



The Toddy Ponder

Newsletter of the Toddy Pond Association

SERVING THE TOWNS OF BLUE HILL, ORLAND, PENOBSCOT, AND SURRY, MAINE



CALENDAR

- May 3** CBI inspections begin
- May 24** Migratory Fish Day, Fish Point Rd Orland
- June 11** TPA BOD Mtg. 8:30 AM
- July 13** Hail to Summer BBQ!
- July 16** TPA BOD Mtg. time/location TBD
- Aug 19** TPA Annual Membership Meeting
- Aug 13** No TPA BOD
- Sept 10** TPA BOD Mtg. time/location TBD
- Sept 13** Orland River Day
- Oct 8** TPA BOD Mtg 8:30AM Zoom

The Toddy Ponder is Looking For a New Editor!

This Spring issue 2025 of the Toddy Ponder Newsletter will be my last. It has been a very rewarding experience these past 4 years to be involved in its development and expansion, and to have met and worked with many wonderful people. This opens up the opportunity for another person to further the educational goals of our organization, and to keep people informed about the mission of TPA.

FMI: email Donna at toddymail@toddypond.org

President's Report

As I look out my window this first day of May, it's beautiful with sunny skies and the lake looks peaceful. In the next few weeks the boat launch and lake will come alive with fishing boats, pontoon boats, ski boats, sail boats and jet skis. The boat ramp and the driveway to the boat launch were reconstructed and upgraded last fall by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) who owns the ramp/parking area. It looks great and will make it easier for watercraft to put in and out of Toddy.

These past 12 months, your Board and Outreach Committee have been consumed by the dam ownership issue. Over the course of these months, TPA has kept you up to date by sharing pertinent information in a timely manner via live Zoom meetings, emails, and post mailings. The bill to form a Toddy Pond District cleared the legislative committee workshop on May 7, and will now go to the House of Representatives and the Senate to be voted on, followed by signing by the Governor. If that happens, then, during the November town elections the District will need to be voted on and approved by the towns of Blue Hill, Orland, Penobscot and Surry. Over the Summer and Fall, TPA will be very busy informing the public about the need to pass this initiative and create the District to own and manage the dam. If anyone has suggestions for additional means to inform the membership about what is happening, please let us know.

Two valuable board members have had to step down this spring. The Board thanks John Moss and Chris Closs for their time, effort and work on behalf of TPA. They will be missed on the board and we all wish them success in their endeavors and hope to see more of them this summer on the pond.

Finally, I want to thank the group of people who have been tirelessly working to make sure that Toddy Pond stays as the pond we all love. The Board: Barry Johnson, Robin Yurkevich, Donna Foster, Brian Smith, Phil Roberts, John Moss and Chris Closs have put in countless hours in meetings, phone calls, zoom meets and other work to get us to where we are today. Additionally, our Outreach Committee, chaired by Jeff Roth has been fantastic. The committee members Charlie Bloch, Carla Mulhern and Kevin Miller have done impressive work. They've accomplished an impressive amount of outreach and have put together useful information on the economics of the lake which we'll be sharing shortly. We owe all of these folks a ton of thanks for their work for Toddy.

Please feel free to drop us a line with any comments, questions or suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you at our summer barbecue on July 13, and then the TPA Annual Meeting on August 19. Wishing you all a fun filled and safe summer on Toddy Pond.

Marc

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 "**2025**" is printed above your name in the address field on this mailing, you have paid your dues for the **2025** 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 Barry 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 SPRING 2025

Are you ready for another summer on beautiful Toddy Pond?

Our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program is gearing up for another season of keeping the waters of Toddy Pond free of invasive plants. Last autumn, at the end of the boating season, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), who own the boat launch on Toddy, invested over \$100,000 to renovate and extend the concrete boat ramp and repave the part of the driveway onto Route 1 that had deteriorated over the years. The old outhouse is gone (and will not be missed) and there are two porta-potty units placed.

