



# TODDY POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

Issue 35

## OUR MISSION

*We believe that we have a responsibility to protect Toddy Pond and its watershed so that we and future generations may enjoy its beauty and the recreational opportunities it provides. Our objective is to protect the air, water, soil, plant and animal life of the watershed and to preserve its economic, ecological and aesthetic value by encouraging responsible land and water use.*

### President's Message

Donna Foster

With thanks for family and friends and all we have on Toddy Pond, warmest wishes for happy holidays, a peaceful winter, and, as always, spring to come!

### Toddy Pond Watershed Restoration Project Extended –Funding Still Available

*In the spring issue we urged residents of the watershed to take advantage of financial support for qualifying projects available through the Toddy Pond Watershed Restoration Project before its expiration at the end of 2015. Since then, the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District, which administers the project, has applied for and received an extension of the grant through 2016. The description of the program that follows was prepared by HCSWCD staff.*

Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act authorizes the US EPA to fund pollution control projects to improve water quality in lakes and streams. The targeted pollution is known as “non point source” (NPS) and includes things like stormwater runoff from lawns, farms, and roads. Eroding camp roads are a well-known culprit of NPS pollution in Maine. The goal of the project is to demonstrate “best management practices,” which range from replacement of failing culverts to better road design, stabilization of eroding shoreline, and planting vegetated buffers.

The Hancock County Conservation District was awarded a Section 319 matching grant for the Toddy Pond Watershed, starting in 2014. The project is now in its second year. Project partners have implemented erosion-control practices at over a dozen sites in the Toddy Pond Watershed. Ten other sites are currently under construction. Some of these sites were areas of shorefront erosion that were shored up with a combination of rip-rap and vegetation. Others dealt with solving erosion problems on gravel roads. These projects are accomplished through cost-sharing with local partners, such as landowners and private road associations. There is still grant money available for 2016. Contact the Conservation District before the funding is exhausted, at 667-8663.

In particular, the following road associations have funds available that have yet to be claimed: **Bacardi Boulevard, Town Line Way, Starlight Way, Sweet Fern Way, Violette Way.**

### Dam Developments

Chris Dadian

In the spring newsletter we reported on our first meeting with the new owners of the Toddy Pond dam, Montreal-based American Iron and Metals (AIM), which acquired the dam and those on Alamoosook and Silver Lakes along with the Bucksport paper mill and other assets from Verso after the mill was closed last December.

For several years TPA had attempted to maintain open channels of communication with Verso, sometimes under trying circumstances. We were hopeful that the productive aspects of that relationship could resume with the new owners. When we met with AIM management in early May we were encouraged to hear them repeat assurances already given publically that they would continue to manage the dams and water levels in accordance with the regime outlined in the Lake Level Management Plan that had been adopted by Verso previous owners. We were also relieved to learn that Wes Shute, an experienced operator, would continue to visit all three dams daily to observe conditions and adjust outflow as necessary.

Over the course of the summer Mother Nature did most of the managing of Toddy's water level, a moderate drought lowering it by more than a foot. By late September the water level was about an inch below the target level for that date.

In early August AIM informed us that they had hired a crew of divers to inspect the dams and perform basic maintenance, and invited us to observe. On August 5 I spent several hours with the crew at the Toddy Pond dam and learned a great deal, as I reported at the TPA annual meeting later in the month.

In brief, the crew had one full day to survey and document the condition of the dam and report to AIM management, and to use whatever time remained to perform maintenance. The maintenance consisted primarily of applying an epoxy material designed for this application to numerous cracks in the wet (lake) side of the concrete piers and granite masonry spillways. The crew chief (also president of Commercial Divers, Inc.)

explained that though somewhat cursory – necessarily, given the limited time – this re-dressing of the headwall, normally done every year, is extremely important to prevent channels from forming which would accelerate deterioration. He showed me some examples of damage caused by channeling, pointed out several specific items requiring more extensive maintenance, necessary but not critical, which he would be recommending to AIM management, and shared his general assessment that the Toddy Pond dam is in average to above-average condition for a structure of its age and does not present any foreseeable danger of failure.



West overflow spillway, August (before the storm)



West overflow spillway, October 1

On the last day of September, heavy rainfall totaling several inches erased the effects of drought on the water level of Toddy Pond literally overnight, raising it by well over a foot. As run-off from the watershed topped the dam for the next several days, despite a partial opening of the sluiceway, what we'd learned about the effects of channeling was no longer theoretical but frighteningly apparent. Higher water with increased head had found channels that had previously been dry, and on the tailwall (the “dry” side of the dam) water could be seen spouting from joints in the granite overflow spillways. When the gate could finally be closed several days later, an area of spalling on the west concrete pier could be seen to have expanded significantly, like the exit wound made by a bullet, exposing rebar, and water continued to seep around soft spots in the wooden gate. Though the structural integrity

of the Toddy Pond dam may not have been in jeopardy, the revelations of the storm were troublingly impressive.



