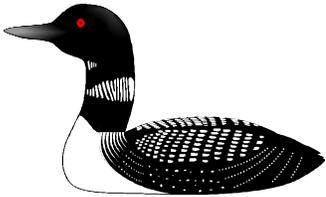

Taylor Pond Association News

*May,
2004*



TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION

30th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 19, 2004, 3 p.m.

Taylor Pond Yacht Club

Returns and address corrections to:

Michael Dixon
126 Everett Road
Auburn, Maine 04210

2004 dues are now due

Interested in
volunteering to
help with TPA
programs?

Please call Dana
Little at 784-1908
or Michael Dixon
at 783-7763.

Please visit the TPA website:
www.taylorpondassociation.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by Michael Dixon

Taylor Pond Association Financial Statements

2003 Report

Beginning balance		\$4,959.14
Total Income		\$3,598.70
	Dues & Contributions	\$3,590.00
	Interest	\$8.90
Total Expenses		\$5,221.60
	2002 Lake Monitoring + Scott Williams Consultation + Website Expenses + State Fees	\$1,882.00
	2003 Lake monitoring	\$2,750.00
	C.O.L.A. Membership	\$142.00
	501-c-3 Application Fee	\$150.00
	Printing & Postage	\$234.89
	City Council Workshop	\$62.71
Closing Balance		\$3,336.24

2004 Report through May 1, 2004

Beginning balance		\$3,336.24
Total Income		\$179.83
	Dues & Contributions	\$75.00
	Shirt & Cap Sales	\$104.00
	Interest	\$0.83
Total Expenses		\$652.38
	State Fees	\$25.00
	Shirts & caps	\$627.38
Balance as of 05-01		\$2,863.69

Water Monitoring Options Being Explored

For the last 20 years or so, Lake Biologist Scott Williams has been hired to collect technical water quality data on Taylor Pond. He has gathered yearly information on the pond's levels of phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyl, alkalinity, and PH. Some of the measurements, e.g., PH and dissolved oxygen are done in the field using handheld meters, while others, such as phosphorous, involve the collection of samples that are then sent to a laboratory for analysis. Scott's data, supplemented by the clarity readings taken by our volunteer lake monitor (a position currently being ably filled by Ralph Gould) have allowed us to

keep track of the Pond's well-being (see Dana Little's report later in the newsletter).

The TPA Board remains committed to monitoring Taylor Pond's status through the regular collection of technical water quality data. Unfortunately, increasing fees now require that we look at some different options to continue this effort. At present, we are exploring the possibility of either renting or purchasing our own equipment to collect data. A formal request has been made to the Auburn City Council to provide us with assistance in data collection, based on the idea that protecting Taylor Pond, and its significant contribution to the tax base, is in the best interest of all citizen's of Auburn.

30th Anniversary Celebration On Tap for June 19

In 1974, a group of concerned Taylor Pond residents formed and incorporated the Taylor Pond Association. That visionary group included President Stanley Bixby, Vice President William Lauze, Secretary Helen Andrews, Treasurer Harland Littlefield, and Trustees Joseph Reilly, Leroy Bingham, Norman Ouellette, and Wallace White. Over the last 30 years, a dedicated group of volunteers have worked to protect Taylor Pond by monitoring water quality, advocating for sensible development on the shore and in the watershed, surveying problem areas and performing demonstration erosion control projects, and providing educational support.

Since it's our 30th anniversary, we are holding a bash at the Taylor Pond Yacht Club on Saturday, June 19 (rain or shine) to celebrate the event. We are asking members and guests to bring a picnic lunch (grilling facilities will be available for those who want to barbecue). We'll have music, children's activities, a paddling tour for those who arrive by canoe or kayak, and games and prizes. Dessert will be provided. Please join your Taylor Pond neighbors for a festive time.

TPA T-Shirts and Hats Available

In an effort to raise money to fund TPA programs, the Board has decided to sell commemorative t-shirts and baseball caps.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Submitted by Susan Trask

TPA Board Activities from September '03 – May '04

Your TPA Board has been very active over the winter! We met formally five times, and stayed in contact with each other and with city officials and boards. Here are a

The shirts feature our new slogan, "Protecting Taylor Pond Since 1974," which was suggested by President Dana Little. The shirts are of high quality cotton available in light green or beige, and come in sizes Medium, Large, Extra Large, and Double Extra Large. M, L and XL shirts are \$10.00, while XXLs are \$12.00. The caps, which have an embroidered logo that includes our name and a loon, cost \$15.00. They will be available at the 30th Anniversary party, at our annual meeting (date and time to be announced), or by calling Michael Dixon at 783-7763.

TPA Granted 501-c-3 Status By IRS

Last fall, the Board authorized applying to the IRS for tax-exempt (501-c-3) status. Certified Public Accountant Tom Robustelli volunteered his assistance in completing the application, which required us to submit a one-time fee of \$150.00. The IRS did accept our application. This means that dues and contributions can now be deducted as charitable contributions on your income tax return. Because of our relatively small size, TPA itself will not have to file an annual return. As required by law, the application and TPA financial records are available for public viewing by contacting Michael Dixon at 783-7763. In appreciation of Tom Robustelli's assistance, he will be presented with a complimentary TPA t-shirt and cap.

few of the highlights of our accomplishments, discussions, and decisions:

- ❖ **501-C-3 Status:** The Taylor Pond Association is now officially a tax-exempt organization. *Thank you to Michael Dixon for working diligently to*

complete the applications to make this possible.

