



The Toddy Ponder

Newsletter of the Toddy Pond Association

Serving the Towns of Blue Hill, Orland, Penobscot, and Surry, Maine

CALENDAR

July 14, 2024
TPA Annual BBQ

July 20, 2024
Annual Loon count

August 13, 2024
TPA Annual Membership Meeting

July 30 to Sept 15
Optimal Plant Patrol



WELCOME TO SUMMER!

We (Toddy Pond Association) are celebrating our 25th Anniversary. Please join in our celebration on August 13th at the Orland Community Center at 6 pm. Twenty five years ago TPA formed to acknowledge our responsibilities as stewards of Toddy Pond addressing:

- *water quality
- *health of the fishery
- *habitat conservation and protection from invasive species
- *ways to inspire and enlist the younger generation to preserve Toddy Pond
- *and more... however, all is not completely sunny.

We have challenges to face concerning the Toddy and Alamoosook dams. It appears the current owner is trying to divest these properties. This is of vital importance to all of us on the pond and in the surrounding community. We are in talks to make sure our interests are heard. Working together we can find a resolution; more input from all of you the better. Please contact us with your views and insights so your interests can be considered.

With that in mind, I would love to welcome new members into the TPA. There are approximately 500 property owners who have access to Toddy Pond while currently we have 122 membership holders. Annual dues remain at \$30 per year. Please reach out and join us if you are not already a member.

We will have open enrollment for anyone hoping to support our mission at our annual potluck picnic on July 14th from 4 to 7pm at Balsam Cove Campground, Orland, Maine.

Stop by, say hello, I'll be grilling for you!

TPA President, *Christopher Closs*



Toddy Pond welcomes a new resident!

Have I Paid Membership Dues This Year?

We rely on membership dues and donations heavily in our efforts to preserve and protect Toddy Pond. If the year "2024" is printed above your name in the address field on this mailing, you have paid your dues for the 2024 fiscal year. If there is no year indicated, please consider renewing your membership or becoming a new member, thank you!

If you have questions or concerns, contact Robyn at: toddymail@toddypond.org



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

CHECK HIDING SPOTS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES:



Courtesy Boat Inspection Program is Dependent on TPA, Funders and You!

Thanks to continued generous support from Maine Community Foundation, TPA members, and Bill and Peggy Mitchell of Camp Nokomis, our Courtesy Boat Inspection program will continue in 2024 as it has in past years. To understand how crucial this support is, Toddy Ponders should know that the state only contributes \$2,000 toward this vital lake protection program that costs TPA about \$16,000 each year to run. In addition to funding that needs to be applied for, TPA also incurs costs including required liability insurance, payroll and worker's insurance costs, and coordinator compensation (when we have one).

The Orland boat landing was created by the State of Maine and is owned and maintained by the state for the exclusive purpose of providing boat access to our lake, which is listed federally as a "Great Pond". Along with identified rivers, streams, wetlands and significant wildlife habitat, all Great Ponds are provided protection by the Natural Resources Protection Act as a "critical natural resource". Boat inspection is considered the first line of defense in protecting a lake against aquatic invasive species which can imperil the lake. But the state does not organize boat inspections. While the CBI program is a state program (and a very effective one), it is up to lake or regional associations to set up and implement the programs. Without the Toddy Pond Association, there would be NO boat inspection on Toddy.

Volunteers continue to be crucial to this effort. As in past years, we will be asking volunteers to sign up for 3-hour shifts from 6-9 AM throughout the week and for coverage on Wednesdays, the one day not covered by a paid inspector. Thank-you to the dozen or so people who volunteer every year, and especially to a few who sign up on a weekly basis. But we still have lots of gaps, and welcome new volunteers. As in past years, easy sign-up is on our website, toddypond.org or you can contact lucy.leaf@yahoo.com to reserve your favorite slot or become a valued CBI inspector.

Join us to celebrate 25 years of the Toddy Pond Association

The TPA Annual Membership is held each August to fulfill our bylaw requirements for voting to install the proposed board, and to present the organization's annual budget. All are welcome to attend, and members of the TPA are eligible to vote. Come meet your board candidates and socialize over desserts and beverages.

