

## 2020 Water Quality Report for Flying Pond

The pristine condition of Flying Pond is important to all of us. The ability to fish, swim, ski and marvel at the clarity of the pond on a calm day is no doubt treasured by all that visit the pond. Some lakes and ponds in the state of Maine have lost the ability to cherish the conditions we are so accustomed to. The enemy to the pond's pristine condition is of course, algae. Algae can cause a decrease in water clarity. It can cause swimmers to itch because of parasites that live within waters that have high concentrations of algae, and even give the lake an unpleasant odor. For these reasons, we have monitored the water quality of our pond.

The water clarity is measured using a black and white Secchi disk. This disk is lowered into the water until it disappears. It is then slowly raised until it can be seen, then the depth is recorded. In the state of Maine less than 9 feet is poor, 9 feet to 23.5 feet is good. Our historical readings have varied from 9.5 to 22 feet. Our readings for 2020 have been between 16.4 and 22 feet.

Oxygen readings are also performed. Using a portable O<sub>2</sub> meter, water is tested for oxygen from the surface to 25 meters deep. Our readings for 2020 have been between 11.9 ppm (parts per million) and 1.0 ppm. The lower reading is 25 meters down, which is not abnormal in some Maine Lakes.

Phosphorus readings are taken in ppb (parts per billion). Phosphorus readings have been between 12 –20 ppb. Phosphorus is the substance needed for plant growth.

For our fishing enthusiasts, cold water species such as trout and salmon need at least 5 ppm of oxygen and water temperatures between 45 and 65 degrees. In June those conditions could be found in 13 to 26 feet of water.

