



The Toddy Ponder

Newsletter of the Toddy Pond Association

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

Introducing TPA's New President

The Board of Directors of the Toddy Pond Association (TPA) met in September to elect its new officers and consider the year in review. We are initiating a plan for the 2024 observance of our 25th anniversary!

I am pleased to serve as TPA's new President, and feel confident that we will continue to meet the challenges of protecting the pond from invasives, increasing membership and welcoming new volunteers. We at the TPA are continuing conversations with the AIM Corporation with respect to management of the Toddy Pond Dam and participation in a larger watershed coalition.

In keeping with our mission we have established goals to:

1. Increase membership from 20% of property owners to 25%
2. Expand our board of directors from 6 to 9 members. (17 allowed)
3. Increase strength of Committees - Dam, CBI, IPP, Development
4. Identify new sources of funding for our highly successful Courtesy Boat Inspection Program, while seeking additional Sponsors and advancing community relations.

There have been inquiries concerning TPA in general, as well as specific activities such as the annual BBQ, annual Member Mtg, CBI, and development committees. I'm available to listen, pitch-in as needed and always welcome innovative ideas and suggestions.

Please contact me, CW Closs, at toddymail@toddypond.org. I look forward to meeting with you and working together in 2024.

Enjoy the "remains of the season", and our sincere thanks for your continued support!

Warm Regards,
Christopher W. Closs



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 Robyn at:

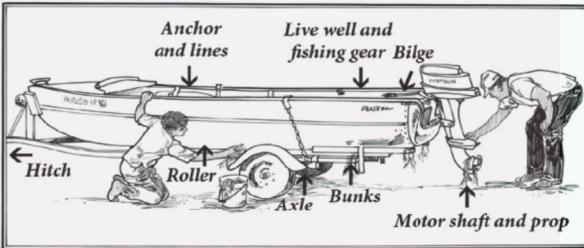
toddymail@toddypond.org



With the generosity of Justin and Lori Thatcher, the Toddy Pond Association held its 11th Annual Hail to Summer BBQ under the pavilion at the Balsam Cove Campground on July 9th.

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

Boat Inspections NOT Slowed by Rain



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.

The high volume of rain this season did not slow down the number of boat inspections conducted this season from early May through Labor Day. July, remembered as rainy most of the month, still brought in the most inspections by far. Most of the 1203 inspections took place on weekends as expected. Steve Sheehan, our long-time inspector, bagged 41 inspections in one 9-hour shift beginning at 6 AM on July 30. Busy days that included 30 or more inspections per day occurred each month.

We had an active group of volunteers this year logging 75 hours total, mostly on mid-week mornings from 6-9 AM. Several signed up on a weekly basis, Peg Thursland taking on 7 shifts in her first year volunteering, Robin Yurkevicz and Marc Restuccio offering 5 shifts. While a number of volunteers saw no boats or only a few boats on their early morning shifts, this coverage provided a presence to fishermen who we have been eager to reach from June 1 through the season. It was also a volunteer couple (including a plant patroller) who found a very suspicious plant that required intervention from the Coordinator as well as Fish & Wildlife who followed up rapidly and thoroughly. Fortunately, the two strands of plant hanging off a trailer were determined to be a land plant with very similar features to the invasive hydrilla, i.e. four or more bladed leaves in a whorl. Sharp eyes, Sarah and Adam Levy!

Boaters continue to be cooperative, and invested in keeping Maine's lakes clean. Some even thank inspectors for their work. ☺

New Law Adds Teeth to "Clean, Drain, Dry" Message

Draining your boat prior to entering a water body or leaving a launch site is no longer just good practice to prevent the spread of invasive species. It is now a Maine law. Boaters are now required to open or remove drain plugs, including those on live wells and ballast tanks. But this needs to be done in such a way that the drained water is not entering any inland water of the state.