Spalling produced by channeling, west concrete pier

Immediately after the big storm we contacted AIM about follow-up to the very basic crack patching performed in August and were informed that Kleinschmidt Associates, an engineering firm specializing in dams and with experience working on the Toddy Pond, Alamoosook, and Silver Lake structures, had been hired to perform a more detailed assessment and develop a plan for short- and long-term maintenance. A site visit was made on October 14 and a report is in preparation.

As this issue was going to press we received an “annual maintenance update” from Cintya Bailey, Regulatory Compliance Manager for AIM’s operations in Bucksport, documenting inspection and maintenance on all three dams in 2015. There were no surprises in this report, due to the fact that we had either observed the activities or been informed of them previously by AIM. This refreshing degree of transparency – even proactive transparency – validates our efforts with the Alamoosook Lake Association and AIM to focus on communication rather than confrontation.

It remains to be seen how AIM will respond to recommendations in the forthcoming Kleinschmidt report, which may call for more costly maintenance and repair, and the long-term future of the dams will be determined by their next owners; but developments over the past months suggest that for now at least AIM considers both the water system and community relations to be valuable assets.

If you have questions or concerns about the dam and its condition, water levels, or related issues, please contact me at [toddymail@toddypond.org](mailto:toddymail@toddypond.org) or at 314-706-0053.

## Camp Road Maintenance

Megan Facciolo

*Parts of this article are from the Lake\*A\*Syst Manual produced by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Water Quality Office.*

If you have a dirt or gravel road/driveway that leads to your house, there is a good chance that your road is contributing phosphorous to the lake. Phosphorus is a nutrient required for the growth of all plants, including algae. When it rains, fine soil particles can be dislodged from your road and washed into the lake. This is called storm water runoff. Phosphorus binds tightly to soil particles until it is washed into the lake. At this point phosphorus can be problematic because aquatic vegetation can use it to grow, reducing water clarity, recreational and aesthetic pleasure and in extreme cases can cause algal blooms. There are other pollutants which can reach your lake in this manner as well. Gas, greases, oils, road salt, and heavy metals that drip from your car can be transported to the lake by storm water runoff.

In watershed surveys that have been conducted all over the state of Maine, including around Toddy Pond, camp roads and driveways were found to be the most important contributor of soil erosion, adding to phosphorus and sediment pollution.

All camp roads can create some risk to the lake, but roads that are long and steep cause the most erosion problems. We have little control over how steep the area is, but we can control how far water can run down a given stretch of road. This combined with proper road shape, diversions, and quality of road ditches will determine how much impact your road or driveway will have on your lake.



A properly contoured gravel road reduces polluted run-off.

Roads require regular maintenance. Most roads with eroded surfaces are filled with additional soil and gravel each year. We need to be mindful that this new fill does not end up in the lake. For help with chronic road issues, contact the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District for free technical assistance at 667-8663.

## 2015 Loon Count

Steve Antell

The 33rd loon count on Toddy Pond took place July 18. As usual, the pond was divided into sections and volunteers were recruited to cover each territory. The final count of 19 adult loons and 3 chicks (not including 2 flyovers) was probably

a little short of average but well within the realm of normal. Last year there were no chicks recorded, so it is gratifying to see some successful nesting this year. The high count was ten years ago when 32 adults and 6 chicks were observed, but that year seems to be an outlier. Counts in the 18-25 range are more the norm. In any case, as anyone who sleeps near the pond can attest, the Toddy Pond loon population remains vibrant, even at times a bit noisy.

The count could not happen without an enthusiastic group of volunteers. First among them is Dwight Gates, who has participated in most, if not all, of the surveys. Dwight will be moving down the coast next year and unavailable to do the count again, but he assures me that every year has been a pleasure. Thanks very much for your dedication to the loon count over the years, Dwight. It won't be quite the same without you covering the boat access area, but the count will go on. See everyone on the pond at 7:00 AM sharp on July 16, 2016.....

## 2015 Courtesy Boat

### Inspection Summary

Barbara Leaf

Let me begin by thanking all those who participated in our Courtesy Boat Inspection project this summer. We had our best season yet in terms of boat landing coverage – 494 hours. Many thanks go to our two “professional inspectors,” Lucy Leaf and Luki Hewitt, who did the heavy lifting on the weekends. Our volunteers were very active as well. In total for the season, 818 boats were inspected and 21 plant fragments were found. Fortunately none of them were found to be invasive. You may ask yourself, if we found only 21 plant fragments and none of them were invasive, why do we need to continue?

