



The Toddy Ponder

Newsletter of the Toddy Pond Association

Serving the Towns of Blue Hill, Orland, Penobscot, and Surry, Maine



Calendar

July 9

TPA Annual BBQ

July 15

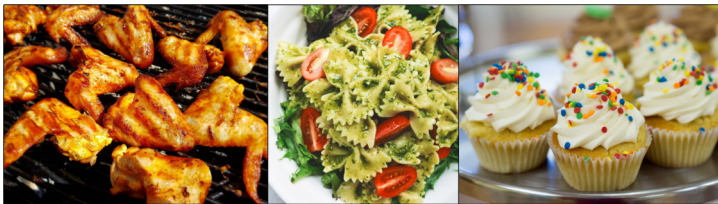
Loon Count , 7-7:30am

July 15 to Sept 15

Optimal Plant Patrol

August 15

Annual Meeting



11th Annual "Hail to Summer" BBQ

Sunday July 9, 2023, 4 - 7 PM, dinner at 5 PM

Great News ! The Toddy Pond Association is happy to return to the Balsam Cove Campground this year to celebrate our love of Toddy Pond! Justin Thatcher and Lori Thatcher, owners of the Balsam Cove Campground, have generously offered the use of their pavilion for our 2023 gathering!

We hope that you will join us. Our events are open to all Toddy Pond members, non-members and pond supporters. Come see what we are all about.

The TPA will provide beverages and BBQ chicken. Please bring a dish to share. Toddy Pond merchandise will be available for purchase, and as always, membership can be renewed, and dues can be paid. Meet new neighbors!

Please let us know if you will attend and how many in your group by emailing us at toddymail@toddypond.org. TPA will send out an email reminder about three weeks prior to the date.

Welcome back to Toddy Pond!

Loons began calling on April 4th - a few days before ice out. Here on Middle Toddy, the crocuses are up and some are even in bloom, and daffodil shoots are rising to the sun. Lily shoots are making their presence known as well! Ice out on all three ponds occurred on the same day this year - April 7. During January and March, the ice on the ponds was inconsistent. February brought out a few of the ice fishing families and friends on Middle Toddy. The annual Slim's Fishing Derby scheduled each February at the East Orland Boat Landing was canceled.

Since the Fall, Bucksport Generation has been keeping the water levels below the high-water mark of years past, by having the gates at the Toddy Pond Dam open. This benefits the shoreline, as high water levels and ice damage during the winter months cause erosion on the shorelands. Interested in more about the dam? We have an updated article on the Toddy Pond Dam in this issue as well as many educational and informative pieces.

This issue contains information on volunteer opportunities for you to consider. Opportunities include Board membership, project participation, leadership opportunities, and helping with activities. Please take some time to review what goes on in your lake association and choose how you can help.

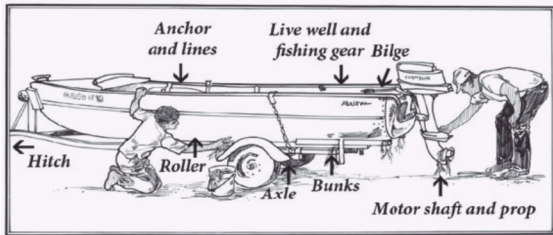
OUR MISSION: To protect Toddy Pond and its watershed through responsible stewardship and education so that we and future generations may enjoy its beauty.

2023 Courtesy Boat Inspection

TPA's Courtesy Boat Inspection Program will continue much as it did in 2022 with paid inspectors Friday through Monday from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. During the month of May, our paid inspectors will also provide weekend coverage. Coverage will be 6-8 hours on these days. At this time, we are not adding random hours, due to the added complexity of implementation, but will continue to explore options to provide additional coverage where needed during favorable weather.

We continue to need and rely on our valued volunteers for coverage Tuesday through Thursday for June, July and August. Sign-up is very easy on the website and can even occur last minute by checking to see what slots are unfilled.