We are happy to have three paid inspectors for this summer; Steve Sheehan and Arnold Spahn returning, and George Atwood is re-joining our CBI crew after a couple years away. We are scheduling 6 days of paid coverage with additional coverage, as always, from our dedicated volunteers. I am currently finalizing the schedules, and getting the volunteer inspector sign up sheet active on the TPA website. New handbooks and inspection forms will be available shortly. I have CBI inspector tee shirts in various sizes for anyone new signing up, or for anyone who's old shirt has seen better days. I've updated the volunteer information sheet and will make that available to all of our inspectors.

TPA received funding from Maine DEP and the Maine Community Foundation. Additionally as he has for the past several years, William and Peggy Mitchell have graciously contributed substantially to cover the cost of our paid inspectors.

Keeping Toddy Pond free of invasives = we need committee members (one member currently) to help co-manage, as well as more volunteers.

Your willingness to get involved is more important than expertise. I will happily bring any volunteer up to speed. Please contact Marc Restuccia at Marc/CBI@toddypond.org.

Thanks - we all can contribute to keeping our pond clear and clean, and I can't wait to see all of you on the water this summer!

Marc Restuccia
CBI Coordinator

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.

INVASIVE PLANT PATROL (IPP)

Spring 2025 Update

The water is high and cascading over the dam, a loose float or two have drifted by and mud season has passed. Other people may look for the return of robins or crocuses to signal the return of Spring, but those of us living on the pond year round watch for ice out and the return of loons. The Invasive Plant Patrol team will start the year with seven new IPPers, six of them from Blue Hill! I am very excited to have coverage for that southernmost area of our pond at last. We also need more help for the eastern shore of North Toddy in Orland and will welcome anyone interested in joining no matter where you live. If you like to kayak and spend time on the lake then consider joining our team. After a brief training session, most survey sections can be completed with about three hours of paddling at your convenience.



Most people have heard about invasive milfoil. The new invasive species in Maine is Swollen Bladderwort. Five new infestations were identified in Maine last summer - all of them Swollen Bladderwort. There are four species of native bladderwort in Toddy Pond. You may have seen Common Bladderwort in late summer, small yellow flowers protruding out of the water sitting on a star like structure. (Yes, they are pretty). While our native bladderworts flower in late summer or fall, the Swollen Bladderwort can flower at various times, including as early as June. It's also much larger than our native look-a-like. If you see this flower (picture) early in the summer it is suspect, please notify an IPPer or contact us at toddymail@toddypond.org. Courtesy Boat Inspection and IPP together are a formidable force protecting our pond, and an easy and fun way to help protect the pond we love.

Robin Yurkevicz
IPP Coordinator

Balsam Cove Campground
On Toddy Pond

Justin Thatcher
Manager

286 Back Ridge Rd
Orland, ME 04472

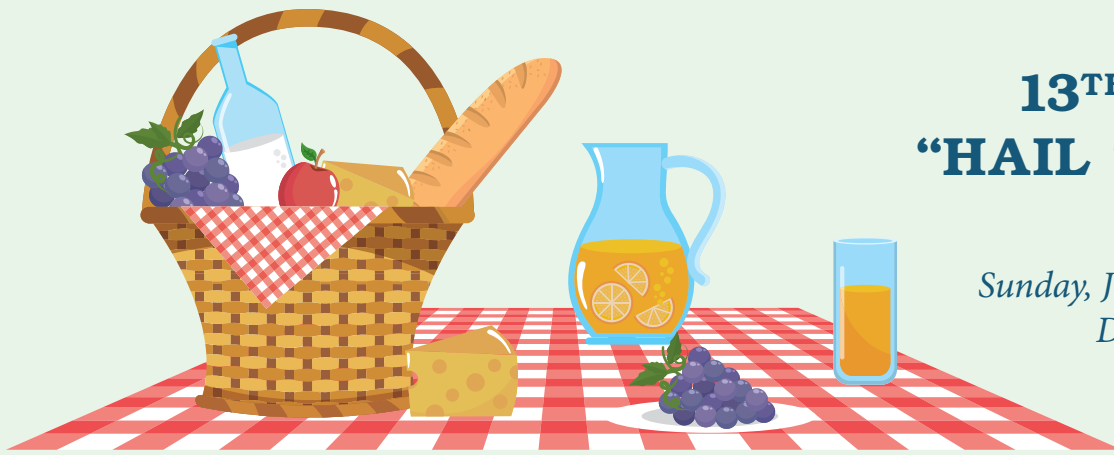
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Getogether Stays



