

**White Oak Pond Watershed Association  
Water Sampling Committee Report - July 19, 2008  
Nancy Voorhis/Galen Beach**

The pond has continued to be sampled on a schedule of tributary sampling during spring runoff, pond sampling in June, July and August with re-sampling of any tributaries that show issues during spring runoff. We follow the standards of the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP).

We received a biennial report from VLAP in 2007 which showed the pond has not significantly changed in any parameter that is analyzed since sampling began. Overall, the monitoring shows the pond in relatively good health. As summarized by Chris Devine at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the monitoring shows the pond as “between pristine and moderately productive” (note: less productivity is more desirable).

The parameters continue to show a pond that has some internal phosphorus loading and thus is somewhat vulnerable to external phosphorus inputs. Excessive phosphorus can lead to algae growth. External phosphorus sources include septic system effluents, animal waste, lawn fertilizer, erosion and natural wetlands. Thus, residents maintaining septic systems, minimizing lawn fertilization, etc. remain important aspects of keeping the pond in the state it is in.

Noteable mentions for 2007:

- ✓ The dump continues to show very high levels of conductivity during spring runoff. High conductivity indicates high levels of ions from metals, salts and minerals. Fortunately, these high levels do not translate into high levels in the pond itself (at the deep spot), but the consistently high levels indicate the dump (or other facilities near the dump) are a source of inputs to the pond.
- ✓ Cynobacteria was found in the June, 2007 samples. Cynobacteria, if present in large amounts, can be toxic to animals and humans and we encourage residents to keep watch for the presence of this bacteria and possible algal blooms in the fall. Working to reduce sources of phosphorous will reduce the chances of the presence of nuisance levels of cynobacteria and other plant and algal growth.
- ✓ The NH Shoreline Protection Act was revised, with the revisions now effective. The revisions set new setbacks and restrictions on activities within 250’ of the shoreline. The first 50’ within the shoreline are subject to ‘woodland buffer’ restrictions and from 50’ to 150’ are subject to limits on impervious surfaces and disturbed area. SLA will be running a summer workshop (not yet scheduled).

The website ([www.whiteoakpond.com](http://www.whiteoakpond.com)) will have a link to the full 2007 report when it is made available by DES (not available yet due to DES web site changes) along with links to useful information about shorefront activities and their effect on water quality and information about the revised Shoreline Protection Act. Reports will also be at the SLA.