What does this mean practically, as in, where do you pull the plugs? Prior to entry, that's easy - before you get to the boat launch site. But in taking out, where do you drain? This is not entirely clear in the IF&W publications. "Watercraft should NOT be drained on the boat launch ramp. The preferred practice is to PREVENT direct draining back into the water body even when leaving the water body." To the credit of many Toddy Pond boaters this encouraged method is practiced at the Toddy boat launch: boaters are pulling away from the sloped ramp and opening their drains in the flat area closer to the exit. The easy answer is likely where NOT to drain. To be clear, always avoid draining at the convenient sloped ramp, going in or out.

Kayakers, canoes? Just make sure your boat is clean - going in and out. But consider what's on your sponge. This law is especially targeted to prevent the spread of invertebrates, particularly zebra and quagga mussels which are closing in on Maine waters. Unfortunately, their microscopic larvae cannot be seen upon visual inspection. A thorough wipe-down with a mixture of half water/half vinegar will kill larvae instantly as an alternative to allowing the boat to dry for at least five days.



Invasive Plant Patrol Volunteers Maintaining Vigilance

No one can ever claim that their lake is free of invasives, for we cannot view every plant or invertebrate. But when I go out to survey a sector, I can usually say with confidence that I haven't likely missed a big patch of invasives. Done lakewide, that is meaningful.



We are now paying close attention to any patches or colonies of water milfoil, monitoring for changes to make sure the plant populations seen in Toddy remain the same. Exception: some native milfils, small-whorled "alternate-flowered milfoil", are showing up with larger whorls, as seen in invasive strains, requiring verification even though they maintain their

distinctive native morphology otherwise. Last year these samples were checked out by DEP and deemed non-problematic. There is more of it, including many fragments in the boat landing area, so more has been submitted for DNA testing. The trouble is, testing for possible hybridization of a native compared with an invasive is far more complicated and takes months to accomplish. These larger whorled milfoils are also present in Alamoosook. All samples are still awaiting results.

This has been frustrating, including our friends at Alamoosook. Conclusive test results are slow in coming. Thanks go to our twenty one volunteers for getting their reports in this year. Several have patrolled multiple sectors to achieve a complete survey of Toddy's thirty one mile shoreline.

Toddy Pond Dam Update

The Spring 2023 Toddy Ponder reported the "Findings and Recommendations" made by MEMA's Department of Dam Safety, from its Oct. 12, 2021 dam inspection. As of this writing (Oct.30,2023), the renovations have not begun, and American Iron and Metal (AIM) reports that contractors are being sought.

An item that has been completed is the writing of an "Operation and Maintenance Plan" for Toddy Dam, listing a prescribed schedule of general maintenance needing to be completed by the owner of the dam.

The TPA Dam Committee has been, and will continue to be engaged in periodic phone conversations with the representative from AIM Corp.

Looking ahead, members of the TPA and the ALA along with other interested and affected parties are holding weekly planning meetings to develop a larger Watershed Coalition. This coalition will be seeking grant monies from various sources to allow for improved fish passage along the fishways, and reduction or reconfiguration of barriers, including dams, while maintaining water levels in the ponds.

Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual TPA Membership Meeting was held on August 15, 2023 at the Orland Community Center, with desserts and beverages. This meeting of the general membership occurs per our bylaws in order to approve new and returning board members, and to invite speakers to deliver topics of interest regarding our pond. Approximately 36 members attended. Barbara Leaf, treasurer presented the Year-to-Date revenue and expenses for the TPA through 8/15/23. Barb and Dick Salminen were honored for their years of service to the Toddy Pond Association as they leave the board. Election of new and returning board members, Marc Restuccia and Robyn Silberstein was conducted.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Mathew Scott, Aquatic Biologist. He presented, "All Maine Lakes are Vulnerable; Some More than Others' ". His presentation discussed water quality, and other matters that impact the health and longevity of Toddy Pond. A lively Q&A session followed from the attendees.

