



TODDY POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

Issue 40

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 '18

Join us to celebrate the season at the eighth annual Toddy Pond Hail to Summer Barbecue, on June 24 at the Balsam Cove Campground. Great food, old and new friends, and perfect weather – always!

The Thatchers, owners and operators of Balsam Cove, are again generously allowing us to use their pavilion for the event.

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 toddy@mail@toddypond.org so we can plan on numbers.

Dam Developments

Chris Dadian

The announcement in February that AIM had agreed to sell a substantial part of the former Bucksport Mill to Open Oceans, a Maine-based company that plans to build an indoor aquaculture facility on the site, was certainly welcome news for the town of Bucksport. But it didn't reveal anything about the future of the dams on Toddy Pond and Alamoosook and Silver Lakes, which AIM continues to own, along with water rights.

In November, after the fall newsletter had gone to press, the long-awaited replacement of the sluice gate occurred. The new gate is handsome and appears robust, but seems to leak in all the same places as the old gate did.

Milfoil Update

In the fall newsletter we reported that the out-of-state boater who brought Eurasian water-milfoil to the shore – and we hope it's only the shore – of Toddy Pond, was fined (and had paid) a mere \$100, though Maine law provides for much stiffer penalties. Our report was based on information sent to us in August by an official at Maine DEP, which we obviously should have checked out.

According to the Hancock County Court Log published in the January 11 edition of the *Ellsworth American*, the boater, from Ashford, CT:

June 23 — Maine Lakes Conference

University of Maine, Farmington. For information, go to www.mainelakessociety.org

June 24 — TPA Hail to Summer BBQ

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

July 21 — Toddy Pond Loon Count, 7:00–7:30am

August 5 — TPA Annual Meeting

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

... had a charge of transporting invasive aquatic plants in Orland on July 2 dismissed. A charge of possessing, importing and transporting invasive aquatic plants filed in connection with the same incident brought a \$500 fine.

Apparently, two summonses were issued by the game warden when he apprehended the boater, since at that time it had not been confirmed that the plant was invasive (it's illegal to transport any aquatic plant – invasive or not). Either the district attorney or the court subsequently determined that the more serious charge was appropriate based upon the evidence and circumstances.

2018 Toddy Pond Loon Count

Steve Antell

The 35th annual loon count will take place on Saturday, July 21st from 7am to 7:30am. As always, we will divide the lake into 17 sections to be canvassed by our faithful volunteers. If you have done it in the past, you will be hearing from me soon. If you are new and interested in volunteering, please contact me at 802-734-1897 or at leafan@comcast.net.

In light of threats to the loon population by bald eagles, boaters, and other factors, we would like to get a better handle on nesting success than can be provided by a thirty minute survey. As a start I am asking Toddy Ponders to report any known loon nesting activity to me as soon as it is observed. I am hoping we can then keep better tabs on the nest, without being disruptive to the adults.

For statewide results of the 2017 loon count, go to <https://www.maineaudubon.org/news/results-2017-loon-count/>

Toddy Pond Wants Needs YOU

Lucy Leaf's catch last July of invasive Eurasian water-milfoil on a boat trailer (see "Wake Up Call!" in the fall newsletter) reminds us of the importance of vigilance at the public boat landing and the work of our volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors, who reinforce our first line of defense, filling in for periods when paid inspectors are not on duty.

Since we are still without a full-time CBI coordinator – applicants will be appreciated adored within the limits of good taste and propriety – we are going to experiment with self-scheduling this year. Detailed instructions will go out by email and be posted on toddypond.org, but if you if you want to be sure of reserving a particular shift on a particular day, or have questions about CBI, please contact Sarah LeVine at 667-1293 or sarahlevine5@gmail.com.

Kayak Scopes Improve View for Plant Patrollers

Lucy Leaf

This year Toddy Pond Plant Patrollers will have access to a valuable tool for a better view of the littoral zone. Last fall the TPA board approved the purchase of three kayak scopes in kit form which are now being assembled. These are brief-case size, suitable for use with a kayak.

