



TODDY POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

Issue 36

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

We have been graced by the early budding of plants and trees along with pleasant temperatures this spring due to the very mild winter in Downeast Maine. Ice-out on North Toddy was March 10, with Middle and South following on March 12, four to five weeks earlier than is typical.

At the last Executive Board meeting in the fall, I announced to my colleagues that it was time for me to be stepping down from my post as president of the TPA, after more than nine years' involvement in the association's leadership. Realizing that any organization benefits from the new ideas brought about by a change in leadership, it was always my intention to serve for a limited period of time. Toddy Pond and this organization mean so much to me. TPA has served the community for some eighteen years and I feel I'm turning it over in a very good place.

I have enjoyed the excitement of helping the TPA grow and develop new ideas, and institute functions that have become traditions, like our annual barbecue. I am pleased to have had a hand in growing the greater sense of community amongst the members of the TPA.

My original plan was to continue through until my term expires in August in order to engage in a slower transition for the organization. However, due to family health events over the last seven months, I feel compelled to accelerate my departure as president.

Our current VP, Chris Dadian, will assume the president's duties until a new president is elected by the board. I feel confident I am leaving TPA in qualified hands and I want to express how much I've enjoyed serving as president during my tenure. Thanks to all for your past and continuing support.

Let's have a great summer!

Save the Date –

TPA Hail to Summer BBQ

The Sixth Annual Toddy Pond Association Hail to Summer BBQ is set for June 26th, 4:00–7:00 at the Balsam Cove

June 25 — Maine Lakes Conference

Unity College, Unity. For information, go to www.mainelakessociety.org

June 26 — TPA Hail to Summer BBQ

Balsam Cove Campground pavilion, 4:00–7:00 (food served around 5:00)

July 16 — Toddy Pond Loon Count, 7:00–7:30am (see below)

July 19 — IPP Introductory Workshop

Craig Pond Fish Hatchery (see below)

August 9 — TPA Annual Potluck and Meeting

Orland Community Center, potluck dinner at 6:00, followed by meeting

August 20 — IPP Plant Paddle, Branch Lake (see below)

Campground. We're all looking forward to catching up with neighbors and friends after this long winter, and looking forward to meeting some new folks as well. All residents of the pond and their families are invited.

TPA will provide chicken and soft drinks and you're encouraged to bring your favorite dish to share.

In addition to the always popular 50/50 raffle, the new embroidered Toddy Pond polo shirts will be returning along with hats, T-shirts, key rings, and other great gift items.

Many thanks to **Ruth and Justin Thatcher**, owners of the Balsam Cove Campground for allowing us to use this beautiful space.

Please RSVP with the number in your party to contact@toddypond.org or 207-469-0234.

Toddy Pond Watershed Restoration Project Continues

As the implementation phase of the Toddy Pond Watershed Project winds down, significant benchmarks have been achieved:

- 19 road projects have been completed and 10 more are slated for completion this summer (this will exceed the grant requirement of 27).
- 11 residential sites have been completed and 4 more are scheduled, still a few short of the 20 required by the grant. If you have a project that might help meet this goal, it's not too late to apply (see below).
- Technical assistance has been provided at 12 sites (20 are required).
- Education and Outreach activities, including planning, presentations, informational articles published in this newsletter, and surveys have been conducted.

Time is running short (projects must be completed by September 30), but if your property's shoreline could benefit from a more productive buffer or if you need technical assistance regarding erosion-related issues, contact the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District, at 667-8663.

Private Roads Workshop

How to Form a Road Association and Gravel Road Maintenance

When & where: Friday, June 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Board Room, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, 50 Union Street, Ellsworth

In the first half of this day-long workshop, staff from the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District will offer practical advice and a step-by-step guide to forming a road association. After a break for lunch, Phil Curtis, consultant to Maine DOT Local Roads Center, will lead a session on the design, installation, and maintenance of gravel roads. Participants may register for one or both sessions. The cost to attend is \$35 for either half-day session, or \$50 for the full day. Lunch will be provided for full-day attendees.

Certified contractors can receive four continuing education units from DEP for participation in the afternoon road maintenance session.

To register, contact the Conservation District office at 667-8663.

No Developments at the Dam Chris Dadian

On May 25 Toddy Pond was about 2.5 inches below the overflow sills at the dam, normal for this time of year. The water level is apparently being monitored daily and the dam's gate adjusted as necessary to maintain it.

There are no signs of repair to the substantially deteriorated condition documented in the fall issue of this newsletter, though none was expected over the winter. American Iron & Metals (AIM), the current owner of the dam, has not responded to inquiries about a report commissioned by AIM from an engineering firm last summer, which was to assess the need for repairs and recommend a short- and longer-term plan for addressing that need.

