



Foster's Pond Corporation

www.fosterspond.com

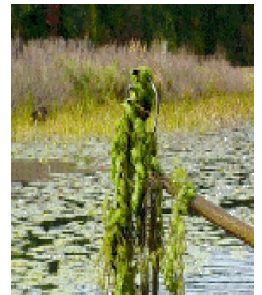
March 5, 2006

Dear Neighbor,

I am writing to you because you live near Foster's Pond. Maybe you've walked to its shores through the Goldsmith Reservation - called by the Boston *Globe* "the outstanding and most beautiful" of Andover's reservations because of the scenic views of Foster's Pond. Or maybe you've taken a dip in "Dug Pond," the Town-owned swimming hole near the end of Glenwood Road that is part of the Foster's Pond watershed. If so, you know just how precious the Pond is to the environment of our Town.

What you may not know is that the Foster's Pond Corporation (the FPC) - a non-profit, community-based, volunteer organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Pond - has been working to save this treasured resource so that all of us, and future generations, can continue to enjoy it.

In 2004, we commissioned a biological survey of plant life in the Pond. The study found that a single non-native, invasive weed had become the dominant plant, covering more than half the surface area and, in deeper water, accounting for 80% of the plant growth. The invading weed - *Cabomba carolinea*, or "fanwort" - was overtaking native plants and threatening to choke the Pond, quite literally, to death.



Fanwort in the main pond, August 2004

We fought back. We studied every conceivable solution. Dredging? Too destructive, and too expensive. Sterile carp? Can spread disease to other fish, and not allowed in Massachusetts. Other biological controls? Don't exist for fanwort. By a process of elimination, we settled on the only approach that is both effective against fanwort and allowed by the State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): the application of an aquatic herbicide called fluridone (sold under the brand name Sonar). Of the six aquatic herbicides allowed in Massachusetts, it is the only one effective against fanwort, and it is also, fortunately, the least toxic. It has a short half-life, does not bioaccumulate in fish or wildlife, and does not migrate through soils. At the recommended concentration (20 parts per *billion*), Federal and State authorities allow its use in public water reservoirs, even at the point where water is drawn into the system. The treated water body is closed to fishing, boating and swimming on the day of treatment, but reopens for these uses the following day. DEP has declared the use of Sonar to combat fanwort "a necessity," at least until some other technique can be developed.



Sonar injected into Foster's Pond from subsurface hoses, June 2005

And so we acted. Last year, we embarked on the long and complicated process of obtaining approvals to treat all 120 acres of Foster's Pond with Sonar. The Andover Conservation

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Commission unanimously approved. The State DEP upheld the Conservation Commission decision in record time. The Andover Board of Health endorsed our treatment program.

In a few weeks, the FPC last Spring raised \$42,500 in contributions from near-by residents just like you. We hired Aquatic Control Technology, Inc., one of New England's most experienced and respected lake management specialists (and a company with which we have worked on smaller projects in Foster's Pond for nearly thirty years), to undertake the treatment regimen.



Before (August 2004) . . .

The results were astonishing. A systematic plant survey showed we had virtually eradicated fanwort from the Pond, opening up areas that had been weed-clogged for years. Native plants were thinned, but will rebound. There were no adverse effects on fish or wildlife.



. . . and after (August 2005)

That was the good news. The bad news was that we discovered that fanwort and another non-native invasive weed, Brazilian elodea, had spread to the "Dug Pond" at the end of Glenwood Road. If not treated with Sonar, fanwort will clog that little basin and spread back into the main Pond.

This year, the FPC (we're a membership organization, open to everyone, and our members are your neighbors) voted unanimously to take on the job of ridding the "Dug Pond" of fanwort. We have once again obtained the necessary approvals. Now we need to raise the money. The project will cost \$5,750. And it's up to us. The Town does not maintain its conservation areas (there's no money, and officials do not want to set a precedent by paying even for a small project). So if we want to save this resource, we must do it ourselves.



"Dug Pond" showing areas of fanwort infestation

That's where you come in. Please join us by contributing what you can to save this wonderful resource in your backyard. I suggest a minimum contribution of \$250 (last year, 75% of our contributors gave \$1,000), but whatever you choose to give will be helpful and welcome.

Please complete and return the enclosed contribution form in the envelope we've provided. All of your contribution - 100% - will go towards preserving and protecting Foster's Pond. We are entirely a volunteer organization. Your donation will pay for the substantive work of saving the Pond - like fighting weeds and maintaining the Foster's Pond dam (without which there would be no Pond). The FPC is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, so your contribution is fully tax deductible as a charitable donation.

To learn more about Foster's Pond, the FPC, and the work we're doing, please visit our Web site, www.fosterspond.com. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to help. And thank you for doing your part.

Sincerely,



Steve Cotton