controlling it, but it's a never-ending battle. Its occurrence in the Pond goes up and down. By the end of last summer, it was way up.

2023

Fanwort Treatment



Only Dug Pond (4 acres) was treated for fanwort last year.



When an infestation of fanwort gets too dense, or it is intertwined with lilies, the only effective control is an herbicide. called fluridone, sold under the brand name Sonar.

Last year we treated only Dug Pond, which hadn't been treated since 2015. For the first time since 2018 , no part of Foster's Pond proper was treated for fanwort. last year.

2023

Diver Hand-Pulling



Dive teams removed 2.3 tons of fanwort from locations throughout the Pond.

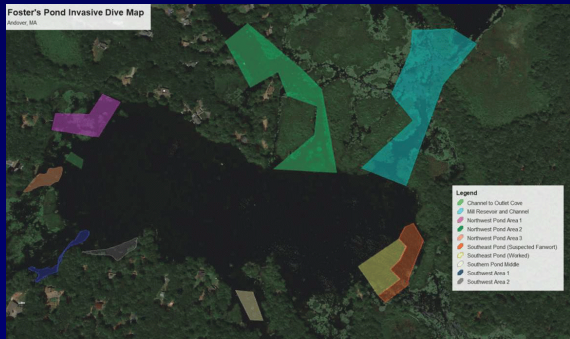


As we've done for several years, we deployed teams of professional divers last summer. They were out over the course of 13 days in June, July and August. The divers pull out plants one at a time, by the roots. It's an alternative to chemical treatment that has shown promise on Foster's Pond, but the job is difficult and unpleasant. As soon as the diver reaches for a plant, the sediment swirls up. The water instantly turns the color of strong coffee. The diver is effectively blinded, feeling his way from plant to plant as he crawls along the bottom. And it's delicate work, because fragmenting the fragile plants sends off pieces that will float away and root elsewhere, starting new infestations.

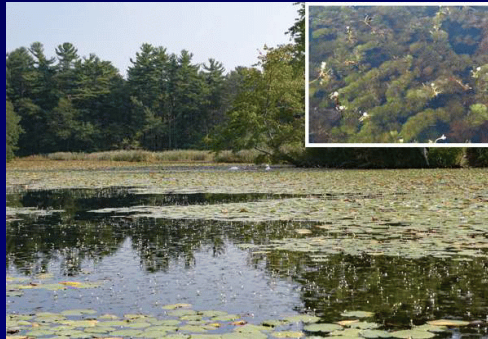
The divers stuff the fanwort into mesh bags holding about 25 pounds. Altogether they removed 188 bags last year. That's a lot of fanwort.

2023

Fanwort Target Areas and Late-Season Growth



Dive Zones



Late-season growth



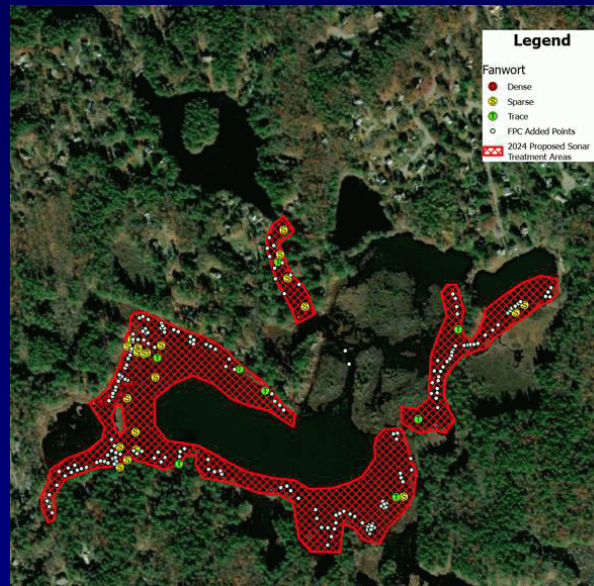
The divers operated in the colored zones on the map to the left. Most of the fanwort came out of two areas: that purple area on the far left, near White Oak Drive, and the yellow and orange zones in the lower right.

But despite the divers' efforts, the amount of fanwort they couldn't see, and left behind, was astounding. And what they left behind literally grew out of control.

I took the pictures on the right in early September, looking towards Goldsmith within that yellow zone. All those delicate white flowers on the open water not covered by lilies are dense stands of fanwort. By the end of the summer, 2023 turned into a frighteningly abundant year for fanwort.

2024

Planned Treatment



As a result, this year we will be undertaking the most extensive - and expensive - fanwort treatment since 2015. We plan to treat 42 of the Pond's 120 acres.

The colored dots on this map indicate where our consultant's formal vegetation survey in early August, covering 61 pre-set data points, detected infestations of fanwort. The white dots represent places where I found fanwort a month later.