On June 15 the Town of Orland will meet to consider the future of the Orland Village Dam. A recent article in the Bangor Daily News explains the history of this issue and competing viewpoints: <http://bangordailynews.com/2016/05/05/outdoors/orland-village-dam-removal-may-be-in-near-future/>

Toddy Pond Loon Count

Steve Antell

The annual Toddy Pond loon count will take place from 7:00–7:30 AM on Saturday, July 16. The lake will again be divided into 16 sections and our goal, as always, will be to cover all of them. I will be in touch with those of you who have participated in the past but am always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please send me an email at leafan@comcast.net. The loon count is always a good time while also providing vital information on the health of our loon population. Similar surveys are conducted simultaneously on many other lakes in Maine, with the overall data compiled by Maine Audubon.

Invasive Plant Patrol

Bob LeVine

Toddy Pond is free of the invasive plants that have destroyed so many New England lakes – and we intend to keep it that way! The first line of defense is boat inspection, and the second is Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP), in which we inspect our entire lakeshore each summer to detect any signs of invasive plants to report before they gain a foothold here.

If you have done this before, you know that it can be a fascinating learning experience as well as just plain fun. (Take a look at the video, *The Hunt for Aquatic Invaders*, on the web site mainevlmp.org to get a quick idea of what we do and its importance.) We'll supply you with Linda Jellison's beautiful photos of Toddy Pond's native weeds and a viewscope so that you can spot any invaders. And we'll give you apprenticeship training too.

You can also learn at the workshops provided by the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (see the next article for details).

We need new members on our team: To volunteer for Toddy Pond Plant Patrol (also known as the Preventive Botany Brigade), please contact me at levine68@gmail.com or (207) 667-1293.

2016 IPP Workshops

Roberta Hill

Roberta Hill is Invasive Species Program Director for the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

The introduction of non-native invasive aquatic plant and animal species to the United States has been escalating with widespread destructive consequences. The impacts of the spread of invasive aquatic plants are well known: habitat disruption, loss of native plant and animal communities, reduced property values, impaired fishing and degraded recreational experiences, and enormous and ongoing control costs. With over 6000 lakes and ponds, and thousands of miles of stream habitat, the task of preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species (IAS) in Maine waters is one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. Invasive plants and animals are moved about in complex and often unseen ways, and the speed at which a new introduction can explode into an ecologically and economically disastrous infestation is well documented. Once an invader is well established, eradication is extremely difficult and costly, if not impossible.

Prevention is the first step to fighting this invasion, but no matter how comprehensive and aggressive our prevention efforts, chances are some invasive organisms will slip through the cracks. In such cases, it is crucial that the invaders are detected as early as possible, before they have had an opportunity to cause significant damage or to spread to other waterbodies. Early detection provides the best hope of eradication. The critical role volunteers play in this effort cannot be overstated!

Since the first Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) workshop in 2002, the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program has trained thousands of individuals to screen Maine waters for aquatic invaders. The program was specifically designed to engage widespread participation by individuals with varying amounts of time and expertise to commit to the endeavor, from those who simply want to be more knowledgeable when they are out recreating on their lake, to those who are conducting and leading comprehensive lake-wide surveys. Two different IPP trainings will be offered in our area this summer.

Tuesday, July 19 - Invasive Plant Patrol 101 - Craig Brook Fish Hatchery, Hatchery Rd, Orland, time TBA

Formerly known as 'Introductory IPP' this comprehensive, 6-hr classroom experience prepares attendees for conducting or leading invasive aquatic plant screening surveys and satisfies the quality assurance requirement for IPP certification. All IPP training sessions are open to the public and FREE to anyone interested in learning more about the threat of invasive aquatic plants in Maine.

The workshop is presented in four parts:

- Overview of invasive species issues in Maine and beyond
- Plant identification fundamentals
- Plant identification hands-on exercise with live plants
- Conducting a screening survey, tools and techniques

All workshop participants receive an "Invasive Plant Patroller's Handbook," and Maine's Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants.

Saturday, August 20 - Invasive Plant Paddle - (Old) Ellsworth City Boat Landing, Old Mill Dam Road, Ellsworth (NOT the new Branch Lake Boat Launch)

The IPP Plant Paddle is a 3-hour guided exploration that takes place on shore and on the water. This is a fun, informal way to introduce community members to the threat of invasive aquatic plants and the importance of early detection. Participants will learn how to use their new free Quick Key to help spot suspected invaders, become familiar with some common native plants, and practice the skills needed to be an effective early detector.

Invasive Plant Patrol workshops are offered free of charge to participants, and made possible through the generous support of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Lake and River Protection Sticker program, foundation grants, businesses, lake and watershed groups, and individuals.