The captains for each lake sector will hold one each, so if a Patroller has a weedy section or one particularly vulnerable to invasives, such as where a stream enters or where outside boat traffic is high, please contact this person to use the scope.

We also have a larger trunk size scope available which is best used with a larger boat or inflatable such as Zodiac. In this use, it is ideal for one person to row or power the boat while the Patroller leans over the side to view the bottom through the plexiglass bottom. Contact me if you want to use this.

I have used these trunk and kayak scopes over the last few years and really like them. I find them easier to use than the bucket scopes many of us have.

We usually go out as a team to patrol the busy landing area and also the opposite south end of the lake, and this year we can all have scopes for a really thorough scan.

As usual, I will be glad to paddle with anyone who would like help with their section or wishes to increase their confidence in ruling out invasives. And of course, we have our little photo booklet titled "Native Plants of Toddy Pond," which we provide to every Patroller who signs up. This is also available to anyone else for \$12.

Patrollers should receive a packet from VLMP (now called Lake Stewards of Maine) and I will also be contacting you soon. While a certain week in mid-August is designated as "Plant Patrol Week," the aquatic plants have different features, such as flowering parts, leaf structures, or seeds at different times throughout the summer, which are sometimes crucial to identification. So I get serious about patrolling from mid- July to the end of August, and find it helpful to see the plants at different stages of development.

VLMP finally got its revised field guide out (which includes the invasive plants), so look for that as well. Any person who took the certification course, IPP 101, and didn't receive a booklet, should have received notification. I'm sure we can get more as well. We also have the laminated cards for use on the water for anyone who needs a set. And I purchased six child-sized rakes (for plant collection) suitable for kayak use. These are usually available at Renys for \$3.99.

With all these tools, and 20 volunteers signed up to patrol the entire littoral zone (I hope), I defy any invasives to sneak into our pond.

Toddy's Native Plants

Lucy Leaf

So much of our focus is about invasive plants. Here, I want to talk about the native plants. These are the plants whose beautiful photos fill the pages of our new booklet, "*Native Plants of Toddy Pond*."

Most of us are familiar with the emergent purple-flowered pickerel weed and the pretty floating-leafed plants like the fragrant water lily or the yellow-knobbed cow lily (spatterdock). Many of us know the tiny little floating hearts with their characteristic stem rosette just under the surface. Mixed among these, we might find the smaller oval leaves of watershield with the gel coated undersides. In clumps along the shore, we can't miss the bayonet rush, with its reddish hue at the waterline. If you squeeze the stem, there is a popping sound. And of course, there are the great stands of cattails. These are the old familiars, the plants that line the shore or the ones you have to paddle or swim through to get to deeper water sometimes.

Here are a couple tidbits you might not know, however. That pickerel weed that people think is taking over their waterfront? If we ever come onto hard times, we wouldn't have to starve, as long as pickerel weed is around. Those tubers buried in the sediment could be life-sustaining. Native Americans knew this, and so do the moose. And those fragrant water lilies? I wouldn't eat them, but they are pretty to look at, and what a delight when you see a pink one. Off Decorum Point, there is a whole cove of pink lilies.

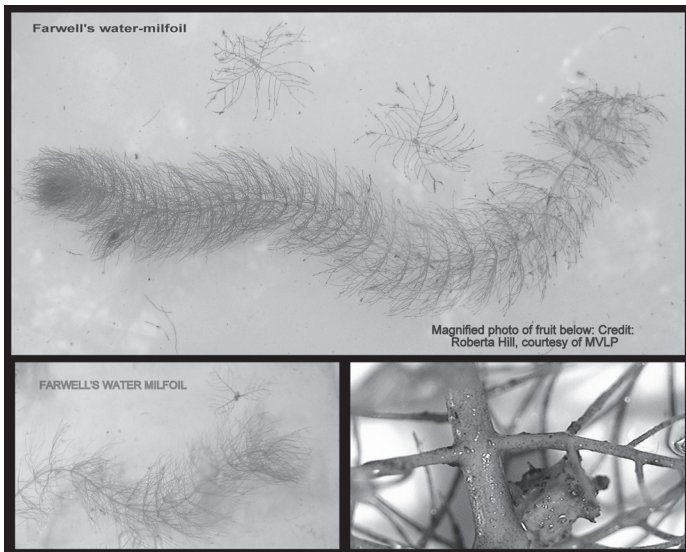
Another group of plants you can't miss are the pondweeds. There are twenty-two common varieties in Maine, not to mention whole books devoted just to pondweeds, so don't worry if, like me, you are having trouble identifying them. If you are swimming, even in deeper water, you will invariably run into one here, one there, which invariably wants to wrap around you. I used to yank them out in disgust. Now I try to identify them. Many have floating leaves. Others keep their leaves under water. If you see a plant not mentioned above, that is attached to the bottom, with thin oval leaves, big or tiny, there is a good chance it is a pondweed.