Lucy presented the President and Vice President's message reporting that TPA has taken a hard look at how to meet today's increased challenges in fulfilling our mission to protect Toddy Pond and its watershed. Complexity increases while our Board numbers diminish. The TPA is taking steps to increase our membership and participation while looking further at continued funding options. We also need to strengthen our important committees.

More than ever, please do whatever you can to get the next generations involved !



For more information: toddymail@toddypond.org

News From the Water Quality Team

Once every two weeks from July through September, several Toddy Pond volunteers stepped into a boat and motored to the 120 foot deep hole, the deepest spot in North Toddy. Following in the footsteps of Dick Salminen, who pursued this same routine for many years, Floyd Johnson, Phil Jellison, and Rob Giffin measured and recorded the water temperature and oxygen levels at various depths and took sightings of the water clarity. After completion of training and certification by the Maine DEP, they used several pieces of equipment, including a secchi disc which was lowered into the water to see how far below the surface it was visible.



The probe of a meter was then lowered to specific depths to measure the water temperature and dissolved oxygen content of the water. The recorded data is periodically sent to the Lake Stewards of Maine, who, along with the DEP, are able to see any concerning trends in these aspects of the water quality of our lake. The water recordings in 2023 compare favorably with historical readings, with no concerns noted. Many thanks to our water quality testers!

Did you Know . . . ?

Many of you have probably seen a Belted Kingfisher (*Megascops alcyon*) patrolling the shores of Toddy Pond, often emitting a rattling call while it swoops from one perch to the next. These slate-blue, ragged-crested birds are rare examples of reverse sexual dimorphism, meaning the female is more colorful than the male. While the males have a grey band across their white breasts, the females exhibit a prominent rufous band in addition to the grey band.

This bird is often seen perched on tree limbs, boat masts, or other look-outs close to the water's edge before plunging in headfirst after its fish prey. They also eat amphibians, molluscs, small crustaceans, insects, small mammals, small birds, reptiles and berries.



When it's cold enough for ice to form, the Belted Kingfishers migrate to the southern United States, Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies.

A small group of belted kingfishers is known as a rattle, concentration, or kerfuffle.

Belted Kingfisher. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved Oct. 11, 2023, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belted_kingfisher

Belted Kingfisher. Cornell University: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Retrieved Oct. 11, 2023, from https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Belted_Kingfisher/overview

Barb Leaf



Queen of the Spreadsheet !

Our Board recognizes Barbara Leaf for her dedicated service to the TPA as treasurer from 2017 to 2023, during which she oversaw six years of fiscal stability.

Barb also served as one of our initial grant writers during the reorganization of the association in 2020, and helped sustain our financial stability as the organization and our monitoring programs grew.

Not only did her duties cover the typical treasury jobs of dues and donation collections, paying the bills, organizing the listings of TPA members, and providing periodic financial reports . . . hence the spreadsheets! She also wrote annual reports to our grantors to justify how TPA used the monies, and maintained mailing lists of over 500 addresses for the newsletter mailings. Another improvement that Barb instituted was the Fiscal Oversight Committee in 2022, which added an additional layer of security to the Treasurer's management of the books and how money was being spent.

Barb also took a strong role in the revamping of our merchandising enterprise in 2020, assisting with developing and ordering merchandise, tracking expenditures and income, and very graciously took phone and email orders from folks. She was a thoughtful and resourceful advisor when we reorganized the Toddy Ponder Newsletter.

Her board term expired in August of this year, and being Barb, she very capably transitioned her treasury duties to our new treasurer, Barry Johnson, while splitting up her other duties to others.

We are deeply indebted to Barb for her knowledge, experience and exemplary service. Her pleasant demeanor carried us through some stressful times. We are richer for Barb having been on our board.

If only she had created a line item for PIZZA and wine ! ! !