To register for a workshop or for more information about VLMP and its Invasive Species programs, go to <http://www.mainevlmp.org/invasive-plant-patrol-workshops/>

Spring has sprung and it won't be very long before activity at the Orland boat landing begins anew. I am very pleased to announce that Lucy Leaf, who was our paid inspector in years past, has agreed to become our CBI coordinator this year. You may have received an email in which Lucy wrote that we were looking for two new inspectors to provide weekend coverage at the Orland landing (see an update from Lucy, below). In addition to our paid inspectors, we look to our volunteers to cover weekdays. It is a challenge to get all of the summer days covered. Please consider volunteering by calling Lucy at 207-266-3212. We very much appreciate your time in the ongoing effort of keeping Toddy Pond healthy.

The state of Maine has come a long way in the last 10 years. When milfoil stickers first went on sale, many thought the program would be expensive, unworkable and futile. But something unexpected happened. People decided that the health of our lakes was something worth fighting for. At the inception of the sticker program, Maine had ten infested lakes. In these last ten years, only thirteen more Maine lakes were impacted. You may think that this doesn't exactly represent success but it is striking compared to the rest of New England. New Hampshire has seventy-six infested lake systems, Vermont has over 100 and Massachusetts has 900! It is encouraging that Maine is keeping infestations relatively in check but many are concerned about sustainability. For those Maine lakes that are infested, it takes thousands of dollars and countless volunteer hours to keep the lakes viable. The grants from sticker sales don't come close to covering the costs. As a result, there are plans to divert funds from the CBI program to support those clean-up efforts.

We have been told that in future we can no longer count on the current level of support from the state-supported CBI Program. This means the grant money that underwrites our ability to hire paid inspectors may be reduced or eliminated entirely. That being the case the inspector coverage at our boat landing would be significantly impacted. At Toddy, we are very fortunate to have no evidence of invasive plants but we cannot let up on our vigilance. As much as possible, we will continue our efforts to have an inspector at our boat landing but if we are to think about the next ten years, we need to develop a partnership with boaters to increase awareness and self-inspection. The DEP suggests that the long term success of invasive plant prevention will require self-inspection by boaters, which is why CBI inspectors are trained to encourage self-inspection. We will never be in a position to inspect all the boats all the time. Checking one's own boat is the next step for us all to preserve the lakes we love. Think about the next time your are down at the boat landing readying your boat for launch. When the inspector asks whether you have already checked your boat for invasive plants, please be in a position to say, "Yes, I did."

For more information on boat inspection, please check out the kiosk down at the boat landing. There is also a great video clip at www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/inspect.html that shows how easy the inspection can be.

Boat Inspectors Hired

Lucy Leaf

Stephen Sheehan, from Orland, is a native Mainer who grew up in Bucksport and worked in the mill for forty-five years. He has been a boater and fisherman all his life. Retired now, he will know many of the boaters launching at the landing and undoubtedly knows every niche of Toddy Pond and the surrounding lakes.

Sandy Kuykendall is also a native Mainer who currently lives in Orland. Growing up in North Penobscot, she has enjoyed a lifetime of swimming and summer fun on Toddy Pond. Sandy is now retired, returning to Maine from Las Vegas, where she worked for a number of years with seniors in a management capacity.

Both are friendly and outgoing, the qualities that encourage cooperation among boaters, and both are committed to keeping our lakes clean. We welcome Stephen and Sandy as our new courtesy boat inspectors for 2016.

Membership – Let’s Make This a Trend!

The Toddy Pond Association had 121 active (dues paying) members in 2015, the most since at least 2008 (records for earlier years cannot be found), and we already have 42 members for 2016, 9 of them new members!

If your name in the address block on the back of this newsletter is followed by (2016), you’re already on board – thank you.

If not, please use the enclosed mailer to send us your your renewal – thank you in advance.

Giants of the Toddy Pond Road Sarah LeVine

As I jogged past the Surry/Orland town line early one summer morning in 2013, I saw coming towards me a short woman surrounded by the four largest dogs I’d ever seen. I was about to turn and flee when I noticed that, thank goodness, the giants were leashed. So I speeded up and when I reached them they stopped and stared at me.



“Don’t worry, they’re softies,” the woman assured me. “They won’t hurt a fly.” While I wasn’t entirely confident

this was the case, I paused to ask their names. The brindle, I learned, was Bart. The other three, Brigitte, Sorelle and Jasmine, were his daughters. Hearing that, though the girls “only” weighed between 170 and 195, Bart weighed around 240, I gasped in amazement.