How about that stuff that floats in from somewhere and collects as a green line on our beaches. There's a good chance that stuff is bladderwort. Bladderwort isn't attached to the bottom, though it sits there, looking like an underwater pasture. It floats up too, and travels on the surface. Bladderwort can look like milfoil, and it scares people who think they might have an invasive infestation started. There are several types of bladderwort, but they are easy to identify with a quick inspection.

Just look for the bladders. Usually they are quite distinctive. If you want to impress your kids, you can lift a bladderwort plant out of the water (it might be a foot or two long) and tell them “this is a carnivorous plant.” That’s right. Those little bladders suck in just about any tiny organism that comes its way, plant or animal. If the bladders are heavy and black, as often seen in the thick, lattice-like common bladderwort, then the plant is satiated. Kind of cool.

So, now the milfoils. Yes, we have a couple types in Toddy Pond, and they seem to be more prolific, growing in thick colonies in some of the coves. These need more care in identification, since they are look-alikes to the invasive types. The milfoils have the distinctive feathered leaf arrangement. The two kinds we are seeing in Toddy have little brown fruits on their stems. The fruits aren’t always there but those fruits definitively identify the plant as non-invasive. If the leaf arrangement resembles a feather, and there aren’t any fruits, even a plant patroller needs to check it out.

Looking further at the bottom, we’re always checking out plants that look like the invasive hydrilla, which is a worse invader than milfoil. It’s a stemmy plant with whorls of smaller leaves spaced evenly up the stem. There are a number of plants that resemble it. Patrollers will count the number of leaves in the whorl. More than three? Gotta check it out.



Native to Toddy Pond: Farwell’s water-milfoil. Detail shows “knobby” brown fruit. Fruit on low water-milfoil, also native, are smooth. Photo from *Native Plants of Toddy Pond*.

Another characteristic patrollers are looking for with their hand lens are plant margins (edges) that are toothed. Several of the eleven invasives we hope we never see are toothed. Water-chestnut is toothed. European naiad is toothed. Curly-leaved pondweed is serrated. Fortunately, we haven’t seen many teeth.

This year, you might see patrollers on the lake peering through what appears to be a floating briefcase. The TPA board has approved purchase of three trunk scopes, actually “kayak scopes.” These allow patrollers to view the bottom as you would in a glass-bottom boat. The bottom appears as rich to me as a coral reef. Sometimes, you see a fish swim by. A trunk scope improves the visibility enormously, even on a

windy day. This summer, I used a large trunk scope to scan the boat landing area carefully.

These are the plants we see the most, and every year I gain more confidence about what I’m looking at. Going to neighboring lakes adds more plants to my “list.” Reviewing the *Native Plants of Toddy Pond* booklet in the spring will refresh my memory of the names I forget so easily over the winter. I hope others will learn to appreciate the plants of our lake as much as I have.

And for Dessert ...



Dean, adorable grandson of Yvette and Richard Tenney, doesn’t care if it’s a hand-me-down from his brother Ethan. As you can see, he’s proud to wear his Toddy tee.

If you aren’t as lucky as Dean, to have an older sibling who’ll hand down his or her treasured Toddy teeshirt, polo shirt, cap, coffee mug, greeting cards, etc., you can get your own at <https://www.cafepress.com/toddypondshop>. They even offer a Toddy Pond bib for those of us who could use one from time to time.



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