We are transitioning to having CBI volunteers use the easy sign up sheet on our website to schedule inspection slots. This method provides volunteers with an easy method to choose dates, and relieves the coordinator and other board members of the time consuming task of multiple phone calls and telephone tag. The coordinator will send an email in May, and a followup reminder providing the method for sign up. Go to



CLEAN off all plants (even small fragments), animals and mud from boat, trailer, and equipment.

DRAIN water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells and other equipment well away from water.

DRY everything five days or more before using in another waterbody to kill small organisms not easily seen or wipe with a towel before use. If you can't dry equipment, rinsing with hot, high pressure water will also remove many tiny organisms.

NEVER release plants, live fish or animals into a water body unless they came out of that body of water.

www.toddypond.org click on projects, then select Courtesy Boat Inspection. In that box, choose Volunteer for CBI Duty. There are three different time slots (6-9, 9-12 and 12-3) to suit individual preferences, and you can even choose more than one date!

For new volunteers interested, email lucy.leaf@yahoo.com or leave a phone message at 207-266-3212. The coordinator will personally tutor any new volunteers in getting started.

NEWS FLASH!

The TPA is searching for a new CBI Coordinator for 2024. This is a part time paid position for anyone who might be interested and begins with budgeting and grant writing in February.

To find out more, email lucy.leaf@yahoo.com or call Lucy@ 207-266-3212

Toddy Pond Loon Update

The Toddy Pond Loon count will again be held on the third Saturday in July from 7:00-7:30 AM. That will be July 15, this year. Our dedicated volunteers will take to the pond waters come rain, sun or fog to count every loon in sight, hoping that a chick or two will be among them. We found one chick in 2022 that survived into adulthood, the first in several years. The TPA sub-committee, formed last year to monitor loons more systematically throughout the summer, located a total of four loon nests in 2022. Only one was successful. Two loon nests are known to have failed due to bald eagle activity, and it is strongly suspected that a chick from the fourth nest was lost to eagle depredation. While it is always exciting to see eagles soaring over the pond, nesting loons are highly vulnerable to them.

Since eagle activity seems to be lower in north Toddy, we have decided to build a loon nesting raft this spring and place it somewhere near the boat access. We will see how that goes, hoping humans and eagles will keep their distance if a pair of loons takes up residence there.



**OPPORTUNITY
AWAITS**

Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Coordinator
Work with the Board to implement the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) program to organize coverage for all pond sectors, and follow up on any suspicious species found.

Contact lucy.leaf@yahoo.com



TPA Board Retreat

On March 25 the TPA Board met for an all-day meeting at the Orland Fish Hatchery. It was an incredibly productive day where we identified a path forward for the sustainability of the organization. Barb and Donna did an outstanding job at facilitating so that we could focus on our greatest challenges: succession, membership, and the dam. It was a lot to cover but the Board was fabulous. I am grateful for this serious, hard working, talented and fun group!

Robyn Silberstein, President, Toddy Pond Association

Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) ...more important than ever!

There is no further news regarding the suspicious milfoil found in neighboring Alamoosook Lake in 2021. Current thought is that hybridization may be occurring between a common native milfoil and an invasive milfoil.

This year, we will ask plant patrollers to document and monitor patches of alternate-flowered water milfoil which has become more prevalent in the last decade, though always considered to be a non-threatening native milfoil. Meanwhile, there will be more observation and testing done at Alamoosook and likely other lakes as well, of this small milfoil, while searching for any further evidence of the aggressive variable water-milfoil.

Invasive Plant Patrol volunteers are encouraged to continue patrolling their sectors so that we can maintain a yearly survey of our entire shoreline. We still have numerous unassigned sectors - volunteers needed! Consider looking out for Toddy Pond where you enjoy and spend your time. These unassigned sectors occasionally get covered by a few of us who may not be able to continue patrolling multiple sectors every summer. We particularly need patrollers to keep a close eye on the Boat Launch cove at the East Orland Boat Launch.