The answer is that we cannot afford to be complacent. As recently as October 6, biologists confirmed the discovery of yet another invasive species, European naiad, in a body of water with shorelines in both Maine and New Hampshire. Able to overtake native lake habitats by shading and out-competing ecologically valuable aquatic plants, European naiad grows from an annual seed into 7-foot long plants. A productive, one-acre infestation can generate tens of millions of seeds per season. It is daunting to think that we may be dealing with invasive SEEDS at some point. I was recently told of another finding at a boat landing of a water chestnut – not the plant but the actual nut itself was lodged in the carpet on a trailer. We often forget that many of the more common invasive plants can survive out of the water for days, reviving when hydrated.

There is significant statewide investment in keeping our lakes clean. The CBI program has grown from 2,848 reported inspections in 2001 to a whopping 80,003 in 2014. We are so fortunate that to date, of Maine's 5,700 named water bodies, only 46 are now documented as infested. In 2014, of the 9,487 boats that were inspected specifically by employees of the Lakes Environmental Association, only one invasive plant was found. In 2013, they found 18 invasive plant fragments. While it may appear that we could be stemming the tide, we also know that there will always be the threat of plants and now even perhaps seeds from infested lakes. Given that ever increasing threat, it remains essential to continue our CBI efforts on Toddy Pond.

## **Wanted – 2016 Courtesy Boat Inspectors**

Barbara Leaf

TPA is seeking to hire one or more persons to inspect boats for plant fragments at the Orland town boat landing:

- work weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day, 2016
- \$10/hour
- must have good interpersonal skills
- hours negotiable
- no prior experience required; training will be provided
- must be over 16 years of age

Contact Barbara Leaf (802-734-4102) or email leafan@comcast.net for more information.

## **Added Value from Your 2015 Dues and Donations**

Charlie Pizzarello

With the TPA's recent change in status to a non-profit 501(c)3, all dues and donations paid in the calendar year 2015 are deductible when filing your income tax. The guidelines from the IRS note that no receipt is needed for donations under \$250. For those who have contributed more than \$250 in a single donation, you can expect a year-end summary in either email or printed format. Any questions, please feel free to contact me at charlie.pizzarello@gmail.com.

## **Dues Clues in the News**

Chris Dadian

At its last meeting of the summer, the TPA board discussed concerns raised by several members at the annual meeting regarding difficulties they'd encountered determining whether they were current on membership dues.

To avoid the cost of printing and postage for an annual dues notice and follow-up reminder, in recent years we have used the newsletter for those purposes, including an insert that can be filled in and mailed with payment. Some confusion arose several years ago when we changed the start of our membership year from August to January: members used to paying their dues in the fall were no longer sure whether their payment applied to the year almost complete or the year soon to begin. So, we incorporated the following hint:

If the current year appears in parens following your name in the address on the last page of the newsletter, e.g.

Todd D. Ponder (2015)

our records show that your membership dues for the current year are paid in full.

In addition, beginning with this issue:

- For convenience, in place of the membership form insert we are providing an addressed remittance envelope.
- If you have already paid dues for the current year you will not receive an envelope.

These changes may also help with a related problem. With just a few weeks left in 2015, 46 of 111 TPA members in 2014 have not yet renewed. This is not unusual, and past experience

tells us that we can expect 25-30 renewals in response to this newsletter. But that still leaves more than 10% of our membership not renewing in a typical year. We believe that at least some of these non-renewals are unintentional and that making it easier for members to check their current status and easier to send in a dues payment will help improve continuing participation.

If you send your dues payment close to the date when the newsletter goes to press your status might not get updated in time, and needless to say, mistakes get made. So if you think we've got it wrong or just want to check, please contact me at toddymail@toddypond.org.

## **Refugees from Milfoil**

Sarah LeVine

Dave and Betty Parsons recall that by the beginning of the twenty-first century, Middle Range Pond in Poland, Maine, the lake roughly the same size as Middle Toddy on which they'd built their summer home many years before, was so silted up and clogged with grass, weeds, and variable milfoil that boating and swimming were no longer possible. "So, very reluctantly we decided the time had come to leave the place where we'd spent great summers while out three kids were growing up and look for property on a lake that was still largely free of invasives."

