



The Toddy Ponder

Newsletter of the Toddy Pond Association

ISSUE 45 / SPRING 2021

Serving the towns of Orland, Surry, Penobscot and Blue Hill

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OUR MISSION

To protect Toddy Pond and its watershed through responsible stewardship and education so that we and future generations may enjoy its beauty.



Summer Welcome!

It has been a busy and fun Winter for your board, and we have much to share! You will find articles within our newly redesigned Summer 2021 Toddy Ponder to reflect on Winter events and happenings, as well as educational pieces on Erosion and Invasive Aquatic Plants with links to further information.

The Toddy Pond Association is pleased to welcome a new executive board - see Changing of the Guard, p.2. If you are interested in helping to maintain the welfare of our lake we have openings on the board available, and we encourage you to give this some thoughtful consideration. Please contact Robyn to find out what it is all about. And we would love to have more volunteers for the CBI, IPP, and Loon Count programs. It's fun! Please see related articles in this newsletter.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, last year's 2020 "Hail to Summer" BBQ and the Annual Membership Meeting could not be held and we missed seeing you all. We are very happy to announce that the newest COVID-19 precautions will allow us to hold these two important summer events. Please see invitation below.

If you have a topic you would like to discuss, an opinion to express, an idea to share, or even a gripe to air, we would love to hear from you. Please contact any board member. Contact information can be found on the last page, or at toddypond.org. Remember your views are very important.



9th Annual "Hail to Summer" BBQ

Sunday, June 27, 2021 from 4-7PM, with dinner at about 5.

We look forward to again being able to visit with old friends, foster new friendships, and meet our new members, while we celebrate our love of Toddy Pond. Justin Thatcher of the Balsam Cove Campground will again gift the Toddy Pond Association with the use of the pavilion for our 2021 gathering. We hope that you will join us!

Our events are open to all Toddy Pond property owners and pond supporters.

Please let us know if you will attend and how many in your group by emailing us at toddymail@toddypond.org.



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

As reported in emails that you may have received, there have been many changes in the TPA board of directors in the past few months. 2020 saw the departure of our president, Chris Dadian, as well as board members Bruce Carlsten, Richard Tenney and Bob LeVine. In particular, we want to acknowledge Chris' 11 years on the board, and holding the office as president from 2016 to 2020. He worked tirelessly to advance the goals of TPA for which we are most appreciative.

We welcomed our new officers:

Robyn Silberstein as President, Middle Toddy (207-667-7999)

Donna Foster as Secretary, Middle Toddy (207-266-7690)

Barbara Leaf as Treasurer, South Toddy (802-734-4102)

Robyn joined our board in 2019, Barbara is a former board member and Donna was TPA president from 2008 through 2015.

Providing continuity are Directors Sarah LeVine, Nathan Nunn and Richard Salminen. We hope to recruit more board members and would especially welcome candidates from the Penobscot and Blue Hill sections of the pond.

Our new officers and directors have spent the winter developing our new website, <https://toddypond.org>, as well as our FaceBook page and Wikipedia entry. We've also successfully applied for several grants in support of an intensified 2021 Courtesy Boat Inspection and Community Outreach programs.

Member participation at our monthly Zoom or in person board meetings would be very welcome! Just drop us an email at toddypond.org to let us know you need the invitation information.

THE FAMILY FLOAT



If you travel the shores of Toddy Pond, you will undoubtedly notice many floats dotting the shoreline. They are also called swimming rafts, floating islands or even rubber 'dockies.' They come in many shapes, sizes, colors and materials. Some are quite fancy with a slide or even a table for your drink while others are homemade affairs supported by large chunks of styrofoam. They all serve a similar purpose – a swimming destination.

In our family summer begins when the float has been pulled from winter storage and re-attached to the buoy that has faithfully maintained just the right spot through the trials of ice, snow and wind. There is often some frustration getting the float re-attached if you don't have the proper tools once you are out there, especially if you are not willing to get wet in the process. Ah – but once the float is in, let the summer fun begin.