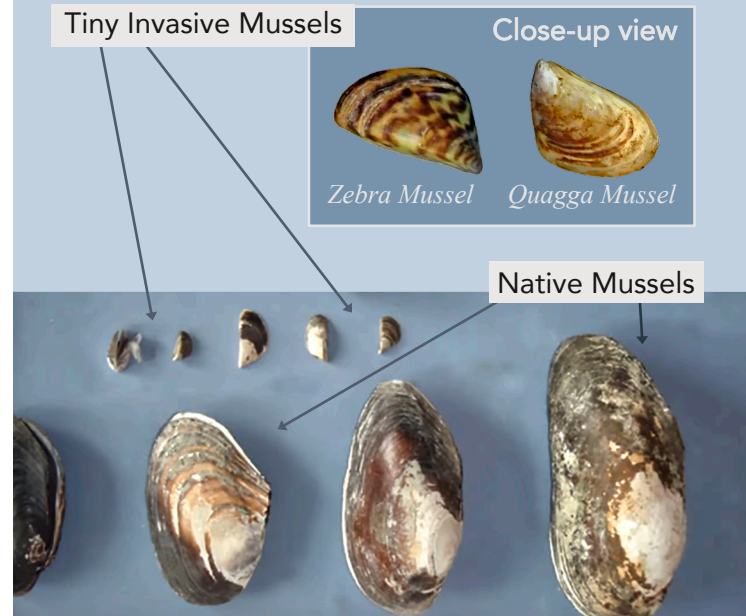
The Toddy Pond Association (TPA) is observing the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the organization this year. We will formally celebrate our quarter-century milestone at the Annual Meeting to be held from 6-8 PM, on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the Orland Community Center, Schoolhouse Road, Orland.

New Maine Law, Drain Your Boat! New Twist on Clean, Drain, Dry!

Clean, Drain, Dry is the nationally recognized message to ensure that a boat is not spreading invasive species from one water body to another. In addition to ensuring that all plant fragments are removed, this message has evolved to cover the spread of invertebrate species such as zebra mussels, Chinese mystery snails, and Asian clams which are propagated by microscopic eggs and tiny larvae that can't be detected by visual inspection.

Prior to 2023, the drain part of this message was a recommendation. Now it's the law. Prior to entering or leaving boat launch sites, boaters are now required to open drains or remove plugs to drain any areas containing water, except for live bait containers. And most importantly, it must be done in a way that does not allow drained water to enter any inland water body. This means, a boater cannot just drain a boat on the convenient slope of the launch ramp.

As applied to Toddy Pond, this will mean that boats should be well-drained before the boat even comes to the launch site, and that **PLUGS SHOULD BE PULLED WELL AWAY FROM ANY INLAND WATER BODY**. Of course, the existing law that makes it illegal to transport ANY aquatic plants on a boat or trailer still applies, so cleaning the hull of mud or any debris is essential. A cleaning mixture of half water, half vinegar will kill microscopic eggs. And it is recommended that not only the boat, but all equipment, should be dry before entering a lake after visiting another



Orland Watershed Committee

The Orland Watershed Committee was established in Aug 2023 by the Orland Select Board as part of the recommendations from the Orland Comprehensive Plan Committee, and has been meeting since September. This committee is charged with advising the Select Board on issues and activities related to the Narramissic-Orland Watershed. In its inception, the members of the committee were: Gina Bushong (chair), Alamoosook Lake Association, Marc Restuccia, Toddy Pond Association, John Gray, Orland Village, Alvion Kimball, Orland Comprehensive Plan, Gary Bates, Alamoosook Lake Association and Bart Hutchins, Town of Orland.

Over time, changes have occurred. Gina Bushong, original chair, stepped down for health reasons, with Marc Restuccia named as new chair. Gary Bates stepped down due to other commitments. In their places, Katie Greenman from Alamoosook Lake Association and David Deprez from the town of Orland were added to the committee. Chris Closs, TPA president and Donna Foster, TPA secretary, and Lisa and Joe DeWeese from ALA have been actively involved in this committee work.

The committee began the process of exploring the feasibility of developing a region-wide watershed coalition which would consist of multiple towns, lake associations and other entities. A grant proposal was submitted to the Maine Community Foundation for money to begin organizing the coalition and education/outreach. On May 20, 2024, we were notified that the grant application was denied.

With the recent development of the current dam owner, American Iron and Metal (AIM), seeking to divest itself of the dams on Toddy and Alamoosook, the committee has focused on outreach and coalition building surrounding the dams on Toddy and Alamoosook. In conjunction with ALA and TPA, the Watershed Committee has been reaching out and holding informational meetings with the towns of Orland, Surry, Penobscot, Blue Hill and Bucksport. TPA and ALA have been connecting with other possible partners to investigate potential solutions to the question of dam ownership as well as any required repairs and ongoing maintenance of the dams. This includes the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust and Downeast Salmon Federation.

