



## Hogan Whitney Pond Association (HWP) 2024 Annual Report

The HWP leadership team wishes to thank the 75 families that donated to our efforts in 2024 and hope that we can grow this list in 2025. Almost 40 percent of the contributors gave at the higher Lake Stewards level. Detailed below are seven ongoing activities that HWP engages in to maintain the health of our threatened ponds. It is only through your ongoing support that we can maintain this work. With moderating temperatures, increasingly intense storms, and pressure from surrounding development, we need to redouble our efforts. Donations are tax deductible and can be made by check at our annual meeting, by mail (P. O. Box 301, Oxford, ME 04270) or by card on our website. We also welcome volunteers who can reach out to us via the HWP website. The Association looks forward to seeing everyone at our annual meeting at 9 am, Saturday, June 28, at the Community Center.

**Water Levels/Welchville Dam:** In October 2024 the Town completed a \$500,000 installation of a series of grade controls at the outlet to Hogan and Whitney which should better stabilize water levels. HWP is collaborating with the Town Engineers (VHB) to carry out a three-year study (2025-2027) to evaluate the effectiveness of the grade controls, with the goal of the removal of the Welchville Dam. HWP also hopes to collaborate with local partners to better understand the effects of water levels that flow from Tripp Pond and Winterbrook Stream into Hogan Pond.

**Variable Leaf Milfoil:** For the past two decades, HWP volunteers have undertaken efforts to track and remove the ongoing variable leaf milfoil infestation in Hogan. For the past decade that has largely involved contracting with a professional dive team for removal. In 2024 we spent \$10,444 including DEP funding, HWP contributions, and volunteer labor by residents. This year, with the support of a \$5000 grant from the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation, we are engaging the dive team for three weeks in July.

**Water Quality Within the Watershed:** 2024 saw the end of a two-year watershed grant with funding from DEP. The program involved a state grant totaling \$77,910, matched by local in-kind contributions of time, materials, and cash donations of \$72,739. Projects across ten residential sites and two larger projects on Rabbit Valley Road and Two Lakes Camping Area protected and improved the watershed. A summary of the project was mailed to watershed owners this winter and is posted on the HWP website. In addition, HWP also conducts regular water clarity readings on both ponds and contracts every-other-year intensive water quality studies.

**Community Education:** We have added a detailed website in 2024 ([www.hoganwhitneypond.org](http://www.hoganwhitneypond.org)) so that any interested parties can keep abreast of all our activities. This is a primary tool for communicating on a regular basis with our environmental efforts, as well as fund-raising, education, reports, news articles, and announcements. We also make presentations at the HWP Annual Meeting to update homeowners.

**Loon Count:** Each year volunteers from HWP help with a July count of loons on our two ponds. This is part of an ongoing effort across the state and nation. On July 20, 2024 we identified one adult loon on Whitney.

**LakeSmart:** This is a statewide program, partnering with local lake association volunteers. Our volunteers visit with neighbors to assess their lakeside properties, checking for erosion. Properties that protect the ponds and meet program standards earn a LakeSmart Award. Properties not yet meeting the standards receive recommendations for reducing erosion and protecting their lakes. HWP has conducted seven free evaluations in the past two years and would like to expand that in the future.

**Inter-Agency Collaboration:** We do not work independently within an isolated bubble. Instead, HWP works with the Town of Oxford, state agencies (e.g., DEP and IFW), Ecological Instincts, the local soil and water conservation district, our elected officials, advocacy groups, and others to learn from and share ideas.