Thank you, in advance, for joining us.

BE A STAR!!!

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Please consider how you can step up to protect the lake you love.

BOARD MEMBERS Board vacancies are opening soon. Three board member terms expire in August. TPA particularly needs representation from Orland and Penobscot areas. We have monthly meetings, in person or by zoom. Seasonal residents are welcome. Board meetings are open to all.

CBI VOLUNTEERS (courtesy boat inspection) Anyone can do this and many work as couples. Parent/child works too. Shifts are only 3 hours (6-9, 9-12 and 12-3), as many or as little as you want. Sign-up is easy and forms and handouts are at the landing. Short training videos are on the TPA website and personal tutoring is available.

INVASIVE PLANT PATROLLERS This is fun and can be done on your own time by snorkeling or using a small craft or motor boat. Training can be as little or as much as you like. (many "Ippers" are certified). You are assigned your own sector, usually near your dock, and can patrol anytime between July 15- Sept 15. You get a free copy of "Plants of Toddy Pond". We have quite a few unassigned sectors, particularly in North and South Toddy sections.

LOON COUNTERS, WATCHERS Help protect our loons by monitoring loon activity during the summer, and participating in the Audubon Loon Count.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS As we rise to meet increasing challenges, our committees are where the work is done. We will particularly need help on our evolving development committee.

MEDIA UPDATE Do you communicate on Facebook or equivalent? Help us out!

Lake Protection Testimony

On January 30, Toddy Pond Association (TPA) President Robyn Silberstein and Vice President Lucy Leaf, joined a packed meeting room in Augusta to testify in support of bill LD-164. The bill created "To Fund Lake Restoration and Protection Fund" passed decades ago, but has not been funded since the 1990's. Most of the allocated monies are targeted for restoration of infested lakes. Revenue from annual milfoil stickers, required for all motorized boats, covers prevention efforts including the work wardens do, however restoration remains the greatest unfunded expenditure.

The message from the testimony was clear, prevention is key. Our TPA programs such as Water Quality Testing, Courtesy Boat Inspection, and Invasive Plant Patrol are excellent protective measures currently funded by TPA dues, sponsors, and small grants. The bill passed unanimously and now awaits a decision on budgeted amounts. Stay tuned.

Water Quality Testing Team Update



This is the year we are paying tribute to Dick Salminen who is retiring this year after testing Toddy waters for more than a decade. This is no small task. Typically, he has tested every two or three weeks from June through September, driving his motor boat from South Toddy to North Toddy every time to test at the “Deep Hole”, not far from the lower Narrows. Its depth is about 120 feet.

Testing involves two pieces of equipment, the Secchi Disc and the Oxygen meter. And there is lots of recording for which an assistant is handy. The Secchi Disc is lowered on a measured tape to the last point where it is visible, which provides a depth measurement of water clarity. The O₂ meter, a much more expensive device, provides the readings from a cable which is lowered close to the bottom, recording dissolved oxygen and temperatures at 3 foot intervals. All the data must be sent to Lake Stewards of Maine who collaborate with DEP to provide trends over time. This data provides valuable information about the quality of the water and changes that might be occurring in the lake.

Three other TPA members have been working with Dick over the past two years and they can continue this testing. Both kinds of testing require on-water training and certification. O₂ re-certification must be done annually. Moreover, the O₂ meter must be calibrated every year in Augusta for accuracy. Floyd Johnson, Rob Giffin, and Phil Jellison will be assuming this responsibility beginning this year, with formal training from DEP that will take place on Toddy Pond on June 24. TPA has invited about a dozen other testers from Hancock County to join us so they can also update their certifications. Another test that is done yearly is a phosphorus test that Chris Dadian has been sending in yearly. We are lucky to have a very capable crew carrying on this vital work which can provide warning of any deterioration in our water quality.