The goal of the committee is to create a strong coalition to ensure the long-term health of the Alamoosook Lake and Toddy Pond water systems and will be a first step to creating a larger regional watershed coalition.

Marc Restuccia

Bill Passes to Ban Lead Fishing Tackle

The 2024 Maine legislature has passed and the governor has signed LD 958, "An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs." Effective September 1, 2024 it will be illegal to sell bare lead jigs, lead sinkers, or painted lead jigs in the state of Maine. Effective September 1, 2026 it will be illegal for individuals to use bare lead jigs, lead sinkers or painted lead sinkers in the state. This is good news for Toddy Pond loons. Lead poisoning is one of the most common causes of loon mortality and indeed accounted for the death of at least one of the three dead loons retrieved on the pond last year. Loons can be poisoned either by ingesting lead tackle from the bottom of the pond or from eating fish that is carrying lead tackle. Ingesting lead in any form is almost always fatal for loons, eagles, and other wildlife.

The TPA Loon Committee has installed collection boxes at the boat landing for both lead fishing tackle and monofilament fishing line. Please feel free to use these boxes to ensure the proper disposal of these materials while keeping the pond safe for our treasured loons and other wildlife.



Hooray for Summer on Toddy Pond!

12th Annual "Hail to Summer" BBQ on Sunday, July 14, 2024 from 4 to 7 PM, Dinner at 5 PM

We are again grateful to Lori Thatcher and Justin Thatcher, owners of the Balsam Cove Campground, who generously furnish the use of their beautiful pavilion for the Toddy Pond BBQ. The TPA will provide waters, seltzers and sodas, BBQ chicken and all beef hot dogs. Please bring a potluck dish to share. You will be able to see and purchase our new line of merchandise, and our brand new coffee mugs! At 4:30 we will hold a Dam Update and take your questions and suggestions.

Please let us know if you will attend and how many in your group, by emailing us at toddyemail@toddypond.org. We will send out an email reminder about three weeks prior to the date.

We hope that you will join us! Our events are open to all Toddy Pond members, non-members, and pond supporters.

Current Status of the Toddy Pond, Alamoosook, and Silver Lake Dams



American Iron and Metal, a Canadian salvage company (AIM), has expressed its desire to divest its ownership of the three dams and their water rights.

Toddy Pond Dam, located on Hatchery Road just off US Route 1 in East Orland, is a deteriorating granite masonry structure with earthen wing walls built in the 1850s and suffering from deferred maintenance. This dam's safety rating was elevated to the highest threat level by MEMA in Dec. 2021. The Toddy Pond Dam has been subject to a State of Maine order for repair since 2022. Its fish ladder is also obsolete, limiting the numbers of anadromous fish seeking to migrate into Toddy Pond each

year for spawning. The growing concern of TPA's Dam Committee is that the dam could be breached by future, high-volume rain and ice events or Spring runoff when the ground is still frozen. Such an outcome could lower the water level in Toddy Pond by 8 feet (plus or minus), catastrophically lowering property values of lakeshore homes, while also significantly diminishing the tax base of the four abutting communities of Orland, Penobscot, Surry and Blue Hill.

TPA's Dam Committee has actively tried to identify a qualified new owner over the past 5 months to present to AIM. If a new owner cannot be found, AIM stated that they will pursue their next logical option, a formal abandonment of the dams, a state-regulated procedure. The good news is, that process would bring all the affected and impacted parties to the table to determine a solution. Absent a viable solution, our worst case scenario would be the release of water from the dam, partial destruction of the fish passage, degradation of wildlife habitat, curtailing of water-based recreational opportunities and diminishing economic benefits to the area from both homes and the State-owned boat launching facility on US Route One.

Currently, the TPA Dam Committee is meeting with the Select Boards of the 4 towns abutting Toddy Pond as well as the Alamoosook Lake Association and the Town of Bucksport. Additionally, the committee already has or intends to reach out to a range of potentially helpful organizations such as the Downeast Salmon Federation, Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust and Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Orland Watershed Committee as well as others.

The Dam Committee and the entire Board of Directors invites everyone with ties to Toddy Pond to become involved. If not yet a member, please join the Toddy Pond Association. The greater the number of concerned citizens involved, the stronger our voice will be to bring about a positive solution.

Be on the lookout for further information via email, the newsletter, and future zoom meetings.