Cabins on Toddy Pond
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13TH ANNUAL “HAIL TO SUMMER” BBQ

*Sunday, July 13th, 2025, 4-7 PM,
Dinner at 5 PM*

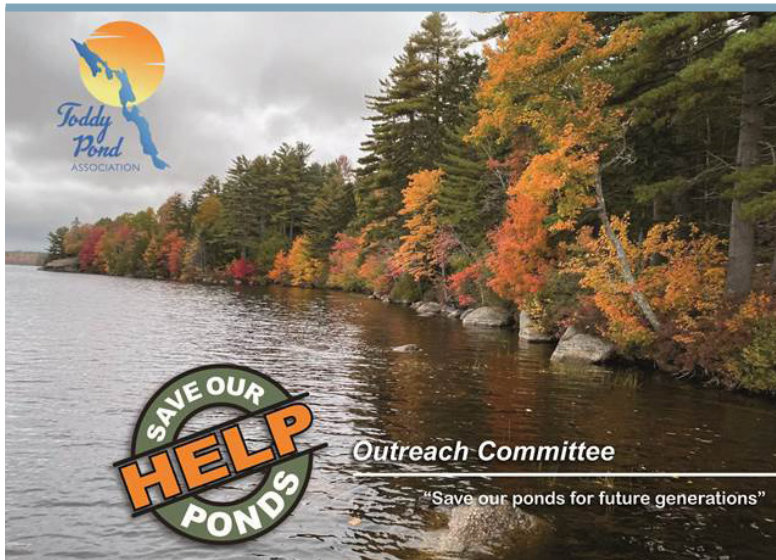
We hope that you will join us! Our events are open to all Toddy Pond members, non-members, and pond supporters.

The TPA will provide waters, seltzers and sodas, BBQ chicken and all beef hot dogs. Please bring an entree, salad, or dessert to share. You may also bring a beverage of your choice. You will be able to see and purchase our new line of merchandise, and our popular new coffee mugs! And as always, you can pay your Annual Dues!

At 4:30 we will hold a Dam Update and take your ques-

tions, and promptly begin dinner at 5 PM. We are appreciative to Lori Thatcher and Justin Thatcher, owners of the Balsam Cove Campground, who have generously furnished the use of their beautiful pavilion for the Toddy Pond BBQ. If you enjoy our annual community meal, please help with our July 13th gathering. Contact Donna at toddymail@toddypond.org.

Location: Balsam Cove Campground, 286 Backridge Road, Orland, Me 04472



ANNUAL TODDY POND ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday August 19, 2025, 6-8 PM

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. You can join as a new member and pay your dues as well. Toddy merchandise will be available. Come meet your board candidates and socialize over desserts and beverages.

We will invite a representative from the 4 Town Committee to provide an update on the legislation and answer your questions.

Location: Orland Community Center, 21 Schoolhouse Road

Orland River Day!

Saturday September 13th, 9 am - 4 pm

TPA will once again be represented this year at the Orland River Day. Please stop by our tent to say hello, and chat about Toddy Pond. It's a fun day of meeting neighbors and fellow Toddy Ponders. People from several surrounding communities attend and stop by to chat about how much they love boating and fishing on Toddy. We will develop outreach materials as we get closer to the date, relating to the status of the dam at that point in time.