Now that I am a grandmother I realize how instrumental the presence of the float has been to generations of swimming prowess. As the grandchildren arrive, there is much discussion about who will be able to swim to the float on their own. First, it is all about getting out there, and it can feel daunting if you are using the doggy paddle technique. Once some confidence has been attained, the challenge becomes who can get there first. The ultimate challenge then becomes who can claim the title of "King of the Float" which involves lots of posturing, pushing and shoving, occasional bruises and endless amounts of laughter. It gives me great pleasure to witness the transition from a tentative swimming neophyte to a laughing, happy child getting so much pleasure dancing around the float announcing to the world that he or she is the king (or queen) however fleeting that moment may be. So many times, I have seen kids totally forget their fear of the water because they were having so much fun playing that raucous game.

The float can also have a cathartic effect. There are times when I love lying on the float feeling the sun and breeze and falling asleep from the lull of the waves. Unfortunately, there were a couple of years that I missed out on this experience for lack of a ladder. The days of pulling myself onto the float had long since departed. It had become quite the spectacle seeing my attempts at the flop and roll technique, bringing to mind a beached whale. I finally convinced the rest of the family that we absolutely had to have a fixed ladder with lots of steps! I can once again partake in the enjoyment that the family float provides without the ignominy of providing family entertainment.

It is memories like these that help me through the challenges of a difficult year. I look forward to a summer with the grandchildren, the laughter and all the fun the family float provides.

By Barbara Leaf

WARNING – LAKE INVADERS!



Photo by WCSU



Photo by Miayke McMurr

Sounds a little melodramatic, doesn't it? Well, unfortunately, lake invaders in the form of invasive aquatic plants (IAP) represent a real and present danger to Maine's lakes and ponds. Invasive plants grow and spread rapidly, quickly overtaking the native plant life. They can have devastating impacts to aquatic ecosystems including destruction of fish habitat, water quality decline, loss of biodiversity, and potential extinctions of some freshwater species. They can have a harmful effect on the local economy and quality of life including depression of tourism and recreational activity and lowering property values with the corresponding negative impact to the local tax base. Required mitigation and eradication efforts are difficult, come with a high price tags, and produce mixed results.

Invasive aquatic species already on the march in Maine include: Eurasian Water-Milfoil, Variable Water-Milfoil, Hydrilla, European Naiad, and Curly Leaf Pondweed. These are only a fraction of the invasives in New England, but they're the ones of most immediate threat.

The fact is it only takes a small plant shard or seed to take hold and grow into a football field sized infestation within a few short years and, beyond that, spread throughout the affected body of water. Since the State of Maine has limited capacity to fight invasive plant infestations, Maine's nonprofit lake associations bear the brunt of invasive species prevention and removal costs.

Once in 2018 and again in 2019, our inspectors intercepted Eurasian Water-Milfoil. Of course we have no way of knowing if, or how often, invasive aquatics may have entered the lake by other venues or when no inspector was on duty at the boat landing. Meanwhile, we are alarmed that infestations have been discovered c.60 miles (by road) to our south in Damariscotta Lake, c.80 miles (by road) to our west in on Messalonskee Lake, and c.80 miles (by road) to our north east in Big Lake, Washington County.

So, what can we do to protect Toddy Pond? The Toddy Pond Association has a two-part program to help prevent invasive aquatic plants:

1. Prevent the introduction of IAP by conducting Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) at the boat ramp on Route 1 in Orland. It was during these inspections that we intercepted the two confirmed pieces of milfoil on boat trailers.
2. Catch any new infestations by conducting systematic Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP), where our volunteer plant patrollers carefully survey the lake bottom looking for invasive plants so they can be identified and (hopefully) removed before they spread.

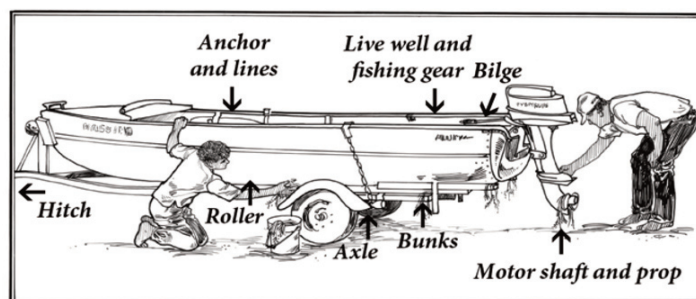
Each of us needs to take responsibility for preventing invasive plants by inspecting our boats and trailers and removing any hitchhiking plants, volunteering for CBI or IPP training and joining the volunteer team, cooperating with our Courtesy Boat Inspectors, and donating to the Toddy Pond Association to help support our efforts. For more information visit our website at: <https://toddypond.org> or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/ToddyPondAssociation/>.

To prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants, inspectors encourage boat owners to remove all plants from their boats before launching them and again after pulling them out of the lake.

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY!

When you pull your boat out - **Clean** all aquatic plants, animals and mud from your boat, motor or trailer and discard in the trash. **Drain** your motor, live well, bilge and internal compartments on land before leaving the water body. **Dry** your boat between uses if possible. Leave compartments open and sponge out standing water.

by Dale Dailey



Watercraft checkpoints: Look for hitchhiking plants anywhere on the boat and trailer where they could be caught by rough edges.

ICE FISHING DERBY AND GOOD ICE BRINGS ACTION TO TODDY POND, 2021



HS or 7am Sunday

Leader Board

Bass = 1st Gage Clapp 5.72# 22.60"
 2nd Ryan Merry 4.14# 18.52"

Brown Trout = 1st Harold Joyce 3.96# 18.75"
 2nd Evan Rollins 2.38# 19.07"

Toque = 1st Roy Whalen 7.00# 25.61"
 2nd Matt Curtis 6.60# 27.97"

Salmon = 1st Ben Naumann 3.74# 22.06"
 2nd Rob Mercer 2.33# 18.95"

Brook Trout = 1st Trafton Hutchins 2.11# 17.81"
 2nd Travis Dammier 1.98# 15.37"

Small Toque From Beach Hill = Breanna Harlow
 w/ 3 fish totaling 5.19#

Toddy Pond Landing was a busy place on the weekend of Feb 13,14, with parked trucks lining Route One just like we see on a warm July day. Solid ice and favorable weather provided good conditions and a great turn-out for Slim's Fishing Derby offering \$3500 in cash prizes for the biggest fish taken from all legal waters in Hancock County.

Eighty fish were brought to the weigh-in at the Toddy Landing, 19 of those from Toddy Pond. The organizer reported 520 registrations. Cash prizes were earned by 40 participants.

Half of the fish weighed-in were caught by kids under age 16.

The biggest fish on the winner's list was a 27 inch togue, weighing in at 8.18 pounds. The second biggest was a 25 inch togue at 7.0 pounds. A 22-inch bass followed at 5.72 pounds. The two salmon winners were about 22 inches in length, but weighed only 3.74 and 2.6 pounds. I guess salmon don't weigh much (I am not a fisher person).

Out of respect for the "fishers", specific fish information isn't shared, such as where the fish were caught. Other fish listed were brown (trout), and brook trout, ranging 1.75 to 2.5 pounds. These were all 17-19 inches long, which seems like a worthy size fish to me.

One of the Toddy Pond participants indicated that the entry fee was \$35. His group had numerous traps stretched out over a wide area not far from shore, each set in its own hole. They were busy cooking hot dogs inside their spacious ice shack on wheels, which could easily be moved with the four-wheeler parked nearby. The ice was reported to be 14 inches thick. They were only fishing on Sunday for a few hours, but hadn't caught much yet (or so he revealed). From Harvey's Beach on South Toddy, I could see four additional ice shacks on the ice, one larger group accompanied by a pick-up truck on the ice. There were only a few shacks at the landing itself.

Due to the large turn-out and generous sponsors, the Derby was able to raise \$7,000 to put into a scholarship fund. COVID safety procedures extended the weigh-in process well into the evening hours, also eliminating opportunity for any big fish photos. But the organizers considered the 2021 Slim Derby a big success and appreciate being able to host their event at the Toddy Landing.

by Lucy Leaf



RUNOFF, EROSION & NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

What You Can Do To Help



One of the threats to Toddy Pond that doesn't get enough attention is the impact of runoff, erosion, and nonpoint source pollution that comes with shoreland development. Excess water from rain or snowmelt traveling downhill through the watershed picks up soil (loaded with phosphorus), fertilizers, grass clippings and other garden wastes, soaps from washing house exteriors, cars, and boats, the products of malfunctioning septic systems and other nonpoint sources (ones that can't be pin-pointed like an industrial drainage pipe). Fast-moving water causes erosion - accelerating the process.