Important Contact Information

Hancock County Sheriff: 207-667-7575

Emergencies and Boating Accidents: 911

Warden, Bangor State Police: 207-973-3700

Warden, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife: 207-287-8000

Wildlife Assistance Hotline: 207-361-1400

Invasive Plant ID: Robin at toddymail@toddypond.org

Injured Birds:

*Acadia Wildlife Center, 207-288-4960

www.acadiawildlife.org

*Avian Haven, 207-382-6761 www.avianhaven.org

Dam Committee Hosts Q & A on Zoom

On May 16th we held an extremely well attended (80+ participants) informative summary and Q&A resulting in thoughtful and helpful comments from attendees on our first Toddy Pond Association Zoom concerning new developments with the Toddy Pond Dam.

The Dam Committee has been working diligently the past few years and intensely the last five months in the wake of AIM's decision to find new owners of the dams of Toddy and Alamoosook, (and Silver Lake in Bucksport). The dam committee is a small group of four that would be happy to have interested helpers, and your thoughts and suggestions. As things are changing and developing, we are committed to keeping you informed and connected. We will hold another Zoom meeting in June, so be sure to keep a lookout in your email from toddymail. You can also check on the website: toddypond.org or email us at toddymail@toddypond.org

A Road Less Traveled – A Brief Biography of Lucy Leaf

(by her sister, Barbara Leaf)



Lucy Leaf agreed to become our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Coordinator beginning in the 2021 summer season. Lucy, who had been a CBI inspector for many years, also volunteers as co-coordinator of our Invasive Plant Patrol. The following tells something about her background.

Lucy has always had itchy feet, which she came by honestly. Our father was an Air Force pilot whose career meant moving frequently around Europe as well as the United States. However, we would always return to our cabin on Toddy Pond for the summer months. When Lucy graduated from high school in Limestone, Maine she wanted nothing more than to "Go West". Our parents convinced her to postpone her rather nebulous plans until she'd earned an Animal Science degree from the University of Maine. A few years thereafter, Lucy realized her "Go West" dream when she rode her horse, Igor, across the United States and back. It was a four-year odyssey filled with adventure and long before the convenience of cell phones. During those years she took many odd jobs to keep body and soul together: sheep herder, truck driver, ranch hand, whitewater swamper, and horse trainer, to name just a few.

Back in Maine, Lucy met and married a local architect, Sam Woodward. Together they renovated a 30-foot sailboat and sailed around the Caribbean for a season. Returning to Surry, they purchased a home and settled in... for a time. As an Outward Bound instructor, Lucy taught others some of what she knew about survival in the great outdoors; she qualified as a Maine Guide and, in addition to a whole host of horse related activities, delighted in white water kayaking and rock/ice climbing. It wasn't long after earning a degree in psychiatric nursing that she and Sam became interested in dog sledding, also known as mushing. In for a penny, in for a pound, they eventually acquired 23 dogs, made their own sleds, sewed their own clothing and participated in dog sled racing whenever they could fit it into their schedules. The couple eventually made their way to Labrador where they enjoyed long and grueling mushing trips as well as socializing with the locals who were very interested in reintroducing the long-lost art of mushing.

Lucy was one of the first people I know to embrace the idea of a "tiny" house. After she and Sam decided to part ways, she had a small cabin built to her specifications and delivered to Surry on a truck. The cabin was all of 192 square feet and Lucy enthusiastically embraced the idea of simple living. Having a job as a travel nurse and a home that required very little upkeep, allowed her to pick up and leave for New Mexico, Nebraska, Vermont and northern Maine. Later she traveled further afield, spending months at a time in Turkmenistan, Nepal and India. Between these trips, she would go on what she referred to as "walk-abouts." With a minimalist pack on her back, she hiked the byways of Maine and the Maritime Provinces.

Toddy Pond Loon Committee Update

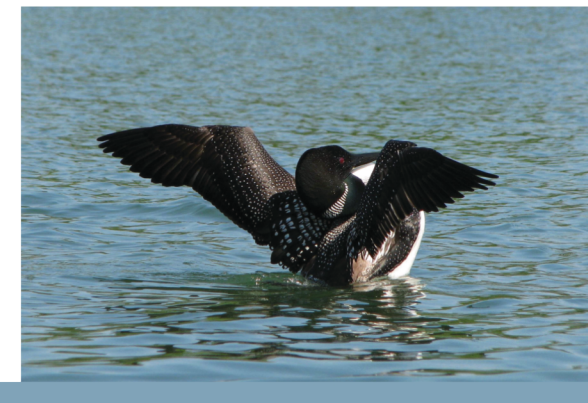
This year's loon count will take place on Saturday, July 20 from 7 to 7:30 AM. We continue to have a dedicated group of volunteers who cover the 14 sections in Toddy Pond, but are always looking for additional people to help out. We plan to coordinate with the Maine Loon Restoration Project, being run by Maine Audubon and several other environmental groups, to study and enhance loon reproductive success throughout the state. Last year's statewide loon counts turned up 2,892 adults in southern Maine lakes, a slight decrease from the previous year, but 411 chicks, an exciting increase. Out of four known nesting attempts on Toddy Pond, one, and perhaps two, chicks survived into the fall.