Toddy Pond Dam Update

In November 2021, The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Office of Dam Safety conducted a Tabletop Exercise Emergency Action Plan to review the community emergency contact list and further impacts of potential dam breaches at Silver Lake, Alamoosook Lake, and Toddy Pond. Attendees included folks from the Orland and Bucksport fire and police departments, the Department of Transportation, Bucksport Generation, and representatives from Alamoosook Lake, Silver Lake, and Toddy Pond. As many errors were found in the contact list, MEMA requested the responsible parties update the list and report back.

Concurrently, MEMA’s Department of Dam Safety was commissioned to perform safety evaluations of all three dams now owned by AIM Corporation. Tony Fletcher PE, acting State Dam Inspector performed the Toddy Dam assessment on Oct. 12, 2021. The Hazard and Condition Report was obtained by the TPA in Feb, 2022, after requesting it from MEMA. The Report recommends that MEMA reclassify the Toddy dam from “significant” to a “high potential hazard” dam. Look for our next update in the “Toddy Ponder.”

Findings/recommendations include:

- A. Write and circulate copies of an “operation and maintenance plan” for the dam.
- B. Correct and update the Emergency Action Plan.
- C. Arrange a table-top exercise to test the edited plan.
- D. Removal of all brush from the dam.
- E. Rehabilitate decayed concrete and mortar on the dam, and underpin the gate piers.

At this time, AIM corporation has committed to renovate the manual gates at the Toddy Pond Dam, perform routine landscape maintenance, and resurface the concrete for cosmetic purposes.

Annual Toddy Pond Association Membership Meeting

*Join us for a presentation by Matt Scott, aquatic biologist. Coffee, tea and desserts will be provided.
Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 6:30 to 8:30pm Arrival at 6:30 Presentation at 7:00*

The Toddy Pond Association is honored to host Matt Scott for the Annual Membership Meeting on August 15, 2023. We will meet in the conference room at the Orland Community Center in Orland Maine. Mr. Scott was the driving force behind the formation of the first statewide citizen lake monitoring program, which continues to this day as Lake Stewards of Maine. He will present information on water quality and other matters that impact the health and longevity of Toddy Pond. Mr. Scott will be happy to answer questions from the audience related to Toddy Pond.

The TPA Membership Meeting is held annually in August in order to fulfill our bylaw requirements for voting to install the proposed board, as well as to present the organization’s annual budget. All are welcome to attend, and members of the TPA are eligible to vote. Come meet your new board candidates, and socialize over desserts and beverages.

To Eat or not To Eat - That is the Question

There are pros and cons to almost all of the decisions we humans have to make. The consumption of fish in our diet is no different. On the one hand fish contain many nutrients that our healthy bodies need, such as omega 3 oils, which are heart and brain healthy. On the other hand, fish also contain elements that are harmful, such as mercury, which can be very harmful to brain and neurological development especially in the young. Thus making intelligent choices about how much and what kind of fish to eat have become a matter of significance. The Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) has adopted testing programs that have evolved into suggesting the very choices we all need to think about when considering the fish we eat. The CDC has developed a fish consumption guide part of which has been replicated at the end of this article.

Several years ago I agreed to become a fish tester for the Association. It amounted to taking fish that I caught over to Orono to be tested for mercury content by the University of Maine. The results of that testing revealed that the fish in Toddy Pond did have traces of mercury but not alarming amounts. The older, bigger fish, however, definitely contained more than the smaller, younger ones. (Remember that all fish have traces of mercury in them. In fact just about everything we ingest does.) The risk is that larger amounts can be dangerous. That University testing program was dropped about ten years ago so I'm not sure if any specific testing has been continued at Toddy. However, I feel confident that the pond still remains above average for its purity. The fish are quite edible, especially when the guidelines are followed.