Phosphorus is a nutrient that all aquatic plants and animals need to survive. However, excessive quantities of phosphorus in a lake can have negative impacts on lake health. The removal of trees and other vegetation within watersheds and the creation or expansion of surfaces that do not absorb water — impervious surfaces like roofs and paved driveways — increases the amount of phosphorus that flows into lakes. These types of surfaces do not allow rainwater or snowmelt water to sink into the ground where phosphorus can be absorbed by natural processes. Excess phosphorus can lead to algal blooms that can cloud and color lake water and cause taste and odor issues in drinking water sources. Excessive phosphorus can also lead to toxic bacteria and algal blooms that can poison fish, wildlife and pets.

So to understand how much of a problem this poses for Toddy Pond we need to look at some of our vital statistics. Toddy Pond is an eight-mile long, 2,408-acre 'pond' with three distinct sections, but only 1 true basin. It has a direct drainage area (watershed) of 17.2 sq. mi. all within the towns of Orland, Surry, Penobscot, and Blue Hill. The pond has a maximum depth of 122 feet, a mean depth of 27 feet, and a flushing rate of only 0.60 flushes per year (the average flushing rate for Maine lakes is 1-1.5 flushes per year). The low flushing rate of Toddy Pond makes the lake more sensitive to changes in its nutrient loading because it gives nutrients a chance to settle to the bottom and be recycled within the water column. This

build-up accumulates over the years and, eventually, can have a significant impact on our water quality. There are a number of lakes and ponds in Maine that suffer from green, smelly water quality as the result of runoff, erosion and nonpoint source pollution.

There are several actions each of us can take on our own property to help ensure a future of a clean and healthy Toddy Pond. The most elemental mitigation actions we can take can be to slow, disperse and absorb excess runoff and properly maintain our septic systems. Examples include keeping natural vegetation on the landscape, fixing areas where soil is being washed away, and helping runoff water soak into the ground. Here are just a few examples of proven, do-it-yourself solutions for many of these issues that are comprehensively listed in the Lake Smart Booklet (pages 13 to 29) on our website, <https://toddypond.org/>.

- Periodically pump, inspect and maintain your septic system.
- Minimize driveway and parking areas. Help runoff water from driveways, parking areas, roofs, and walkways soak into the ground.
- Reduce the size of lawns and replace with native plantings. Minimize landscaped areas and keep areas in a 'natural state.' Avoid applying fertilizer or compost and avoid using herbicides and pesticides.
- Preserve or create a 'buffer' strip of native vegetation along the shoreline.
- Leave the shoreline and shallow water area in its natural state. DO NOT pull or cut native aquatic plants.
- Always comply with state and local Shoreland Zoning regulations - especially when it comes to cutting down and trimming trees and removing vegetation.

Together, the small actions that each of us take will make a big difference.

by Dale Dailey



2021 SPONSORS

We are very grateful to our generous sponsors this year whose contributions have enabled a significantly more robust Courtesy Boat Inspection program at the Orland boat landing this season.



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Many thanks to:
Blue Hill Heritage Trust
and
Balsam Cove Campground

CREATURE FEATURE - SNAPPING TURTLE (*Chelydra serpentina*)

Reprinted with permission from the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Learn more about Maine wildlife at www.nrcm.org

Cool Fact: The shell of a snapping turtle is full of nerve endings and sensitive to scratches.



Photo by Jayne Winters

First, about that snap.

Snapping turtles can't pull their head and limbs into their shells, so they use their powerful jaws in self-defense. They can raise up on their hind legs, stretch out their neck and, like lightning, SNAP! They reserve this talent for extreme situations, such as when a canoe paddle interrupts their romance or a driver tries to move them out of the road.

Their other form of defense when picked up is to emit a foul-smelling urine.

More often, they are placid. A person could be almost standing on a turtle buried in marsh mud, or a few feet away from a turtle laying eggs without notice. Underwater, they have a "shy and retiring nature," according to Malcolm Coulter, writing in *Maine Amphibians and Reptiles*. They walk along the bottom more often than they swim, and they rest more often than they walk. A person could reach into the water to tickle a snapping turtle's chin or scratch its back without harm to person or turtle. Indeed, they seem to enjoy a scratch. They have sharp hearing and vision.

Humans are relative newcomers to the turtle's scene. Snapping turtles have been around for 40 million years, and their ancestry dates back 200 million years—one of the oldest vertebrate groups still alive today. They have not changed much, either, except for their aquatic habit—scientists think turtles evolved on land. They shared the Earth with brontosaurus and mastodons.