Last year Maine Audubon supplied the materials and know how to construct a loon nesting raft that was deployed across from the boat access. While it did not attract a nesting pair last summer, we are planning to place it this spring near a site where a pair attempted to nest last year. That nest failed for unknown reasons. It will be interesting to see if loons attempt to nest earlier this year given the early ice out in March.

If you would like to participate in the loon count or are aware of any significant loon related activity, including nesting attempts, loon mortality, or incidents with boats, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

leafan@comcast.net or 802 734-1897.

Steve Antell



MANY THANKS to Peggy and Bill Mitchell of Camp Nokomis for their generous donations. Their contributions help facilitate the Courtesy Boat Inspection program for the benefit of all.

Thank you to our anonymous donors.



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Did you Know . . . ?

- The Common Snapping Turtle, Chelydra serpentina, can live for more than six months without taking a breath. When lakes and ponds freeze over in its northern habitat, these turtles push their heads out of the mud and absorb oxygen through membranes in their mouth and throat, a process called extrapulmonary respiration.

- Female snapping turtles may travel as far as a mile from water in order to lay their eggs in sandy soil. In June or July they will lay between 25 and 80 eggs each year. The species is most vulnerable in this stage since as much as 90 % of all the eggs are eaten by crows, raccoons, skunks, mink and foxes.



- There is a common misconception that snapping turtles can safely be picked up by the tail, but this can actually injure the animal's vertebral column or the tail itself. The best way to pick up a snapping turtle is by placing a blanket or tarp on the ground, then using the corners to lift the turtle after it has crawled into the middle. Alternatively, it can be lifted by grabbing hold of the carapace behind the back legs.

- Snapping turtles are omnivorous, eating almost anything they can swallow including crayfish, frogs, snakes, worms, tadpoles, salamanders, fish, small mammals, insects, small birds, and carrion. Almost a third of their diet is made up of aquatic plants.

- Not To Worry! Encounters with swimmers are rare, since the turtle usually avoids disturbances in the water. An abundance of snapping turtles is often indicative of a healthy ecosystem.

Richards, Paul. (2023, November 1). What do snapping turtles eat? Field and Stream. Retrieved May 8, 2024 from https://www.fieldandstream.com/survival/what-do-snapping-turtles-eat/
Common Snapping Turtle (n.d.). In Wikipedia. Retrieved May 8, 2024 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_snapping_turtle#Reputation
Common Snapping Turtle (2022, November 2). In Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Retrieved May 8, 2022 from https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/fact-sheets/common-snapping-turtle
North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, Retrieved May 8, 2024 from <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Portals/0/Learning/documents/Profiles/Reptile/Common-Snapping-Turtle-Profile.pdf>



TODDY MARKETPLACE

All Proceeds Support Toddy Pond Initiatives
INQUIRE TODAY AT
toddy@mail@toddypond.org

TPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

for calendar year 2024

New Member

Returning Member

Name(s) _____ Phone(s) _____
Seasonal Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Permanent _____ City/State/Zip _____
Email Address(es) _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES Please check the appropriate boxes.

Family Membership \$30/year Subtotal _____

DONATIONS *(Dues and donations are fully deductible. Toddy Pond Association is a 501©3 tax-exempt organization.)*

Protector (\$31-\$99) Steward (\$100-\$199) Advocate (\$200-\$499) Benefactor (\$500+) TOTAL _____

If you have included a donation, may we publish your name as a contributor? Yes No

Make checks payable to The Toddy Pond Association at: PO Box 645, Blue Hill, Maine 04614 *or* pay online at: toddypond.org. **Thank You!**

Please contact me to help out with the following activities:

Loon Count Dam Plant Patrol Boat Inspections Annual Meetings Fundraising _____

Toddy Pond Association Board

President.....Christopher Closs	2024	Secretary.....Donna Foster	2024
Vice President.....Robyn Silberstein	2025	Board Member.....Lucy Leaf	2024
Treasurer.....Barry Johnson	2025	Board Member.....Marc Restuccia	2026

Contact: toddymail@toddypond.org