The purpose of Orland River Day is to celebrate the Town of Orland and its community spirit, and to acknowledge the key role the Narramissic River, indeed all the bodies of water in Orland, contribute to the town. The event is held each year, rain or shine on the second Saturday in September. It features a parade, crafts, food, a raft/ canoe/kayak race on the river and the chance for multiple local agencies and organizations to educate the public about what they do and how they impact our community



DeadRiver.com

Shannon Grange
Business Development Representative

269 Water Street
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103 South Main Street
Brewer, ME 04412

Cell: (207) 944-3642
shannon.grange@deadriver.com

TODDY'S LOYAL SPONSORS

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One of our board members reported at the end of March that “his loon” had returned again. This same loon has been showing up in the same spot for five years. Loyalty can never be taken for granted. Toddy Pond Association has produced this newsletter for over 25 years, striving to keep our members informed and entertained. Our newsletter would not be possible without the loyal support of our Sponsors, some who have been donating to the cause for several years.

Among our sponsors we count three real estate firms. It's likely that many of us have used the services of one of these firms to acquire our properties on the pond. Tammy Thurlow of **Swan Agency Real Estate** says “I don't just sell the Maine lifestyle...I live it.” Tammy says she understands the importance of finding a space that truly feels like home, whether it be a cozy cabin on the lake or a gem on the ocean. When not working, this dog mom and proud parent of two grown daughters spends her time fishing and kayaking on Toddy Pond. Dan Burpee of **Two River Realty** has been assisting local patrons since 2010 specializing in waterfront properties. Dan has developed many great relationships over the years with buyers and sellers on our lake. Many Toddy Ponders will recognize the name of George MacLeod, owner of the restaurant that bears his name and a fixture in Bucksport for 45 years before it recently closed. But George is also the owner of **Maine Real Estate Brokers** and has been actively selling real estate for 25 years. He has focused on not just selling a property but finding the right buyer to preserve the local environment. He has worked with Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust and Blue Hill Heritage Trust to acquire land for conservation to be enjoyed for future generations.

Need a place to stay on the pond or is your house overflowing with house guests? **GeTogether Stays** owner Eddie Gonnella has refurbished all the lakeside cabins he purchased in 2023. Originally built in the 1930's, each cabin has been upgraded with new furnishings, heat and air conditioning. Kayaks, fire pits and picnic tables and Adirondack chairs are available on the site.

If camping is more your style, **Balsam Cove Campground** has been hosting TPA's annual BBQ for several seasons and has kayak and boat rentals for guests.

Like to be outdoors? Blue Hill Heritage Trust is a community-based conservation organization, in existence for more than 35 years and has procured over 11,000 acres on the greater Blue Hill Peninsula. Public walking and hiking trails are located on several property areas, and hunting is welcome on most of the properties, after submitting a permission form. Do take advantage of these excellent opportunities to get outside. Chris Muise, the owner of **The Activity Shop**, in Blue Hill, told me “we are the puttering about company.” His business rents kayaks, (both recreational ones for lakes and performance kayaks suitable for ocean paddling), canoes and paddle boards. Chris will deliver the craft to your place on the lake. In the summer of 2024 Chris delivered 52 watercraft to various properties on Toddy Pond.

Pen Bay Marine in Orland provides full service for all your boating needs including repairs, winterization, launching, hauling, storage and more. They serve the area's lakes as well as ocean communities. Hannah Stevenson told me that they do a lot of mobile work and are able to do some work right at your dock.

Another business that has been sponsoring TPA for several years is **Central Maine Auction Center** in Hermon, the biggest auction company in Maine. They offer full auction services; auctioning off heavy equipment, campers, trailers, ATVs, snowmobiles, real estate and 500 cars a week! Owners Catherine and Kevin Tilton are Orland residents and count as one of their employees a chocolate lab named Willa.

Chris Closs, of **Closs Preservation**, and former President of Toddy Pond Association, has spent 45 years consulting with communities and private entities to preserve and redevelop historic buildings, promoting new life for former mills and older buildings. Locally he managed the redevelopment of Bangor House into an apartment building in 1979 and has advised on major repairs for the Jonathan Fisher House in Blue Hill.