An average snapping turtle weighs 17.5 pounds, but can be as much as 40 pounds and longer than three feet. The shell is somewhat flat, thick, and rough-edged, though full of nerve endings (sensitive to scratches). On older turtles, the growth of algae can give the shell a greenish-gray cast. Some algae grow nowhere else but the backs of turtles.

A snapping turtle's shell only partially covers the body, revealing muscular legs with sharp, curved claws and skin covered with "wart-like tubercles." The head is thick, stout, with a beaked snout and sharp jaw surfaces, not teeth. Raised bony plates form spikes along the tail.

It is reasonable, then, that snapping turtles are often mistaken for dinosaurs, especially by the very young seeing them for the first time.

And the very young (and very old) can see them, because snappers are common residents of the southern and central Maine coast and river valleys. They can be found in shallow marshes, weedy lakeshores [like Toddy Pond], slow-moving waters, and even some estuaries like Merrymeeting Bay.

Juveniles prefer shallow streams with lots of reeds, rushes, and submerged plants for food. Many a Maine lake has its resident snapping turtle. Many a resident snapping turtle has a favorite rock for basking in the sun, which they do to warm up, increase metabolism, and store energy (fat) for the winter. They sleep at night and hibernate buried in the mud, beneath the ice.

Females can also be loyal to their nesting sites, returning year after year to the same patch of gravel or loose stream bank, sometimes miles away, in early June. The sandy sides of roads are also a popular nesting spot. Afterwards, she may wander for a while and choose a new territory, and in this way spread the population.

Most of the eggs will be quickly lost to predators such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and mink. The rest will hatch in late August or early September. "The hatchlings will dig out of the nest and will somehow head straight for the nearest water, even if they cannot see it," according to The Tortoise Trust.

Snapping turtle bones, preserved in the ashes of ancient fires, are evidence that ancestors of the Wabanaki people consumed turtles, which are still an important part of today's cultural sustenance diet. Snapping turtle meat forms the basis of "turtle soup," including, at one time, Campbell's brand. Hunting and trapping snapping turtle for personal use is permitted by Maine law. However, because snapping turtles live a long time and are relatively high on the food chain (they eat fish and birds), they tend to be contaminated with mercury and other toxic chemicals. They seem to tolerate pollution more than other species and can be found in degraded habitats.

The snapping turtle is a survivor.

Who knows? As long as there is water, and mud for burying and sand for egg-laying, the snapping turtle may live for another 40 million years.

Science writer Catherine Schmitt now writes for Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. She has written many Creature Features for the Natural Resources Council of Maine. For more of her writings, visit her website at catherineschmitt.com



Snapping turtle in Topsham near the Muddy River. Photo by Beth Comeau

VOLUNTEER



Join the Fun !

Volunteer, meet new people, and keep our lake clean and safe.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) -- Here's a way you can help keep Toddy Pond healthy for the future! Lucy Leaf has agreed to become our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Coordinator for the 2021 summer season. Lucy, who has been a CBI inspector at the Toddy boat landing for many years, also volunteers as co-coordinator of our Invasive Plant Patrol. During the 2020 summer season, Lucy was the roving boat inspector for lakes in Hancock County that had no boat inspection program at all. As CBI Coordinator, Lucy will be overseeing both paid and volunteer inspectors. With a more robust inspection program this year, we have many volunteer slots to fill and Lucy is ready to provide training and support to those who are interested to learn. There are a range of options from half day shifts of 4.5 hours (mornings or afternoons) to whole day shifts at 9 hours for the months of June, July and August. Our website has a schedule for easy sign up or contact Lucy at lucy.leaf@yahoo.com. Lucy is ready to provide training as needed and address any concerns or questions you may have.



Loon Count – The annual Loon Count will be held the morning of **July 17, 2021** from 7:00–7:30 am. Our loon count coordinator, Steve Antell, will be contacting those who have participated in the past. If you haven't participated in past years, and are interested in doing so, contact Steve at leafan@comcast.net or 802-734-1897.