Robert and Sarah LeVine bought their cottage on middle Toddy in 1996. Both were founders of The Toddy Pond (Environmental, dropped in 2007) Association in 1999, along with a small group of lake residents. The LeVines were instrumental in the organization and recognized the importance of establishing long-range planning for conservation of the shoreline and pond habitat. They were committed to caring for Toddy Pond and the watershed until their deaths in August of this year. They were truly remarkable and humble (obituary posted on our website <https://toddypond.org/>).

Sarah wrote an engaging and fact based History of Toddy Pond (now part of our merchandise collection) in 2008, and updated the second version in 2016.

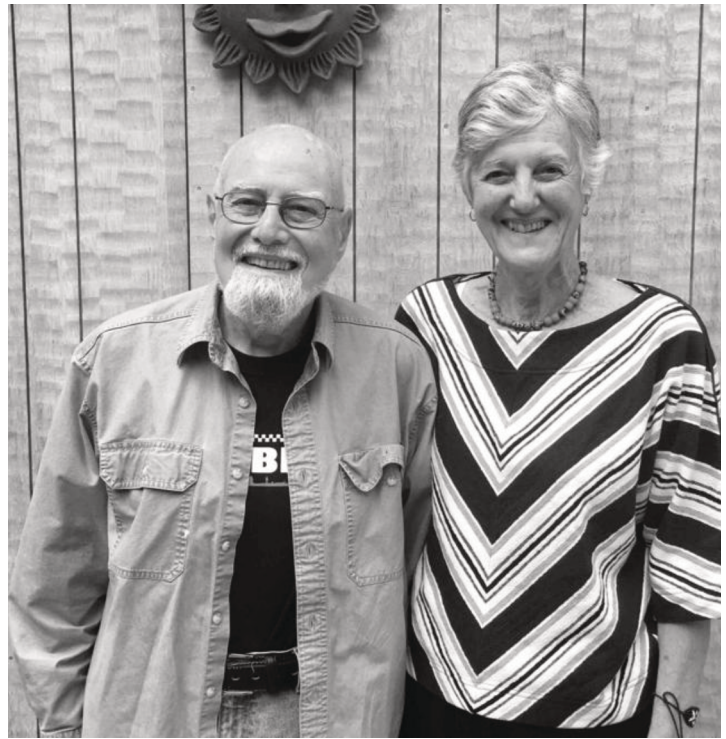
Sarah and Bob were seasonal residents of Toddy Pond, but they stretched the season for as long as possible. Not only were they active on the TPA Board, they were also deeply involved with the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust. Sarah held executive Board positions in both organizations and participated in most events of both. Right until her death at age 82 she was leading groups up Great Pond Mountain.

The LeVines made Plant Patrol doable for many. Their aim was to achieve a Level 3 survey, that is, a survey of Toddy's entire thirty one mile shoreline. We achieved that for many years and continue to strive for that goal.

The LeVine's way of drawing in others to participate in this mission was by their generosity and invitations to dining with them in their home. In later years, Sarah would be throwing her first dinner party the same day she arrived at her cottage in April. Asked how she could manage all this, she replied, "This is my generation, this is what I do" in her clipped English accent. Few could say "no" to Sarah.

Sarah was indefatigable. When it was clear TPA needed to pay a coordinator to manage the CBI program, she and Bob put up the first \$2000 to support that position. When most TPA activity shut down during Covid, she managed it herself. Sarah and Bob both loved Toddy Pond and "the Wildlands". Sarah was especially concerned and passionate about addressing global warming. Their commitment and tireless efforts to protect our watershed continue to inspire all of us. The LeVines and their example will be keenly missed.

The Toddy Pond Association Board of Directors



Annual Toddy Pond Loon Count

The 41st Toddy Pond Loon Count took place on Saturday, July 15. Between the threat of thunderstorms, dense patchy fog, and wind, we did well to cover roughly 70% of the territory. Nevertheless, the 20 intrepid volunteers who participated managed to spot 14 adult loons, including one sitting on a nest, and one healthy chick from the floating islands in the northern narrows. That's down nine adults from the previous year but not surprising given the challenges we faced. Five of the adults were in north Toddy, which is a big increase from previous years. The nesting loon hatched out two chicks shortly after the count. A bald eagle was seen attacking and killing one chick, but the other remained healthy and hopefully is still swimming somewhere on the pond.