Toddy Pond Association has added some new sponsors this year. We welcome **Dead River Company** (keeping those generators humming when we lose power in the winter!). For all your building needs, **Viking**

Lumber, located in Blue Hill; and **Hammond Lumber** with locations in Blue Hill, Bucksport and Ellsworth. **Sweet Cheeks Bakery** also joins our sponsors this year with three locations and seven vending machines, allowing the purchase of your favorites 24/7! Their flagship store is located on Verona Island. Jonathan Beal reports that lemon squares, carrot cake and Humdingers are among the most popular items.

Look for our Local Sponsor Cards throughout this Newsletter and TPA hopes you will support them! 🍷

Robin Yurkevicz

A Huge THANK YOU to all our Sponsors and Contributors!

Your business support is tax deductible. Consider becoming a TPA contributor at \$100 or a sponsor for \$250. Our newsletter reaches approximately 550 pond residents twice a year. Contact: toddymail@toddypond.org



ICE FISHING ON TODDY POND:

A Weekend of Fun and Adventure!

President's weekend on Toddy Pond was cold, but lively. Saturday was the start of the 16th Annual Slims Fishing Derby, a two-day event that brings anglers of all ages together for a fun-filled weekend. Bundled up in their warmest clothes, they hit the ice at dawn, eager to claim their favorite spots. Pick-up trucks were hauling four-wheelers, sleds, and loaded all the fishing gear they needed - augers, tip-ups, bait, and even shelters and shacks for a cozy day on the pond. The sound of drilling holes and the excited chatter of anglers filled the air, creating a lively atmosphere. The anticipation of catching a big one, with the excitement of "FishON!" echoing through the pond. The dream of winning awesome prizes was a real motivator. There was a grand prize drawing, second prize drawing, door prizes, and cash prizes for the 1st and 2nd place top fish in each category. One lucky winner in the Kids category even received a lifetime Maine Fishing License! Slims event was set up at the Toddy Pond Public Landing, with fish weigh-ins on Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 5 pm and the Kids Category from 2 to 5 pm. All the proceeds went to the Jimmy Douglass Memorial Scholarship fund, making it a truly meaningful event. It was amazing to see all the fish caught and the excitement in the air. It was a weekend that everyone will remember for years to come! Check out the Slims Fishing Derby Facebook page to see all the fishing excitement at <https://www.facebook.com/SlimsFishingDerby/>.

Also present at the boat launch were representatives from the Toddy Pond Association (TPA) Outreach Committee. The TPA is working hard to save Toddy Pond from the threat of water release associated with Bucksport Mill's petition to abandon the Toddy dam. The Outreach Committee is working closely with the affected towns, property owners and businesses to assist in the effort to Save Our Ponds. Included in the efforts are an awareness campaign to ensure all those affected are informed about the threat to Toddy Pond which includes distribution of brochures, flyers, postcards, buttons, merchandise and email communications. To learn more about how you can become a member of the Toddy Pond Association and assist in the effort to save Toddy Pond for future generations, please reach out via the links below or by contacting us via email at toddymail@toddypond.org.



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Important Contact Information

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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



THE TPA WANTS YOU!

TPA Board of Directors.
You can have more input
with the TPA!

We welcome your ideas.
Stand with us as we protect
our beloved pond.
Contact Marc at
toddymail@toddypond.org



Catherine Davis-Tilton
Central Maine Auction Center
44 Concord Drive
Hermon, ME 04401
Phone: (207) 848-7027
Mobile: (207) 745-8546
CMAuctionCenter.com

What's up with Loons?

The 42nd consecutive Toddy Pond loon count will take place on July 19 from 7-7:30 AM. Last year 22 people volunteered to cover the 14 pond sections and located 22 adults and 2 chicks, numbers consistent with previous years. Loon chicks have been subject to bald eagle predation in recent years, a major concern for the long term health of our loon population, so it was good to see two healthy chicks on count day. Anyone interested in participating in the count can contact me at 802 734-1897 to learn more. It's always a fun way to spend a little time on a July morning.