Invasive Plant Patrol – Do you enjoy paddling or boating around the lake? Come join the Toddy Pond IPP Team. It's not hard to learn. Once you are familiar with your zone, you can usually quickly spot a new plant. There are still a number of unassigned lake sectors that need coverage, especially on the west shore. Claim a sector or begin at your own dock and we will come and show you how to monitor for invasive plants. You can boat, paddle or snorkel. Email me: lucy.leaf@yahoo.com.



Board and Committee Members – A chance to positively affect change and support the Toddy Pond Association towards the fulfillment of our Mission Statement. We are looking for people to participate in CBI and Outreach sub-committees as well as Member Candidates for the Board of Directors. Curious and want to learn more? Please write to us at toddymail@toddypond.org.



Betty Leaf's Easy-to-Screw-Up but Darn Good When It Works Pie Crust

2 cups flour
1 tsp salt
½ cup oil
¼ cup milk

Exact measuring is the key to this recipe. Combine flour and salt into bowl. Pour ½ cup oil into a one-cup measuring cup and milk to the ¾ line. Do not Stir! Pour oil/milk mixture into the flour and salt. Mix and form into two balls with your hands. Rollout and Voila! Perfect pie crust.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021

- JUN 9 – TPA Board Meeting; Time 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- JUN 27 – Hail to Summer BBQ; Balsam Cove Campground; 4-7pm
- JUL 14 – TPA Board Meeting; Time 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- JUL 17 – Audubon Loon Count; 7:00 - 7:30 AM
- AUG 8 – TPA Annual Membership Meeting (Location TBD);
Time 5:30 - 7:30 PM



TPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member _____ Returning Member _____ for Year _____

Name(s): _____

Seasonal Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Permanent: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Email(s): _____ Phone: _____

Memberships: Please note we have replaced our enclosed envelopes with this form to cut out and include with your payment. Our membership year is from January to December, however, if you are unsure whether you are up to date with your dues, contact Barbara Leaf at leafan@comcast.net or 802-734-4102 and she will be happy to provide that information. You can also pay dues and/or donations via the TPA website at: toddypond.org. The Toddy Pond Association is a 501©3 tax-exempt organization. Membership dues and donations are fully deductible.

Friend – 1 year: (\$10) _____	Protector – (\$31 - \$99) _____
Family – 1 year: (\$30) _____	Steward – (\$100 - \$199) _____
	Advocate – (\$200- \$499) _____
	Benefactor – (\$500+) _____

If you have included a donation, can we publish your name as a donator? Yes No

Please send checks to: Toddy Pond Association, PO Box 645, Blue Hill, Maine 04614

In which of our activities would you like to be involved?

- _____ Boat Inspections
- _____ Loon Count
- _____ Invasive Plant Patrol
- _____ Dam



- _____ BBQ (Jun)
- _____ Annual Meeting (Aug)
- _____ Contact Me

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Toddy Pond Association wishes to thank all of our generous 2020 member donors. Donations in addition to member dues are instrumental to carrying out our programs to protect the pond.



Protector (\$31-\$99)

Alec & Sara Antell
Tom & Sherry Armbrecht
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Gerry and Sharon Cacciola
Wade Duym
Dan & Betsey Epstein
William & Karen Flemion
Dr. Alvin & Naomi Gerstein
John & Penny Halberstadt
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Here is our new line of Toddy Pond merchandise !

Ordering is easy

Please call Barbara Leaf at (802) 734-4102 or email at leafan@comcast.net

Cash and checks accepted at this time

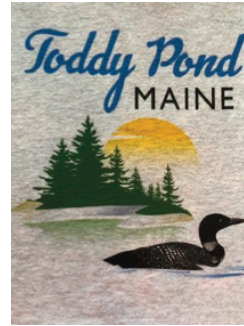
or pay online toddypond.org



Bass or Loon Hat \$20
Forest or Charcoal Brim



Black Cap \$17
Youth / Adult



Loon Tee \$15
White, Gray



Bass Tee \$15
Forest Green, Gray,
Russett, Indigo Blue



Bass Hoodie Sweatshirt \$35
Black, Gray, Green, Red or Purple



Youth Tee \$12
Green, Cardinal Red, Pink, Tropical Blue,
Yellow



Hoodies with Loon Design \$35
Red, Gray, Forest or Purple



**Bass or Loon
Crew Neck Sweatshirt \$25**
Long Sleeve Shirt \$25



**Revised 2021 Booklet of
Native Plants of Toddy
Pond \$20**