

## **2018 letter from the West Pond Association President**

**As we embark on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association taking charge of the Invasive Curly Leaf Pond Weed removal, our pond is in the best shape it has been in since prior to its arrival.**

**It was discovered in 2004 (14 years ago) and the state fast response team conducted the first hand harvest in May of 2005. Little was done after that until the fall of 2007 when we built and put into operation our own DASH boat (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester). With the dedication of many of our members we have successfully gotten it under control and are now working it each year as a maintenance issue. We will never be rid of it, but our pond is once again pristine and enjoyed by all.**

**This year will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year that we have hired commercial divers, New England Milfoil Company to come in and harvest the Curly Leaf shortly after ice out. This has proven to make a big difference, whereas they meet all the law requirements and dive in dry suits. The plant is still small and the seeds that start new plants have yet to develop. We still operate our DASH boat once the contract is complete to cleanup any beds remaining with a totally volunteer crew of association members and friends of the pond.**

**All our members are vigilant in spotting and removing floating fragment of the weed throughout the growth cycle which has also stopped the spread of thousands of plants!**

**Our pond is a true success story in the fight against invasive aquatic plants and one everyone in our association can be proud of.**

**Respectfully and have a great summer,**

**Dennis Spinney**

**President, WPA**