Why the difference? For the sake of consistency in our accumulation of data, the consultant only samples those preset points. The biologist raked up samples from the bottom at each point, but the conditions were terrible - windy and cloudy, so there was almost no visibility from the surface. When I went out a month later, I chose a calm, cloudless afternoon, canoed around the Pond slowly, close to shore, and recorded every infestation I saw. I also outlined areas of dense infestation (like the area in the photo on the previous slide) where a few dots didn't do justice to the scope.

Treatment of all the areas marked in red is scheduled to start May 6, a little before we expect the fanwort to emerge from the bottom, so that the tenderest shoots will grow into the treated water.

There will be a couple of booster treatments, about a month apart, to keep the sonar concentration at the target level.

2024:

Possible Copper Sulfate Treatment of Blue-Green Algae

- Same treatment regimen we've used successfully since 2013
- We'll only treat if blue-green algae are detected and water clarity drops



We'll also treat for blue-green algae this year if there are high algae counts. We'll have volunteers monitoring the Pond and taking samples. As to whether we'll need to treat, that largely depends on heat and precipitation.

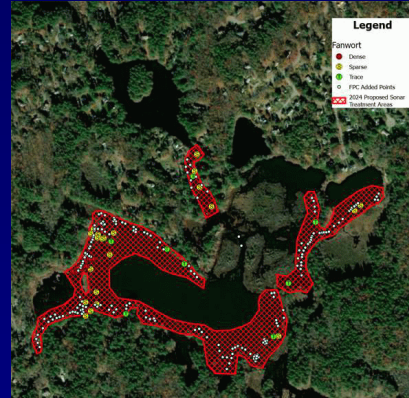
Monitoring for blue-green algae, and figuring out when to treat, is harder than it may sound, and we are amateurs, not experts. The Pond may get cloudy and develop surface scum for reasons having nothing to do with blue-green algae - for example, pollen, benign forms of algae, or other organisms. Copper sulfate kills algae on contact but doesn't stay in the water column very long. Treat before the algae come on, and you've accomplished nothing. Wait too long, and it's too late to prevent a dangerous bloom.

Lab tests are expensive, and with our modest budget, we can't afford frequent testing. We need to make judgment calls on when to ship samples to the lab.

Our the field work is done by volunteers. I'd like to give a shout-out to John Lugus, Al Barber, David Adilman, and Paul Chase. They've shared the work of monitoring the Pond, taking samples, and shipping them to the lab. Thanks, guys.

Water Use Restrictions: Weed and Algae Treatments

- Treated areas will be closed for fishing, swimming & boating for the day of any treatment
- Sonar treatment for fanwort
 - ▶ Treated water should not be used for irrigation for 90 days from first treatment



All of the treatments we undertake are performed by our lake management consultant, under a permit approved by the State and in accordance with an Order of Conditions approved by the Andover Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission also reviews and approves our specific treatment plans on an annual basis. This year's treatment program was unanimously approved on March 19.

None of the herbicides we use carry any restrictions on recreational use of the Pond - swimming, boating or fishing - but we close the Pond, or the affected areas, on the day of treatment to minimize the possibility that anyone gets too close to the craft that's applying the chemical or interrupts the calibration. And we don't want anyone getting run over if our consultant is using an airboat.

All of these herbicides are approved for use in public drinking water supplies.

The only longer-lasting restrictions relating to this year's program apply to using Pond water for irrigation after the fanwort treatment. Basically, if your shoreline touches the treatment areas shown in red, you will be advised not to irrigate from the Pond before some time in August.

I try to notify potentially affected residents through our email list, and I put information up on the web site, and post appropriate streets, mailbox clusters, and public access locations.

2024 Hydro-raking

- Each participating shoreline owner pays
- Started April 1, concluded April 8



Photo by Jim Cyrier



Finally, I just wanted to mention hydro-raking, which is another component of managing the Pond.

We hydro-rake in the spring when the water is up, letting the rake navigate to hard-to-reach shorelines. Also, it's still too cold to swim, so raking doesn't interfere with recreational uses.

17 property owners signed up for hydro-raking this year - 12 on the Main Pond and 5 on the Channel. That's a record number.

The rake removes organic matter which contains nutrients, and nutrient reduction contributes to the health of the Pond. But the primary benefit goes to the shoreline owner, so the Corporation does not pay for the work.

Hydro-raking is also subject to an annual vote by the Conservation Commission approving the list of participants. This year, the Conservation Commission approved the list on March 19.



We have plenty of opportunities for volunteers to lend a hand. The FPC is only as active and effective as the volunteers who step up.

