

SPIA e-News

October 2026

It feels like summer vanished overnight, but autumn has plenty to offer — football, comfy sweatshirts, and incredible fall colors! So grab your pumpkin latte, kick back, and check out a few updates.



Thank You, Lee! SPIA Leadership Transition

If you missed our August 22nd Membership meeting, we shared some important news: Lee Robator has stepped down as President as part of a planned leadership transition. During his eight years as President, Lee's passion for Square Pond and our community showed in everything he did. Among his many accomplishments, Lee coordinated the 2019 Watershed Survey, released the Lake Dwellers Handbook, advocated for the in-kind culvert replacement, supported expansion of our Dive Team's capabilities, enhanced ties with neighboring Lake Improvement Associations, and supported training efforts for our Invasive Plant Patrol team. We are deeply grateful for Lee's vision and hard work! We're also thrilled that he will remain on the SPIA Board to continue with SPIA's Officers: President Lisa Garroway, Vice President Heather Beaupre, Secretary Kristen Morrisroe, and Treasurer Mark Parenti.

2026 Loon Count

Every July, volunteers gather data for the Maine Audubon Society's annual loon count. Statewide results from 2025 estimated southern Maine's population at 3,174 adults and 568 chicks. This year, Square Pond recorded 10 adults and one chick. Our newest little neighbor grew up fast! We were so fortunate to welcome a chick to our waters this season — a great reminder of why we must keep working together to protect their habitat.



Photo courtesy of Al Lindquist

Passion in Action

Shoutout to Shelley Camire and Jackie Beaudoin for using their incredible talents to support SPIA! Shelley handcrafted a custom lazy Susan and cup set for raffle, which raised \$1,700. Jackie brought the ladies of Square Pond together for a fun lakeside workout, raising nearly \$400. Thank you to everyone that bought (& sold) raffle tickets and to those that sweated through the workout. As a non-profit fueled completely by dues and donations, these extra efforts mean the world to SPIA. Got a cool idea of your own? Reach out — let's do it!

We're in this TOGETHER!

Thank you to EVERY SINGLE VOLUNTEER for giving Square Pond your precious time this season, whether individually or as part of a team. The SPIA Dive Team beat last year's record and removed 2516 pounds of snails this season, a total team effort by divers, surface breathers, snorkelers, kayakers, pontoon boat drivers, ground & disposal crews. The Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Team surveyed 100% of Square Pond's shoreline/ islands at least once and did not identify any invasive aquatic plants. After learning that live snails were found near the Treasure Island launch, Treasure Islanders surveyed the area and removed snails, which will reduce future expansion.

Reminders

- The water level on Square Pond is typically evaluated in October to make sure there is capacity for spring snowmelt/ rain and to minimize winter shoreline erosion. The dam is owned by Sanford, with operations managed by committee.
- Please do not dispose of leaves/ pine needles in the lake. They release nitrogen and phosphorus, which can cause future algae blooms. The decomposition also uses oxygen that our fish need.
- The map on page 2 shows which nearby waterbodies have invasive aquatic plants. We need to stay vigilant!
- SPIA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization powered by volunteers and community support. All donations- of time or funds- are truly appreciated.