Steve Antell

LOON RAFT UPDATE:

Two Summer ago, Maine Audubon partnered with volunteers from Toddy Pond to build a floating loon raft to provide additional "living quarters" - nesting sites for loons. This Spring a loon pair has been swimming near the raft, presumably assessing the property. Over this winter, the raft broke loose due to high winds and was in need of attention. Two people from Maine Audubon were here on May 5 to help refurbish the loon raft and it has again been anchored across the pond from the boat access. It looks cozy and inviting but it went unused the first two years and was still unoccupied as of this writing. Sometimes it can take several years for a raft to attract a nesting pair, so there is still hope.



Your partner in philanthropy

*A Special Thank You to Ram Island
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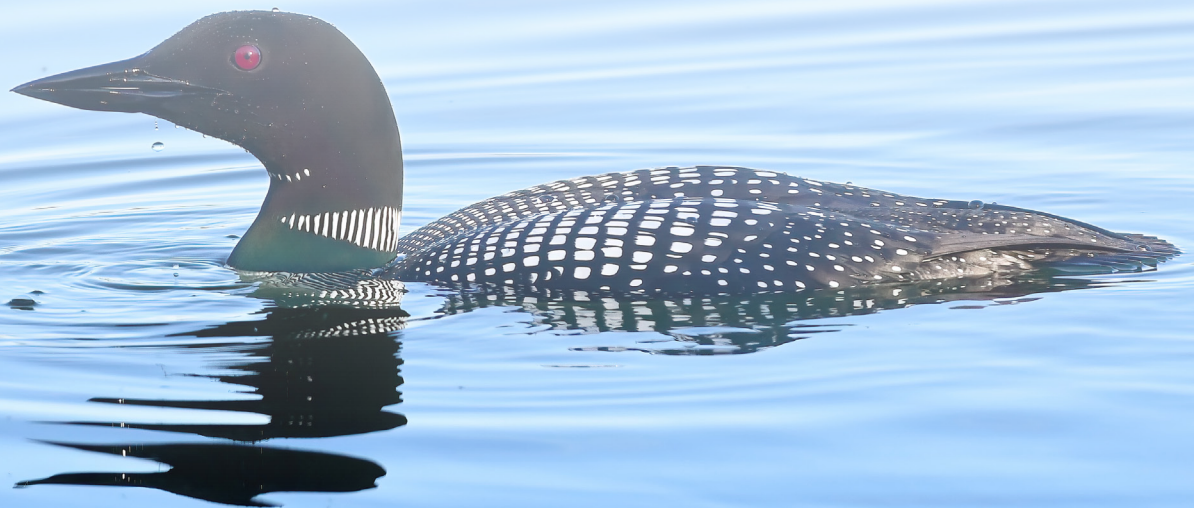
Dan Burpee
Principal Broker



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TODDY MARKETPLACE

All Proceeds Support Toddy Pond Initiatives

INQUIRE TODAY AT
toddy@mail@toddypond.org



*T-Shirts, and Onesies,
and Caps, Oh My!*

We will have a full display at our BBQ on July 13 - Come and see! Beginning this summer we will need a new leader to continue on with this project. Please email Donna at toddy@mail@toddypond.org. Thank you!

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TPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

for calendar year 2025 ☐

New Member ☐

Returning Member ☐

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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

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Vice PresidentVacant

Treasurer.....Barry Johnson

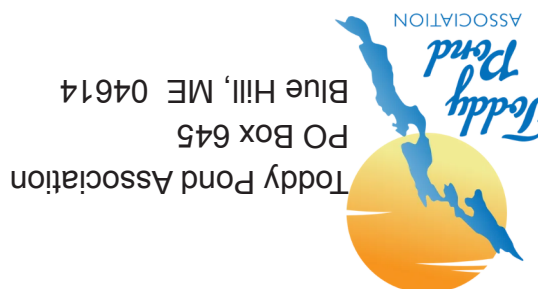
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