

Thain Allan

From: "Glenda Szczesiul" <gszczesiul@gmail.com>
To: "Thain Allan" <thain.allan@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 09, 2014 9:25 PM
Subject: Re: Stocker Pond---DES visit
Got ya online.
Glenda

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 9, 2014, at 4:01 PM, "Thain Allan" <thain.allan@comcast.net> wrote:

I met with Scott Ashely of the Luminology group at Dept. of Environmental Services. We pulled out the last plant growth study done on the pond in 2001. We have copies of the map that was generated showing the major species and where they were growing on the pond at that time.

DES has a more sophisticated mapping tool than existed then. It is a GPS oriented and heat based measurement device. Loaded into one of the DES boats, Scott will circle the pond several times and criss cross across the middle. It will result in two measurements. First, it will capture the density of growth, located it via GPS and render a map of the pond color coding the densities. Second, he is able to measure the depth of the pond sediment which should be particularly helpful around the inlet and outlet. Finally, he'll identify the various weeds that are growing.

Scott needs to do this when the weeds are at the height of their growth. This will be in the August timeframe. He was enthusiastic about doing this and asked me to contact him again in July to set up a specific time. He estimates that this is about a 4 or 5 hour project for our size pond.

He also suggested that I contact Sara Steiner and Amy Smagula to see if they might be able to put us in contact with other folks who have put pond management plans in place which I will do this week. The Province Lake Association over in Wakefield is doing a big project. Province is far larger than Stocker, but the average depth is only 8 feet. They are also facing a weed problem and high phosphorous levels.

Thain

Thain Allan

From: "Smagula, Amy" <Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov>
To: "Thain Allan" <thain.allan@comcast.net>
Cc: "Pat Woodson" <prwoolson@comcast.net>; "Scott Ashley" <Scott.Ashley@des.nh.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:56 PM
Subject: RE: Weeds/Stocker Pond

Noted, thanks. Scott and I talked shortly after I sent my reply, so I know he has Stocker Pd. On his list for this summer.

Amy

Sent from my Windows Phone

From: [Thain Allan](#)
Sent: 3/13/2014 11:12 AM
To: [Smagula, Amy](#)
Cc: [Pat Woodson](#); [Scott Ashley](#)
Subject: Re: Weeds/Stocker Pond

Amy, I apologize for the delay in responding to your note. When I met with Scott, he indicated that he would do a survey of the pond in the August timeframe. I am to contact him in July to arrange for a date. He can launch his boat from the north end of the pond, and I volunteered to assist him as needed. As you indicated, updating the info we have from almost 15 years ago and using the updated technology you now have should be very valuable.

I believe our interest in managing the quality of the pond is not limited to just the inlet, but the entire body of water. Your suggestion to contact the contractors you noted below is a good one.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Smagula, Amy](#)
To: [Thain Allan](#) ; [Steiner, Sara](#)
Cc: [Ashley, Scott](#) ; [Pat Woolson](#)
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2014 11:37 AM
Subject: RE: Weeds/Stocker Pond

Hi Thain,

For clarity, are you concerned about the pond as a whole, or about the outlet end of the pond? When Pat initially contacted us it was relative to the outflow and growth in that area.

We generally do not encourage management of native plant growth (nor do we provide funds for such work), but if you like you can have a full survey of the pond done to establish a current baseline, to allow you to better track the evolution of plant growth over time in the future, to see if changes are in fact occurring. It has been 13 years since the pond was last surveyed, so it is a good idea to have some type of monitoring done.

Based on historical data on file here at DES, it looks like:

- In 1983, aquatic plants were rated as common overall in the pond, with higher density growth along the western shoreline (yielding a rating of abundant along the west shore)
- In 2001, aquatic plants were still rated as common overall in the pond

Stocker Pond is generally shallow, with a maximum depth of 19 feet, and a mean depth of 9 feet. Secchi disk depth, which can be used as an estimate of sunlight penetration (adding on about an additional meter beyond

that) is roughly 11 feet, or up to 14 feet if you add the addition meter (~3 feet) beyond the zone of clarity. This means that a good portion of Stocker Pond has areas where sunlight can penetrate to the bottom, where plants can growth and photosynthesize.

Native plant surveys can be done by hired contractors (there are a couple out of MA that do that type of work). DES used to do these surveys as part of lake assessments, but that program has been significantly scaled back over the years, so it is not something that is done on a broad spectrum anymore, particularly with limited staff. If we have time during the summer we may add a lake to our list to survey, but staff time for such surveys is related to invasive species growth, with native plant growth a lower priority. If we did do such a survey we'd come out and do the survey in the summer, but would not be able to get you a map and data until the following winter season, when we have time at our desks to prepare maps of our findings (we are in the field almost daily all summer long with not a lot of office time).

The contractors who do detailed surveys are:

- o Aquatic Control Technology, LLC at 508-865-1000 or you can email Marc Bellaud at mbellaud@aquaticcontroltech.com
- o Lycott Environmental, Inc. at 508-885-0101 or you can email Rob Wheaton at rwheaton@lycott.com

So there are some options to consider (hired contractor for more immediate surveys, or considering a state survey if you are not in a rush for data). I do encourage you to contact the contractors and talk with them about their services. They can also let you know about what remediation actions are feasible given the findings of a plant survey, so that you fully understand the scope, timeline, permitting requirements and costs that could be associated with a native plant management practice.

In any event, if you do have a survey done, I suggest it be done in late July or early August, so you are sure to have data from peak biomass time.

Amy

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 Amy P. Smagula  
 Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator  
 NH DES  
 29 Hazen Drive  
 Concord, NH 03301  
 Phone: 603-271-2248  
 Fax: 603-271-7894  
 Email: [Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Thain Allan [<mailto:thain.allan@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2014 10:14 AM  
**To:** Smagula, Amy; Steiner, Sara  
**Cc:** Ashley, Scott; Pat Woolson  
**Subject:** Weeds/Stocker Pond

Sara and Amy. my name is Thain Allan and I am the secretary/treasurer of the Stocker Pond Association in Grantham.

I recently met with Scott Ashley who suggested I contact you.

As Pat Woolson, who monitors our water quality indicated to you last summer, we are becoming concerned with the weed growth on the pond and what it means to the pond's long term quality. We've been talking with our local conservation commission and our thought is to develop a management plan that could help stabilize or better control its evolution. We not sure how to get started and are asking if you might be able to refer us to some groups that have done this. We'd like to contact some of these people and perhaps learn more about how they formulated their plans, issues they faced, etc.

3/26/2014

Amy, we appreciate your referring us to Scott. He was very helpful and we look forward to his doing a weed assessment next August when the weeds are in full bloom.

Thain Allan

3/26/2014