Please Volunteer

- Water quality observations
- Take on a WBP project
- Administration & communications
- Help with setting up and cleaning up for the Summer Picnic (August 10)

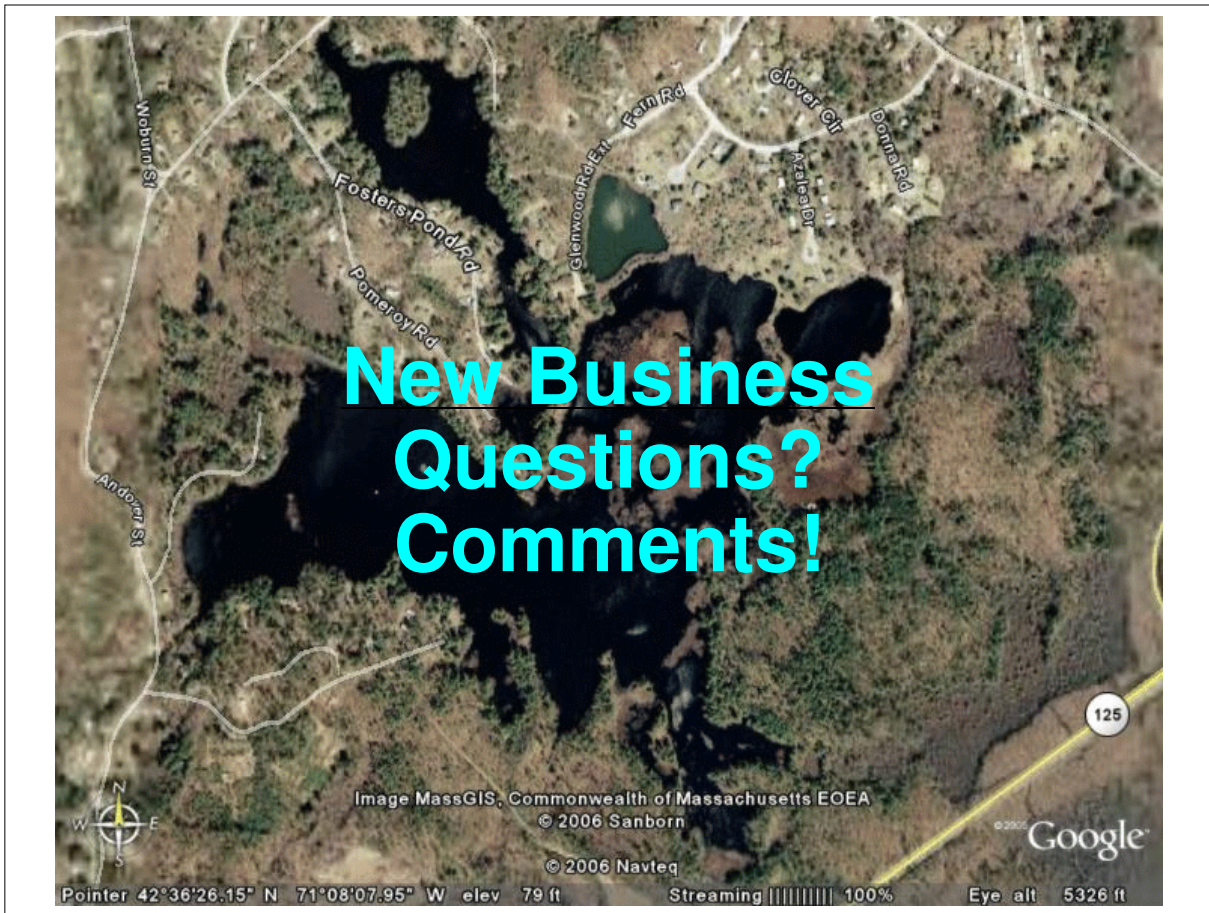
If you would like to help with water quality observations, and have a means of getting around the Pond, please let me know.

If you live on the Pond - or are a visitor - and observe fanwort anywhere, please let me know. I will pass the information along to our consultant or the divers. But please don't rake fanwort or try to pull it out yourself. It's fragile, you'll inevitably create fragments, and that will just spread it.

I mentioned the Watershed-Based Plan. Please read the summary on the web site. At the end, there's a list of projects that cry out for volunteer leadership. If there's something that appeals to you, let me or Amy know.

And if you'd like to contribute time to administrative chores, communications, or anything else we do or you think we should be doing, drop me an e-mail.

This year's Summer Picnic - you can mark your calendar - will be Saturday, August 10. I want to thank Michele and Peter Scavongelli for graciously offering to host the picnic at their brand-new home on Pomeroy Road. I'll of course be putting out more information as the time draws closer. This will be the 19th pondwide picnic in the modern era - continuing a tradition which dates back to 1927.



Now it is time for New Business.

To begin, I'd like to recognize Joan Ellis, who would like to make a short presentation on light pollution.