Personally, I am happy to just catch and release larger fish. White perch, being smaller (less mercury content) are plentiful and relatively safe to eat. I enjoy eating a meal of Toddy Pond white perch on occasion. They happen to be some of the best eating fish on the planet. Trout and salmon are considered by the CDC to be the safest of fish to eat. I assume the reason for this is that they are mostly hatchery grown in a contaminant free environment. Enjoy the fishing – Also enjoy the SELECTIVE eating of Toddy Pond fish. The CDC guidelines are well worth heeding. <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/eohp/fish/2kfca.html> The CDC also mentions concerns about freshwater fish and PFAS (“forever chemicals”). For those interested in PFAS contamination, the aforementioned CDC site provides explanations.



Partial Guidelines for fish consumption:

Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant, and children under the age of 8 should not eat any freshwater fish from Maine's inland waters. Except, for brook trout and landlocked salmon. The limit is 1 meal per month. All other adults and children over 8 can eat 2 freshwater fish meals per month. For brook trout and landlocked salmon, the limit is 1 meal per week.

John Manfred

Addendum: The CDC mentions concerns about freshwater fish and PFAS “forever chemicals”. For those interested in PFAS contamination, the CDC site provides explanations. In the Ellsworth American April 6, 2023 issue, an article appeared about PFOS, a chemical different from PFAS in fish. To read this article, you can visit ellsworthamerican.com and type PFOS in the search bar. If you are reading this article online you can copy and paste the following link into your browser. https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/news/waterfront/maine-cdc-warns-of-pfos-in-freshwater-fish/article_127fd244-d21d-11ed-8a2c-4b84fff344e5.html

Why Become a TPA Member

Only 25% of Toddy Pond property owners are current members of the Toddy Pond Association, though all 500 property owners receive this newsletter biannually. We are experiencing what other lake associations and volunteer groups have reported statewide - threats are increasing while volunteerism has not kept pace. To continue our mission to protect our lake, TPA may need to pay for more services that in the past were managed by volunteers. Your membership counts - just \$30 per household. Payment can be made via mail or by PayPal on the website, at www.toddypond.org. (click the ‘Support’ tab). While there, consider making a donation or purchase merchandise, every dollar counts. Thank you for your support.

FYI: *Our friends at Balsam Cove Campground reminded us that they will again have bonfires for their guests on some Saturday nights during camping season, which may be visible to folks on North Toddy. The campground is located on North Toddy's western shore.*



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 Lucy Leaf at (207) 266-3212 or lucy.leaf@yahoo.com

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 Spring 2023**



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Have I Paid Membership Dues This Year?

We rely on membership dues and donations heavily in our efforts to preserve our Toddy Pond.

If the year "2023" is printed above your name in the address field on this mailing, you have paid your dues for the 2023 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, Barbara Leaf, Treasurer at: leafan@comcast.net

Phenomenal Year for Our Regional Land and Watershed Conservation

GPMCT (Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust) has added more than 500 acres of key habitat to the Wildlands, including significant pieces bordering the Dead River. Also, GPMCT was awarded the State of Maine Outstanding Forester of the Year award by the American Tree Farm system. Both of these accomplishments will help protect the neighboring watershed. They have also added new hiking trails open to the public. Thank you GPMCT.

[Trail map and info](https://www.greatpondtrust.org/wildland-maps-guidelines/)
<https://www.greatpondtrust.org/wildland-maps-guidelines/>

Order Your TPA Merchandise Today!

Email Barb at: leafan@comcast.net
 Online payment available for your convenience.
 Thank you for your support!



TPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

for calendar year 2023 New Member Returning Member

Name(s) _____ Phone(s) _____

Seasonal Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Permanent _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email Address(es) _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES Please check the appropriate boxes.

Friend Membership \$10/year 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: tododypond.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

Contact the board at: toddy@mail@toddypond.org

President	Robyn Silberstein	2023
Vice President	Lucy Leaf	2024
Treasurer	Barbara Leaf	2023
Secretary	Donna Foster	2024
Board Member	Dick Salminen	2023
Board Member	Sarah LeVine	2024
Board Member	Christopher Closs	2024
Board Member	Barry Johnson	2025



ICE IN: Middle Dec 26, 2022 South Dec 27, 2022 North no data ICE OUT: All three sections April 7, 2023