SQUARE POND
Improvement Association



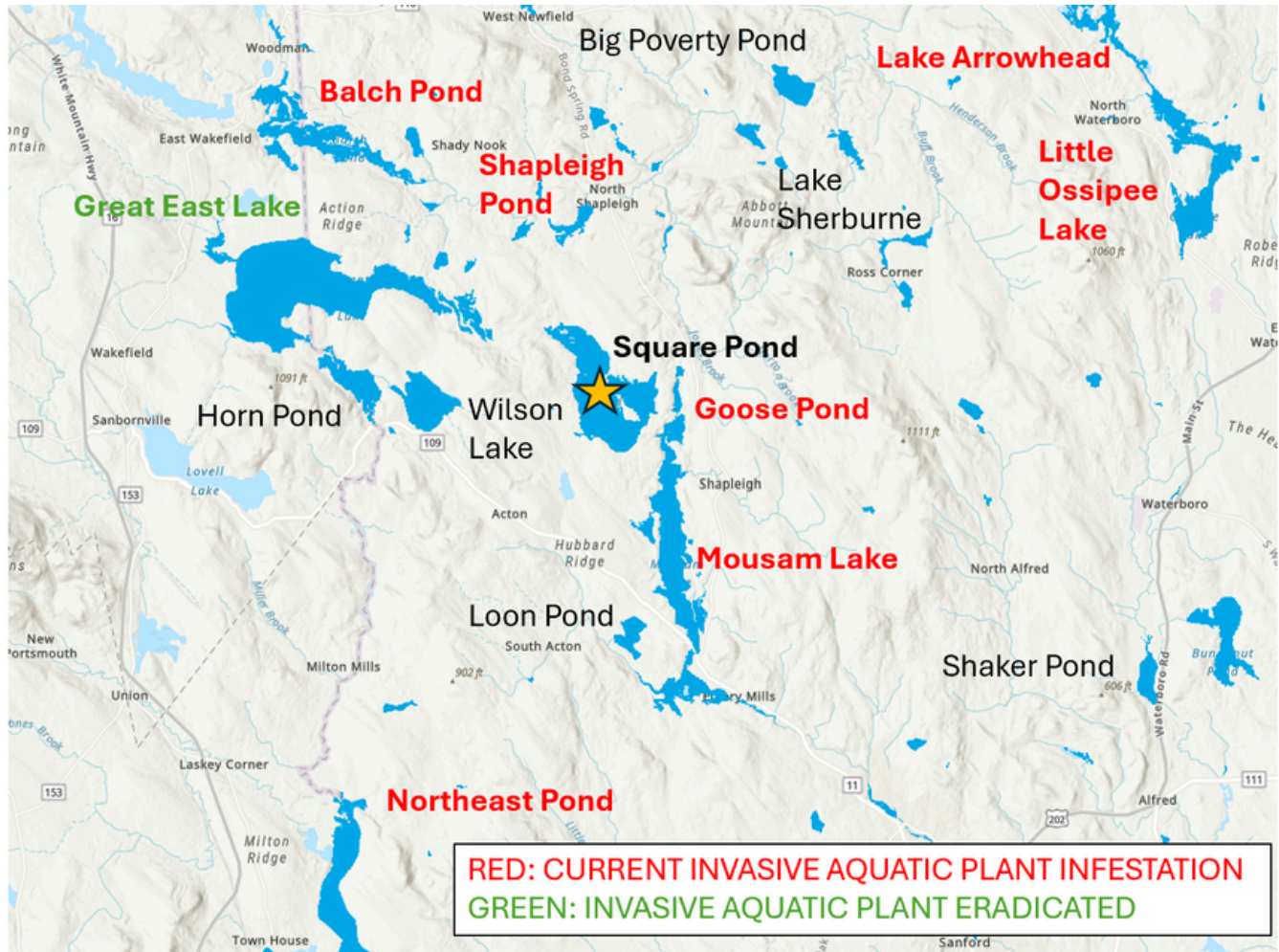
www.squarepond.org



contact@squarepond.org

Invasive Aquatic Plants in Nearby Waterbodies

Invasive aquatic plants are all around us! We need help from everyone who loves Square Pond to PREVENT and quickly DETECT invasive aquatic plants. Please always Clean, Drain, and Dry your watercraft/ gear and keep an eye out for invasive aquatic plants. If you see something you're unsure about, email ippsquarepond@gmail.com or post a picture on SPIA's Facebook page. Click to review the current list of [Maine's invasive plants](#).



Map from: [MaineLakes](#)

Lake: Aquatic Invasive Plant (Year identified) per Maine DEP Invasive Aquatic Plant Map

Balch Pond: Variable-leaf Watermilfoil (2004)

Goose Pond: Swollen Bladderwort (2024)

Great East Lake: Variable-leaf Watermilfoil (**eradicated!**)

Lake Arrowhead: Variable-leaf Watermilfoil (2001), Brittle Naiad (2020), Swollen Bladderwort (2021)

Mousam Lake: Swollen Bladderwort (2023)

Northeast Pond: Brittle Naiad (2015)

Shapleigh Pond: Variable-leaf Watermilfoil (2022)

Little Ossipee Lake: Swollen Bladderwort (2023)



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