This is our second year of our expanded monitoring of the Toddy Pond loon population in partnership with Maine Audubon, with a particular emphasis on following nesting activity. In addition to the successful nests on Little Pine Island and the floating islands, a loon was found in late May sitting on a nest just north of the boat access. A week later the nest was found abandoned for unknown reasons, although eagles are certainly a possibility. Two adult loons showed up with a chick from an unknown nest in south Toddy in late June. Unfortunately, after an apparently successful first two weeks, the chick was found floating in the pond. It was taken to the College of the Atlantic, where it was determined that the chick died, of all things, from an attack from another adult loon, no doubt in a territorial dispute. An adult was found dead in some cattails in middle Toddy on August 28. That loon has been recovered and is now awaiting a necropsy at the College of the Atlantic. So...as usual it is a mixed bag. Two apparently successful chicks is certainly better than the one the year before and none in 2021 and 2020. But there is no doubt that our loon population will continue to face challenges in the future. All the more reason to cherish their calls in the middle of the night.

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: toddymail@toddypond.org



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 Spring 2023**



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ORLAND RIVER DAY

In September the TPA participated in Orland River Day celebrations. This has been a village event for over 40 years with many activities throughout the day including live music, water events, food for sale, and information booths. Many folks stopped at the

TPA booth to ask questions, get information or just chat. TPA members were able to talk with some representatives of NOAA and the Greenfield Penobscot Estuary Project Trust to learn more about grant monies available for improving fish passage and barriers, and dam improvements. We were able to sell our ever popular Toddy Pond maps, History Books, and tee shirts.

ALEWIVES CELEBRATION

This was a day in June dedicated to celebrate the historic alewife run in the Orland Narramissic watershed, and was held in the Orland Village at the town-owned dam. Viewing of the weir, the fish ladder, and the traveling alewives were highlighted. Every spring, alewives swim from the ocean, navigate the fish ladder at the dam in Orland, travel up the Narramissic River into Alamooseok Lake and on into Toddy Pond to spawn. TPA board members Sarah and Lucy set up a booth at the day's events and provided information about the Clean, Drain, Dry program in order to promote more boaters' knowledge, since it has now become law in the state of Maine.

IPP VOLUNTEERS 2023

Robin Yurkevicz, Dede Carlsten, John Manfred, Terrie Perrine, Phil Tardiff, Bill and Janet Martin, Chris Dadian, Nina Davis, Dave and Betty Parsons, Sarah Levy, Rob Giffin, Kurt and Robyn Silberstein, Andrea Schober, Robert and Karen Gross, Courtney Weaver, Linda Jellison, Richard and Yvette Tenney, Mark Pokras, David Baron, Rachel Rosa, Lucy Leaf

CBI VOLUNTEERS 2023

Marc Restuccia and Robin Yurkevicz, Peg Thursland, Bill and Janet Martin, Gerald Oliver, Sarah LeVine, Alan Birk, Phil Roberts, Adam and Sarah Levy, Kurt Silberstein, Bob Evans

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

for the holiday season !!!

Surry pick-up only

Now till December 19th



Contact: toddypond@toddyemail.org

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(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

