

Clemons Pond Water Quality

Report 5/24/26

Recapping the 2025 water testing season we had 11 sets of data collected between May 23rd and Sept 27th by myself and Nancy Serrell along with our newly minted monitors Margo and Steve Feeney. Average water clarity by Secchi Depth measurement was 5.92 meters with a range of 4.54 to 6.80 meters. This was above our historic average water clarity of 5.60 meters and an improvement from the previous year likely due to lack of rainfall. Total phosphorus testing was obtained on August 29th and came back at 7 parts per billion (close to past results). Oxygen and temperature profiles over the course of the testing season showed late summer desaturation (diminished oxygen) below depths of 20 feet a trend that we see every summer.

In early July 2025 we had reports of what appeared to be cyanobacteria growing along the southeast shore of the pond which dissipated within a week. This was reported to “Bloomwatch” which is monitored by Maine DEP and required no intervention. Water quality was not otherwise affected. An informative post on the subject did go out to members of our community. Please report any future unusual sightings or concerns to our officers or any members of the water quality team.

Thus far in 2026 we have been out on the pond twice and seem to be starting the season with very clear water. Water clarity on May 22 was 6.60 meters and surface water temperature is already up to 68 degrees F.

Our DO meter did pass inspection by the DEP folks in Augusta in April though temperature readings were slightly off. We should be prepared to purchase a replacement at some time down the road. Current replacement cost is \$2,282 for the recommended replacement model.

After many years of complaining that Maine DEP has been way behind in uploading water quality data to their database, I can now say that they are finally caught up. As a result, they have created a new Maine DEP Lake Scorecard that is now available online. I’m happy to share more information about that with anyone who is interested following the meeting.

Again, thanks to Nancy, Margo and Steve for their continuing commitment and enthusiasm.

Victor Lerish