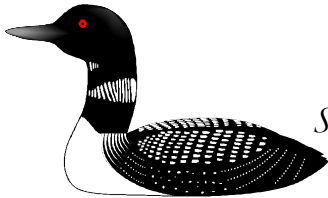

Taylor Pond Association News

*Summer
2003
August
edition*



General Meeting Notice

Sunday August 17, 7:00 PM Taylor Pond Yacht Club

Returns and address corrections to:

Bettyann Sheats
104 Terrace Road
Auburn, Maine 04210

Volunteers

The Taylor Pond Association is recruiting the help of volunteers to help with the operation of the association. There are a lot of things happening and we would like your help. There are immediate needs for several positions. See details inside.

See more information about Taylor Pond
in the association's new website at
www.taylorpond.com

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Submitted by Dana Little

Taylor Pond Association has joined the Congress of Lake Associations (COLA) paying \$2 for each member. COLA employs a full time executive director who frequently testifies in Augusta to advocate on lake protection issues.

I recently attended the annual COLA meeting. The major issue was invasive plants. Variable Milfoil currently infests 15 lakes in Maine including Lake Auburn, Range Pond and the Little Androscoggin River locally. Massachusetts is spending up to \$10 million per lake to eliminate the pest. Milfoil will grow in water up to 20 feet deep; form dense mats and has the potential to overwhelm our pond. A fragment as small as ½ inch is sufficient to infest the lake. Once established it is apparently impossible to completely remove. In Rutland Vermont, property values decreased on average \$12,000 when Milfoil invaded the local pond. What you can do is register your boat. This pays for the state program to prevent and control invasive water plants. In addition check that any boat or trailer entering the pond is free of plants.

A speaker from the Maine Board of Pesticide Control spoke at the COLA meeting. His department investigated the use of "Aquacide", a chemical sold to homeowners for use in controlling "pondweeds". He found that the chemical was being used to kill beneficial plants in the lake. He indicated that use of any chemical in the pond either directly or indirectly (through runoff) requires a permit from his office. No permit has been issued from his office except in one instance this year to control an invasive plant on Pickerel Pond. Several homeowners were heavily fined for using this chemical. He also pointed out that products such as Scott Lawn Care and many lawn care services use pesticides and herbicides that are toxic to lakes. What you can do is never use chemicals in or around the lake without a permit. Using lime on your lawn to correct an acid pH or a light application of organic mulch will help your lawn the most. Clover in the lawn will add nitrogen to the soil, dandelions add color and we will all enjoy the clean water if we avoid chemicals.

TPA TO HOST LAKESMART WORKSHOP ON AUGUST 13

Submitted by Michael Dixon

On Wednesday, August 13, 2003, from 2 to 7 p.m., the Taylor Pond Association will host an educational workshop aimed at helping shoreline residents to protect lake water quality, by utilizing best management practices in maintaining their properties. The program, dubbed LakeSmart, is sponsored by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with Lake & Watershed Resource Management Associates, a private organization of professional water quality consultants.

At the heart of the LakeSmart program is the use of natural vegetative buffers, which help filter runoff into the pond so as to control the factors promoting algae growth, a leading cause of water quality deterioration. The Taylor Pond watershed, the geographical area that drains into Taylor Pond, contains parts of both Auburn and Minot. Inadequate erosion control in residential and commercial activities in the watershed allows the transport of phosphorus into the pond, which promotes algal growth and deteriorates water clarity. Algal blooms, as well as the introduction of non-native species, such as the plant milfoil, destroy habitat and lead to significant loss in property value, thereby affecting tax revenues. LakeSmart education is part of state and local efforts to address such issues.

Taylor Pond is one of only a few sites where the Maine LakeSmart program is being offered this summer. It was chosen by virtue of the our Pond Association's long track record of work on behalf of maintaining water quality in the pond. Formed in 1974 by a group of citizen's concerned with the ecological well being of Taylor Pond, Association activities include long-term participation in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, and the hiring of lake biologist, Scott Williams, to take yearly technical measurements of water quality. The Taylor Pond Association also has been active in education and advocacy in city government, regarding zoning, planning and development. The Association maintains a website at www.taylorpond.org.

The LakeSmart workshop is open to the public, includes dinner, and is free of charge. Pre-registration by August 6 is required. Space is limited, and registration priority will be given to Taylor Pond Association members and to shoreline property owners of Taylor Pond and other area lakes. For more information, please contact Taylor Pond Association president Dana Little at 784-1908, or by email at president@taylorpond.org. The agenda and registration form for LakeSmart are printed on the next-to-last page of this newsletter.

TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ACTIVE AND VISIBLE THIS SUMMER

Submitted by Michael Dixon

Since our first general meeting in late May, much effort and energy has been devoted to the pond association, and its activities. We've sent representatives to several meetings of the City Council, in order to raise issues relevant to the pond. A request was made in an open session for help with the cost of technical monitoring of the pond by our biologist. Although nothing is forthcoming at this point, I am hopeful that ultimately the City will provide some help. Thanks to Judy Sawyer and Mike Mikesell for their involvement in these meetings. Also, thanks to Ann Goorhuis, who has agreed to monitor the City's planning Board agenda and to follow up when issues relevant to the pond are on the agenda.

Other projects in process include the updating of our database of residents and members. Yolande Gay, who spent many hours on the Computer and at City Hall collecting a phenomenal amount of useful information, and Wes Sawyer have been spearheading this effort. We now have area representatives for twelve districts around the pond. See the last page for a list of reps and contact information, as compiled by Yolande Gay.

Our good work is paying off in terms of increased membership. We have nearly a 100 members as of late July, which is 35 more than last year, with the membership drive continuing. Interest and involvement is high and as a result a second general meeting is scheduled for Sunday,

August 17 at 7 p.m. at the Taylor Pond Yacht Club.

JURY STILL OUT ON 501-(C)-3 STATUS

Submitted by Michael Dixon

Since the issue of our pursuing non-profit status under federal tax regulations was raised at our 2002 general meeting, I have wondered about the value of this to our organization. I recently spent some time speaking with John Crouch, who is the President of the Range Pond Association and who is also a lawyer. Like Taylor Pond Association, the Range Pond Association has kicked around the idea of pursuing tax-exempt status, but hasn't taken the final plunge. The benefits of non-profit status are that contributions would be tax-deductible and that we would be able to act as a trustee for assets, such as parcels of land. The main downside is the lengthy and expensive paperwork, which will likely require the services of an accountant or attorney. On the other hand, once we've established our status as tax-exempt, I do not believe ongoing documentation and paperwork would be onerous. I will continue to collect information about this and likely will periodically advocate for our taking that next step in our development as an organization.

WORKSHOP WITH CITY OFFICIALS PLANNED FOR LATE AUGUST

Submitted by Michael Dixon

Dana Little and I met with Phoebe Hardesty of the Water & Soil Conservation District in early July to plan a boat tour to be given to members of city government. Out of this has grown the idea of a combined City Council/Planning Board workshop that is scheduled for later this summer on the evening of August 26. The agenda will include a boat tour of the pond, a land tour of the watershed, and a presentation by Jodi Castallo, Coordinator of Maine NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials). Activities such as this have been done previously, but need to be repeated periodically as membership in city government changes, and to maintain our presence as an active, vibrant organization.

Wildlife

Submitted by Dana Little

I love Taylor Pond because of all of its wildlife. I especially enjoy the birds. In the summer I have counted 91 species that depend on the pond for food or nesting. At least 42 species have nested on the land adjacent to my home and I have identified 38 species that I believe breed in the area. In addition I have identified 11 species that are commonly seen in the area but have not been seen breeding; this last group includes such beloved birds as the Bald Eagle and Common Loon.

The annual Loon Count occurred July 19 from 7-7:30am. No loons were counted during that time although most of us have seen at least 4 loons on the pond this year. Since the loon count was first conducted in 1983 0-5 loons have been counted in this time period. During all this time no chicks have been observed. I am not aware of any nests on the pond. I believe that too much boat traffic and a lack of wild places to nest have

kept them from nesting here. June 30, on Marshall Pond (smaller but wilder than Taylor Pond) I saw 2 parents and a newborn chick swimming. It would be great to have loons nesting on Taylor Pond.

One of the most secretive birds is the Virginia Rail. They hide out in marshy areas feeding on snails, aquatic insects and worms in the shallow waters. They blend into the grass and rarely fly so they are difficult to see. They are more often heard; they have a deep decrescendo grunting sound that is hard to believe comes from this small chicken-like bird. On June 30 two parents and their 7 week-old chicks stepped out on our lawn and presented themselves. The young looked like black balls of fur on stilts. After a few minutes of running back and forth they disappeared into the marsh grass and I have not seen nor heard a trace of them since then.

General Membership Meeting of Taylor Pond Association

Sunday August 17, 2003 at 7pm at Taylor Pond Yacht Club. **Anyone** interested in or living near Taylor Pond is welcome to attend. The tentative agenda for the meeting will be

1. President's Address
2. Treasurer's report
3. Review of 2003 VLMP Water Quality Data
4. Review of activities: LakeSmart, City Advocacy, Membership
5. Open floor to general discussion on our goals for the next year
6. Any other business that may come to our attention before the meeting.

