



TODDY POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

Issue 38

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.

Hail to the Summer of '17

Join us to celebrate the season at the Seventh Annual Toddy Pond Hail to Summer Barbecue, on June 25 at the Balsam Cove Campground. Great food, old and new friends, and perfect weather – always!

The Thatchers – David, Lorraine, Justin, and Ruth – owners and operators of Balsam Cove, are again generously allowing us to use their pavilion for the event. Those who came last year will notice some spectacular enhancements to the pavilion, including a new deck. We may also be able to check out the rain garden the Thatchers installed last year as part of the Watershed Restoration Project (featured in the fall TPA Newsletter).

The TPA will provide grilled chicken, grilled hot dogs, and soft drinks, and invites you to bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you're planning to come please drop us a line at toddymail@toddypond.org so we can plan on numbers.

New TPA Website

Nearly Ready to Roll

Chris Dadian

The long-awaited debut of new Toddy Pond Association website is near at hand. The site will have a number of new features, such as a lost and found, an events calendar, and a directory of useful links to local resources and emergency services. There will be a home page for each of our ongoing projects with announcements and resources for participants and those interested in becoming participants. Archives will provide access to past newsletters, the History, photos, and other significant documents.

Perhaps most important, we'll be able to manage the site and its contents locally, making it possible to get news and important announcements to the Toddy Pond community immediately, twelve months a year.

We hope that eventually the website will be our primary channel for communicating with members, but recognizing that that will take some time we'll be maintaining the email lists and sending printed newsletters for the indefinite future.

April 12 — Ice out (Middle Toddy)

June 24 — Maine Lakes Conference

Wells Conference Center, University of Maine, Orono.
For information, go to www.mainelakesociety.org

June 25 — TPA Hail to Summer BBQ

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

July 15 — Toddy Pond Loon Count, 7:00–7:30am

July 15 — IPP 101 Workshop

place (in Ellsworth area) and time TBA

August 6 — TPA Annual Meeting

Blue Hill Consolidated School, potluck dinner at 6:00
followed by meeting

August 12 — IPP Plant Paddle

on Alamoosook Lake (time TBA)

New Schedule for Boat Inspections

Lucy Leaf

Once again, we have been awarded a grant to help with our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program. The award contributes about half the cost of our paid inspectors. The TPA covers the rest.

There are several criteria for the amount awarded, including high use of ramps, number of inspections/hour, how well we meet our match in hours, and our overall track record for compliance. Our track record has been excellent, we are told, and thanks to all the volunteers who take a shift or two at the landing, and the many hours our coordinators put in, we have also met our match in equivalent hours.

The inspection forms haven't changed much this year, but there is a big change in what the coordinators are now asked to do in submitting the data. The data is now going to DEP, and they want it sent digitally on a spreadsheet as well as on the written forms. This must be done every two weeks, as usual. Many coordinators (myself included) will be swooning over this request, but luckily our other CBI coordinator, Barbara

Leaf, is very familiar with Excel, and says, “No problem.” She is vested in keeping our track record tip top. The computer-savvy folks in our ranks also recognize that this will allow us to analyze our data more readily.

We are very lucky to have our two paid inspectors, Stephen and Sandy, back this year, covering all the weekends throughout the summer and three additional weekdays in July and August.

This year, we plan to try something different in our scheduling. Since weekend boat activity is so much higher than that on weekdays, we are going to aim for greater coverage on weekends, even if it means no coverage on some weekdays. Therefore, volunteer inspectors can still sign up for the usual 10-4 shift on weekdays, but we have added a 7-11 am shift on Saturdays and Sundays. Our paid inspectors will work 11-5 on those days.

So, for early birds who enjoy the cool of morning, this is the shift for you. These shifts begin Memorial Day, so that is another opportunity to get a shift in before all the company comes. We are hoping that volunteers who usually sign up for one day each year might consider signing up for two of the shorter morning shifts instead.