Their search took them further and further north until they found three acres off Hedgehog Lane on the eastern shore of Middle Toddy. "The view across the lake, the clarity of the water, the peace and tranquility were enchanting," says Betty. "The fact that, following a fire many years earlier in which the main structure had been destroyed, all that remained of the old camp was a couple of decrepit wooden outbuildings was no deterrent. We'd fallen in love! Marcella Rauscher, granddaughter of John and Adelaide Avent, who'd built the original camp in 1916, accepted our offer and the place was ours."

But until they'd sold their house in Poland, they wouldn't have the funds to build on their new property. "So," Dave explains, "we repaired a small building, formerly a bedroom, gave it a screen porch and turned it into a kitchen, got the outhouse toilet flushing again with water pumped up from the lake, installed the small travel trailer in which we'd explored much of the United States (including Alaska) on a flat area where the original camp once stood, and got ourselves a functioning place to live."

For the next six years they worked hard clearing trees and bushes, improving the road in from Route 176, meeting their neighbors and thoroughly enjoying "our playground – one of the best campsites in Maine." At that point, though Dave was still closely involved with his business and Betty was still working, which obliged them to spend much of their time in their Portland condo, in the warmer weather – often accompanied by their children, who by now were in college and med school – they'd sleep three nights a week on Toddy Pond; even in winter they'd come up regularly to snowshoe.

Meanwhile, Middle Range Pond was cleared not only of silt and pickerel weed but milfoil (possibly the only instance of a successful clearance effort in Maine). Dave and Betty sold their house in Poland and by 2010 were all set to build.

“Our new house in Surry, like our old house in Poland, is from a Log Cabin & Co. kit,” Dave explains, “except that with our kids all grown, it’s a good deal smaller. Ray Canary did the site work – a major project which involved exploding a cliff (the resulting rocks were later used for retaining walls) and hauling in 100 truckloads of fill. Our builder was Les Hutchinson from Aurora, ME on the Airline, and his assistant was Norman Luck, who for many years had been in Bruce Springsteen’s band. From breaking ground to move-in took one year. Terracing, building retaining walls, landscaping (with indigenous plants), and establishing a vegetable garden took another two and by 2013 they finally felt settled.



The Parsons’ pride and joy on Hedgehog Lane

These days, though they still travel back and forth between Surry and Portland, the balance is very much tipped in Surry’s favor. On a warm evening a passing boater is likely to glimpse them at the lake shore sipping wine and gazing, enraptured, at the sunset.

## Toddy Treasure

*From a posting by Dean Putnam Lockwood ‘03 in a Harvard alumni publication, ca. 1918.*

In the Summer of 1913, I taught in the Harvard Summer School, as a last resort, to pay off my wife’s appendicitis bill. About the middle of August, I retired exhausted to Toddy Pond (near Whiskey Spring), Hancock County, Maine “just back of Bar Harbor, you know,” but a long way back. This was a turning-point in my life. After seven years of it, I can say that

my real home (and the only one I own) is the little cabin of peeled balsam boughs between the lake and the tamarack bog, where the winter wren sings all day and the loons holler all night. In 1915 and 1916, I served for a year and a half as acting librarian of Columbia University, but was glad to get back to teaching. The war-garden fever struck my family in 1917, and profiting by experience I was able, in the summer of 1918, to raise 20 bushels of Maine potatoes from one of planting. In the fall of 1918, I was called to Haverford College as associate professor of Latin. Now that the War is over, life is calm and peaceful among the Quakers. Prohibition means nothing to them.

*Do you have Toddy Treasures to share? If you do, please send them to [toddymail@toddypond.org](mailto:toddymail@toddypond.org).*

## And for Dessert...



Ethan, grandson of Yvette and Richard Tenney, with a less sartorially sophisticated friend

Want one? The tee-shirt (you can’t have Ethan and the sock monkey is currently in a relationship).

Contact Nancy Lord at 469-2188 for sizes and colors available, and how to order.



# Toddy Pond Association

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Donna Foster ☎ 667-1319  
Vice President:  
Chris Dadian ☎ 469-0234  
Secretary:  
Sarah LeVine ☎ 667-1293  
Treasurer  
Charlie Pizzarello ☎ 667-8895

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South Toddy  
Barbara Leaf ☎ 802-734-4102  
Dick Salminen ☎ 667-1279  
Richard Tenney ☎ 664-1848

## PROJECT COORDINATORS

Boat Inspections ..... Barbara Leaf ☎ 802-734-4102  
Boat Landing ..... Dick Salminen ☎ 667-1279  
Fish Testing ..... John Manfred ☎ 667-9545  
History ..... Sarah LeVine ☎ 667-1293  
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P.O. Box 645  
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