Taylor Pond Association Board for 2003-2004

Officers:

President: Dana Little
Treasurer: Michael Dixon
Secretary: Susan Trask
Mailings: Bettyann Sheats

Board Members:

Dan Thayer
Tim Priestly
Mike Mikesell
Wes Sawyer
Ralph Gould
Yolande Gay

**Bring a friend or neighbor to
the Annual Meeting
Sunday August 17, 2003 at
7pm
Taylor Pond Yacht Club**

LakeSmart Workshop Agenda, Wednesday, August 13, 2 to 7 p.m. Taylor Pond Yacht Club

2:00 P.M.

Registration

- 2:10 P.M. Introduction/LakeSmart Awards Program**
- 2:15 P.M. How Land Use Impacts Lake Water Quality -- Cynthia Kuhns, Lake and Watershed Resource Management Associates**
- 2:55 P.M. Buffer Design and Inspiration – Roberta Hill, Lake and Watershed Resource Management Associates**
- 3:35 P.M. Field Trip to Buffer Sites**
- 5:00 P.M. Dinner/Other Shoreline and Watershed Best Management Practices For Water Quality Protection – Bill Laflamme, Maine DEP**
- 5:40 P.M. Exercise in creating your own LakeSmart Property Plan**
- 7:00 P.M. Adjourn**
-

If you would like to attend, please return the enclosed registration form to Dana Little, 585 Garfield Road, Auburn, Me 04210, or email president@taylorpond.org. Please respond by 08/06/03 to guarantee dinner.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Space is limited and registration priority will be given to members of the Taylor Pond Association. If you would like to join the TPA, please contact Michael Dixon, Treasurer, at 783-7763, or send a check for \$25.00 to Taylor Pond Association, c/o Michael Dixon, 126 Everett Road, Auburn, ME 04210.

Annual Dues

It's not too late to join the Taylor Pond Association. Membership is open to anyone who supports the goals of the organization and pays their annual dues. Your dues of \$25 for the year 2003 are now due.

Mail to:

Michael Dixon, Treasurer
126 Everett Road
Auburn, Maine 04210

<p>Your Dues Keep Our Pond Association Strong And Viable.</p>
--

Your Name _____

Address _____

Thank You

**The Twelve Districts
Of
The Taylor Pond Association**

District 1: Wyman Road (16)-Simpson Beach Road (3) –Willard Road (13) –Taywood Road (21)

Reps: SusanTask - 75 Taywood Rd, Auburn 784-4606 straskaub@aol.com

Cathy Arnoldy - 84 Taywood Rd. Auburn 782-8842

District 2: East Shore Road (6) Waterview Drive (11) Shore Path Road (8)

Rep: Jane Hall - 128 Cove Road, Auburn 783-5605 hallj51@adelphia.net

District 3 Cove Road (10) – Hotel Road (17)

Rep: Ralph Gould - 76 Cove Road, Auburn 784-7650 RGould1661@aol.com

**District 4: Terrace (24)-Yankee Way (7)- Crest (16) –Silva (7)-Mason (2)-Sandy Beach(16)
LeHouillier Drive (5) Jesse Ave (7)**

Rep: Bettyann Sheats - 104 Terrace Road, Auburn 777-4537 skibrat61@aol.com

District 5: Hotel Road (6) – Chicoine Avenue (38)

Rep: Wes Sawyer - 173 Chicoine Ave, Auburn 795-6850 wnjsawyer@aol.com

District 6: Valview Drive (31)

Rep: Frank Goss - 176 Valview Drive, Auburn, 783-3372 goss176@aol.com

District 7: Garfield Road (20)

Rep: Tim Priestley - 715 Garfield Road, Auburn 784-8393 tpriestly@webtv.net

**District 8: Pond View CT (2) Pond View Drive (10) Ledgeview CV (12) Pond Crest Lane (4)
(Formerly “A” & “B” Street)**

Rep: Mike Keaney - 61 Nottingham Road, Auburn mike@mjkassociates.com

District 9: Sunrise Lane (5) Campground (11) (Formerly “E” Street)

Rep: Regis Roy - 41 Sunrise Lane, Auburn 784-4800

District 10: West Shore Road (10) – Perkins Ridge Road (4)

Rep: Yolande Gay - 195 West Shore Road, Auburn GayPare@aol.com

District 11: Everett Street (20)

Rep: Michael Dixon - 126 Everett Road, Auburn 783-7763 msdixon@adelphia.net

District 12: Youngs Corner Road (12) – Hotel Road (7)

Rep: Mike Mikesell 449 Youngs Corner Road 783-0575

The numbers in parentheses identify the number of properties on each street.