Again, we really rely on volunteers to meet our match and cover our landing the best we can, and we always hope that lots of people will come forth so the burden is spread out. Many thanks to all those willing to contribute to keeping our lake free of invasive plants and organisms.

To get the shift you want, contact Lucy Leaf, 207-266-3212, lucy.leaf@yahoo.com.

Plant Patrol 2017

Lucy Leaf

Plant Patrol is going strong for 2017. VLMP has scheduled an IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) 101 certifying course for Hancock County to be held on a Saturday, July 15. You don't have to be certified to be a plant patroller, but it helps our organization in meeting a high standard. There is also a Plant Paddle scheduled for August 12, also on a Saturday, to be held this year on Alamoosook Lake, our very own waters. For patrollers who want to go the extra mile, there is also an IPP Advanced Plant ID Workshop offered in August in southern Maine which a few of us may carpool to in hopes of getting this additional certification in our ranks, though the 50% pass rate might require a repeat or two.

The big news for Plant Patrol is that we now have our booklet published, “Native Plants of Toddy Pond.” This booklet of identified plant photos from Toddy Pond taken by TPA member Linda Jellison, has been years in the making. It has finally come into being after a unified effort by numerous members offering various talents and support. With modern printing methods, this booklet can easily be revised with improved or additional photos. For further details, see the article below.

The other news is that this year, the committee has identified specific plant patrol areas, with assigned numbers. We have made them as close as possible to existing patrols. The aim is to reduce confusion about who is doing what and also

to ensure that the entire lake shore is patrolled every year. There are now 22 patrol areas marked on maps. Some patrollers may cover more than one area. It is our aim to get these maps on the TPA website soon, so patrollers can sign up for the areas they wish to patrol. Notification will be sent out when the maps can be viewed.

We should add that modifications to the patrol areas can be made, if necessary. We tried to use recognizable landmarks for boundaries, while also considering the density of plants in each patrol.

There are also several of us now who are quite involved in plant identification, so if anyone needs any support or companionship in making their patrol, we are willing to help. If there is enough interest, we may schedule our own Plant Paddle on Toddy Pond.

Plant patrol, done in any shallow-draft boat, paddle board, or even by snorkeling, gets members out and on the water, while ensuring that our lake remains clean, diverse in plant life, and healthy. Many have found that plant patrol can be lots of FUN, as a family affair, in company with other patrollers, or while simply enjoying the solitude of a calm, quiet morning.

To sign up as a plant patroller, contact Lucy Leaf, 207-266-3212, lucy.leaf@yahoo.com.

Existing patrollers will be contacted by email for the 2017 season.

Aquatic Plant Booklet Hot off the Press

Lucy Leaf

It's here at last – our own little plant booklet! The concept for “Native Plants of Toddy Pond” started close to a decade ago when TPA member Linda Jellison began taking photos of aquatic plants she found in Toddy Pond.

It was Bob LeVine, heading up the Plant Patrol Committee, who first recognized that familiarity with the native plants might help us identify any invaders. By knowing the plants that are supposed to be here, he surmised, we could better recognize a plant that is NOT supposed to be here. He also knew how overwhelming the job of plant patrolling can seem to the beginner, even after taking the IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) course.

Using his own printer, Bob copied many of Linda's photos as an aid to plant patrollers. I know that it boosted my own confidence as a new patroller. This rough copy has now evolved into a finished booklet of color photos identifying 42 common plants found in Toddy Pond.

Every signed-up plant patroller will receive a free copy of the booklet, which can be picked up at the TPA barbecue on June 25 or obtained through the contact information below. Others can buy the booklet at a cost of \$11 (plus \$4 shipping and handling if mailed).

There are only about 25 copies for sale in this first printing, so don't wait until August to get your booklet. Contact TPA Treasurer Barbara Leaf, 802-734-4102, leafan@comcast.net.

Toddy Pond Association

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