

REMEMBERING PAT FARRIN

When Pat Farrin passed away last Saturday (May 14, 2022), West Harbor Pond and its residents lost a friend and a benefactor. Pat's generosity and good works went far beyond our tiny Pond to touch the larger Boothbay community in many ways, and others are better suited to paint the full picture of Pat's kindheartedness. His obituary in the *Boothbay Register* may be found at <https://www.boothbayregister.com/article/patrick-farrin/160459>.

But I would like to remember Pat's gift to us, to the Pond. Pat had always had a soft spot for projects that promised an environmental benefit; and when he learned of our efforts to repair or replace the broken 1880 siphon, he volunteered the services of his construction company at a deeply discounted rate well before he or the rest of us had any idea what the final project would actually look like.

Once we had secured engineering plans for a replacement siphon and raised the funds to begin work, Pat took over. The engineering plans showed *what* was needed, but provided no guidance on *how* what was needed would come into existence. They provided, for example, no instructions whatsoever on how to attach 300-pound weights to an uncooperative length of siphon pipe from a tippy work platform bobbing precariously in the harbor in single-digit December temperatures. Or how to move the 150-foot pond-side siphon pipe, weights attached, from the shore where it had been assembled to the bottom of the Pond . . . when the latter was protected by an eight-inch layer of ice. All that was up to Pat, but not to worry, for Pat was first and foremost a problem-solver. The full story of installation of our siphon by Pat and his crew is told in a photo-essay titled "Green Dye on the Water," which can be found on our website at <https://www.westharborpond.org/the-siphon-1> (last item on page).

But I want to tell one story that, to me, exemplifies Pat's wicked sense of humor, his courage, and his pure doggedness. In December 2018, when we were installing the harbor-side siphon pipe, Pat's cancer had advanced to the point that, for the first time, he needed a cane to get around. To show his disdain for his persecutor, Pat selected as *his* cane a trash picker upper tool, with the aid of which he oversaw the difficult installation of the siphon.

Without Pat's magnanimity, our siphon would have cost more and taken longer to complete, if we had managed to build it at all. And we would not have enjoyed his company during those frigid December and still-cold March days. He will be keenly missed and fondly remembered by our small community.

Merritt R. Blakeslee, President
West Harbor Pond Watershed Association

Here are a few photographs of Pat during and – in the last one – *immediately* after the installation of the siphon, which has just dropped through the ice and into place.