It turned out that Claudia Edwards and her husband Bill had been my near neighbors in West Surry for more than a decade. In 2000 they bought a camp on eight boulder-strewn acres between Hedgehog Lane and Charles Lane and the following year they built a spacious gray-shingled house high above the lake. I remember watching with interest (and envy) its construction from my kayak down on the water and from the top of their driveway (three driveways from my own). In the years since, Bill had created numerous rock-walled gardens and mini-meadows around the property. But I’d never seen Claudia out on the road with Bart and the girls because she was working full time, and until she retired she’d exercised them by throwing balls for them to chase in the corral behind the house.



Both Bill, who was born in Massachusetts, and Claudia, a native of Connecticut, where they met almost 40 years ago, are lifelong dog lovers. Bill started out with Great Danes, Claudia with Collies. Only after they moved up to Maine – first to Caribou, ‘but the bugs were awful’, then to Winterport and Little Deer Isle and finally to Surry – did they acquire their first Mastiff. “We were tired of Danes’ health issues,” Claudia explained. “So we started looking for a laidback breed with a good temperament and decided Mastiffs were right for us. In 1983, we got our first puppy, Clio, from a breeder in New

Hampshire. She was followed by others we got from breeders in Virginia, Indiana, New York State and Pennsylvania...Four had orthopedic problems, a major risk with such big dogs; but we had a champion with Echo."

I learned that, in addition to Brigitte, Sorelle and Jasmine, Bart was the father of Pippi and, via Pippi, the grandfather of Magnus. "Magnus is our new baby," Claudia said joyfully when we met on the road again that same summer. "He's too young to take off the property but if you like you can visit him."

So I did, and discovered that at 3 months Magnus already weighed 40 pounds.

Now, two years later, he weighs 240 pounds and is taller than a Shetland pony.

"Keeping dogs this size properly fed must be quite something," I observed.

"Not at all," Claudia breezily replied. "We give them venison and sweet potatoes."

"You mean Bill goes hunting and you grow sweet potatoes?" (I'd seen an impressive vegetable garden beside the corral.)

"Of course not! We give them Natural Balance Kibbles and I pressure cook Perdue chickens, grind them up in the Cuisinart and make gruel for the girls. But since Magnus doesn't care for chicken, I make his gruel out of pork loin, or turkey."

Incredulous, I said, "You mean he can tell the difference between chicken and turkey?"

Claudia didn't deign to respond to such a silly question. "And provided they've been good," she went on, "twice a

day we give them each a wellness bar made of white fish and sweet potato. They're on a grain-free diet," she added.

"How about grooming?"

"We brush them twice a week, cut their nails, wash their faces and clean their ears once a week, and once a month they get a bath and their flea medicine."

"How about exercise?"

"Two miles along Toddy Pond Road early in the morning and three or four runs in the woods each day. Winter can be tricky, specially when we get as much snow as we did last winter."

"It sounds like caring for them is a full-time job," I said.

"It's not a job, it's a pleasure," Claudia replied.

Keith Heavrin, Jr.

We learned with deep sadness that Keith Heavrin, former board member and secretary of the Toddy Pond Association, died on April 12.

Worker in wood, dance master extraordinaire, wrangler of rocks (with a tripod), mycophile, walker with Willow, poet ... Keith was a font of wisdom and warm good humor for his many friends, quick and generous to offer help when needed. Though a relative newcomer to Toddy Pond – by local standards – his large spirit communed with the waters, woods, and wild creatures, and abides with them in memory as in the hearts of his loved ones.

Toddy Pond Calls

Keith Heavrin, Jr.

re-printed from the Spring 2011 newsletter

This Spring is slow, as mud and snow frames bare ground so nice.
Small waters wind rowed springtails flow to soils from melting ice.

Tree buds stuck and swell not much, ignoring Chickadee's call.
Increasing sun a joy to tell, for squirrels and wild ones all.

Geese have called their ancient song, warm days pursue their flights.
Beloved friends, missed on Toddy so long, prepare for summer rites.

Willow dog yearns for children's joy, to swim and fetch thrown toys.
She'll sneak through ferns by any ploy, to play with girls and boys.

Return you all, paradise awaits, our Toddy Pond unlike another.
Heed the call of islands and straits, where waters meet each other.

Three Toes asleep and frogs to peep will awaken soon in turn.
Up from the deep, fresh food to reap, and ashore the barbecue's burn.

Soon best of all, we'll hear loon's call, so hauntingly day and night.
May summer days crawl, going slowest of all, a brilliance of warm and bright.



Toddy Pond Association

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Vice President:
Chris Dadian ☎ 469-0234
Secretary:
Sarah LeVine ☎ 667-1293
Treasurer
vacant

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Jeff Smith ☎ 469-3557
Phil Tardif ☎ 469-0784
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Bob LeVine ☎ 667-1293
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Barbara Leaf ☎ 802-734-4102
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