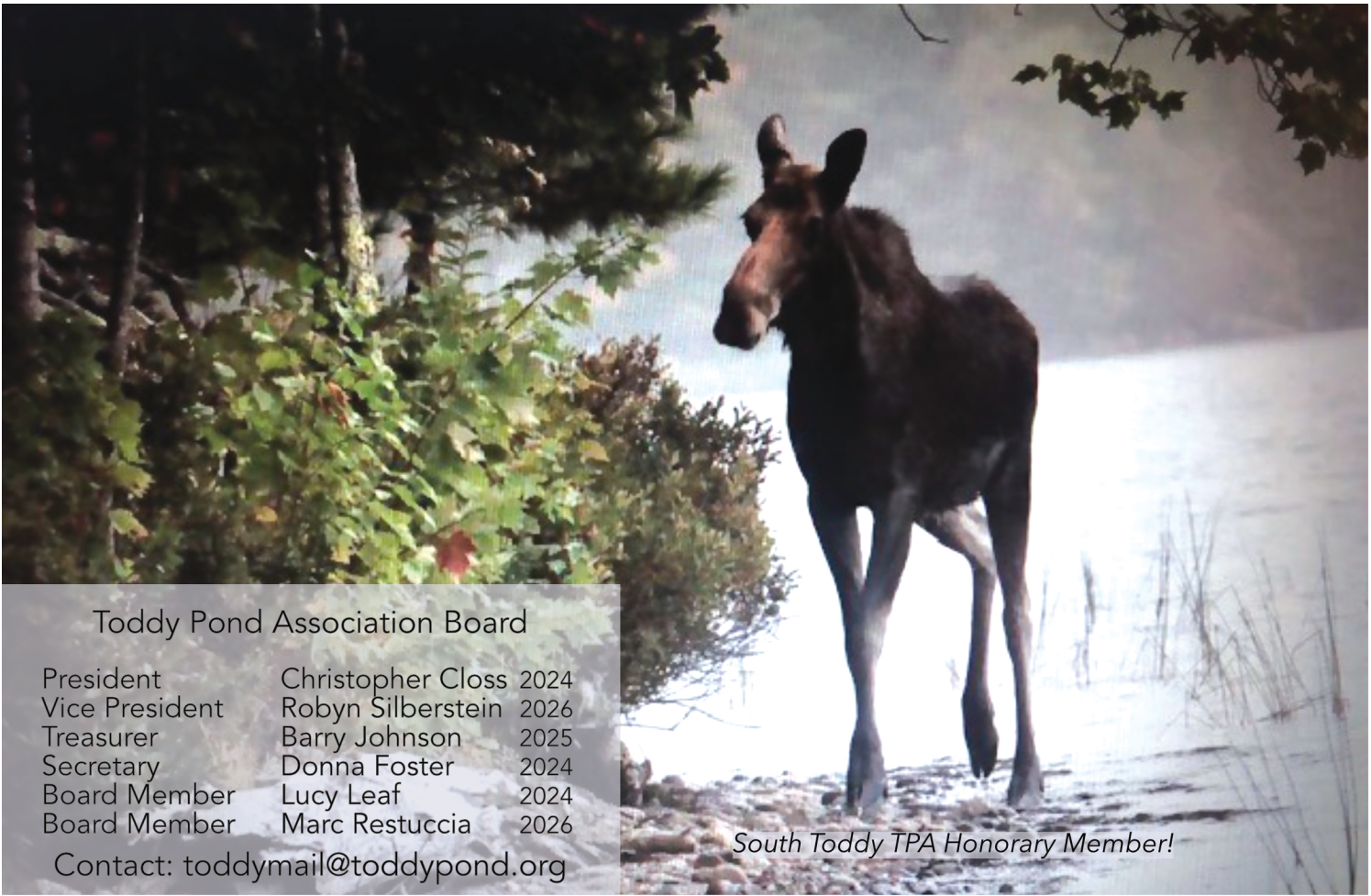
Protector (\$31-\$99) Steward (\$100-\$199) Advocate (\$200-\$499) Benefactor (\$500+) TOTAL _____

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: toddypond.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

President	Christopher Closs	2024
Vice President	Robyn Silberstein	2026
Treasurer	Barry Johnson	2025
Secretary	Donna Foster	2024
Board Member	Lucy Leaf	2024
Board Member	Marc Restuccia	2026

Contact: toddymail@toddypond.org

South Toddy TPA Honorary Member!



 ASSOCIATION
Toddy Pond
 Toddy Pond Association
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