



**Great Pond Foundation Leads Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring on Trio of Island Ponds  
in Collaboration with Marine Biological Laboratory**  
Chilmark Pond, Edgartown Great Pond, & Tisbury Great Pond

The board of directors of the [Great Pond Foundation Inc.](#) (GPF), a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to preserving coastal ponds through science, collaboration, and education today announced a scientific partnership with the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in support of GPF's Ecosystem Monitoring Program on three Island ponds: Chilmark Pond, Edgartown Great Pond, and Tisbury Great Pond.

[MBL](#) located in Woods Hole, MA and founded in 1888, is a world-class scientific institution and a pioneer in the study of coastal ecosystems. MBL Ecosystems Center Director and Senior Scientist Dr. Anne Giblin, an expert in nutrient cycling in wetland ecosystems, and Research Scientist Dr. Javier Lloret, an expert in the interactions between human activities and their impacts on coastal ecosystems, along with their team, will lead efforts to assess nutrient loading in three Island Great Ponds.

The Vineyard's Great Ponds are precious ecological resources and their health is essential to the Island's character and economy. Restoring and protecting these shared resources will depend on robust participation, coordination and communication among the Island Towns, non-profit groups, and the Martha's Vineyard Commission. The scientific alliance and coordinated monitoring efforts of these three Martha's Vineyard Great Ponds is a positive step that will produce and pool tools, expertise, and resources to tackle the shared challenges of climate change and watershed development that are facing Island ponds.

"The amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in our watersheds is intimately linked to the health of our Great Ponds and increasing global temperatures necessitate timely climate mitigation," stated Emily Reddington, GPF Biologist & Executive Director. She added, "Ultimately, we must reduce the concentration of nutrients in our waters in order to meet TMDL's, reduce the likelihood of future algal blooms, and ensure Great Pond health."

The scientific partnership with the MBL will enhance existing GPF programs on Edgartown Great Pond and its collaboration with the Chilmark Pond Foundation. It will also bolster a scientific alliance between GPF and Tisbury Great Pond stakeholders.

GPF's scientific staff will monitor Chilmark, Edgartown, and Tisbury Great Ponds on a weekly basis from May through October 2021. Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring Program activities will include the following components:

- Water Quality
- Cyanobacteria Monitoring
- Pond Elevation & Opening Dynamics
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring
- Biodiversity Monitoring
- Watershed Nutrient Loading

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