- ❖ **Regional Lake Association Meetings:** Several of the lake associations of our area met twice over the winter to discuss common issues and share ideas. Dana Little and Michael Dixon attended, and came back with an interesting perspective on how others organize, how they collect dues, how they increase awareness of best management practices, and so forth.
- ❖ **Membership Database:** Wes Sawyer has been working all winter to update our membership lists and to get them into a usable and accurate database. It's a complicated process to sort out multiple owners, absentee owners, and the like. Area representatives gave this process a big boost last summer, and we hope to further refine the lists this spring.
- ❖ **Monitoring development around the lake:** We have worked hard to stay on top of activity in the Taylor Pond watershed that may affect water quality. To that end, we
 - ✓ Reported a runoff problem from a drainage ditch on Garfield Rd.
 - ✓ Checked into the footprint of a garage construction on Chicoine Ave.
 - ✓ Investigated the ramifications of using commercial chemical lawn improvement practices. (Result: using phosphorus-laden chemicals in the watershed is not illegal, but it *is* inadvisable!)
 - ✓ Investigated currently accepted erosion control measures
 - ✓ Continued to discuss measures we can take to protect Taylor Pond from invasive plant species.

- ❖ **Area Rep informational potluck supper:** We plan to host this event May 26. The representatives from our 12 districts will meet to get reacquainted, re-energized, and to hear presentations on the lake's geology, on water quality, and on the permitting and ordinance process.
- ❖ **30th Anniversary Celebration:** Our organization has a milestone birthday this year! To celebrate, we will host a festive barbecue event at the Taylor Pond Yacht Club on June 19, from 3:00 – 7:00. Special activities will occur, such as a group paddle, a narrated pond tour, games, and special games for kids. We'll have specially-designed t-shirts and hats available as well.
- ❖ **Connection with city organizations:** We have representatives attending all City Council meetings or Planning Board sessions that have agenda items relating to Taylor Pond issues or development. Lee Feldman, Director of Planning and Permitting, has been invited to board meetings, and has provided us with valuable information.

For your information, we now have a new website address. You can find us at www.taylorpondassociation.org. The site contains information on our organization, articles about wildlife, and links to other pertinent sites. *Thanks to David Little for creating and troubleshooting the website!*

The current Taylor Pond Association Board consists of: Dana Little; Michael Dixon; Susan Trask; Ralph Gould; Mike Keaney; Mike Mikesell; Tim Priestly; Wes Sawyer; and Dan Thayer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Dana Little

CLEAREST WATER IN 33 YEARS OF MONITORING

On Secchi disc readings collected last year by Ralph Gould, Taylor Pond had the highest water clarity readings ever recorded. Taylor Pond Association has been recording the water clarity now for 33 years. The unusually clear water has been attributed to the dry summer weather of the last three years. In addition, credit must be given to those landowners who continue to responsibly manage their watershed properties.

Unfortunately for the pond, oxygen in the deepest part of the lake continues to fall to levels that prevent cold water fish from living through the summer. Trout and salmon no longer can be found in the lake as a result of this oxygen loss. When oxygen levels fall this low, phosphorous is released into the water from the mud at the bottom of the lake and this can trigger algal blooms. Last summer's phosphorous readings provide evidence that oxygen reached critically low values leading to the release of phosphorous. Fortunately for the pond, no serious algal blooms occurred. Taylor Pond continues to be a stressed pond and needs our careful stewardship. Scott Williams continues to provide consulting services to Taylor Pond Association to monitor and improve the pond.

Our role as landowners in the watershed is to reduce the phosphorous runoff into the lake. Any water entering the lake that contains sediment or runoff from lawns treated with phosphorous fertilizers is a

danger to our water. As water quality deteriorates, so do property values.

PHOSPHOROUS FREE LAWN CARE

Phosphorous makes up one of the three main ingredients of lawn fertilizer; the NPK stands for Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium respectively. Add enough phosphorous to the water and the entire pond will turn green from algae, quickly followed by the color brown and the smell of rotting as all the algae and fish die. However, lawn care experts have discovered that your lawn does not need added phosphorous to remain green and healthy. Local lawn care specialists have been trained in the correct application of environmentally friendly fertilizers. Local stores also sell phosphorous-free fertilizers. Please make certain that any lawn fertilizer you use does not contain phosphorous and keep our water healthy. In addition, consider eliminating pesticides from your lawn care. Many of these pesticides wash off your lawn and travel directly into the lake. Last summer, a lawn care company was observed applying phosphorous and pesticides to lawns next to the pond and I suspect many individuals do this also. Sweetening the soil by spreading lime, cutting grass to a height of 3 inches, and using non-phosphorous fertilizers will provide a healthy lawn without use of pesticides. Maine's Department Of Environmental Protection lists phosphate-free applicators on their website at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/fer t/lawncare.htm>.

The Groundskeeper[™]
Lawn & Landscape

*We Treat Lawns The Lake-Friendly Way, with
Zero-Phosphate Fertilizer*

LAKESMART Erosion Control and Buffering
Natural Pest Control

Auburn, ME

782-1635

Paid advertisement from The Groundskeeper

2004 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TAYLOR POND ADDRESS: _____

**PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTERS AND ALERTS TO MY EMAIL
ADDRESS:**

PHONE: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CIRCLE ONE)

BASIC	SUPPORT	BENEFACTOR	OTHER
\$25.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	_____

Please send check (payable to: TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION) and completed membership form to:

**Michael Dixon, Treasurer
Taylor Pond Association
126 Everett Road
Auburn, ME 04210**