
Taylor Pond Association News

July
2017

*TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING*
Sunday, August 6, 2017, 7-9 p.m.
Taylor Pond Yacht Club

Returns and address corrections
to:

Edwin Gray
153 Chicoine Ave.
Auburn, Maine 04210



Interested in
volunteering to
help with TPA
programs?
Please call
Dana Little at
784-1908

Please visit the TPA website:
www.taylorpondassociation.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dana Little

It is thanks to all of you that Taylor Pond Association continues to thrive. We appreciate your contributions of money and time to keep the pond healthy. We continue to monitor water quality, depending upon the years of expertise that Woody Trask brings to the job. We have also started our own LakeSmart evaluation program due to the high costs of hiring an outside consultant. After being billed nearly a thousand dollars for an evaluation last year we decided to bring the process in-house. Both Kristi Norcross and I met with Maggie Shannon of Maine Lakes Society early in June and did evaluations on three properties. We are now prepared to provide assistance at no cost to any resident on the pond on how to improve their property to keep our lake healthy. We will continue with our matching grant program, where you can be reimbursed up to \$500 for your lakeside project. Please see the article later in the newsletter updating the parameters of the program.

This spring we committed to our most costly project to date, the evaluation of water levels in the pond. Please join us at our annual meeting to hear Joseph McLean's report and recommendations as a result of this study.

You might ask, "What is the most important step I can take after joining Taylor Pond Association" and the answer is to call Kristi Norcross and schedule a LakeSmart evaluation this year.

Enjoy your summer on the pond!

TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Taylor Pond Association is a 501(c)3 federal tax-exempt organization committed to maintaining the water quality of Taylor Pond in order to preserve wildlife habitat, protect property values, and safeguard recreational opportunities.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I hope you all enjoy this year's edition of the Taylor Pond Association Newsletter. In it, you'll find a variety of items, including updates on water quality testing, the on-going water level study, and our new-and-improved grant program. Dana Little has contributed another delightful nature article. I am especially grateful to Joan Macri for her editing assistance and for her fascinating and entertaining article on the history of Simpson's Beach. Next year Joan plans to write a piece on the Ice Storm of '98. Remember that? If you have some interesting memories and/or photos, please contact Joan at joanmcacr48@gmail.com. Thanks also to Connie Bedette, Jean Levasseur, Jan Phillips, Joel Richmond, and Dyanne Smith for contributing photos. If there are topics or ideas you'd like to see included in future editions, please contact me at susantrask@roadrunner.com.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING TPA MEMBERSHIP



If your mailing of the newsletter does not include a membership form, it means that you have paid your 2017 dues or are an honorary member. If your copy of the newsletter does include a copy of the membership form, it means that you are not currently a dues-paying member of the Taylor Pond Association. Although we enjoy a healthy bank balance, an active membership remains essential to the overall well-being of our organization. If you have never been a member, but agree with our mission of preserving the water quality of Taylor Pond and protecting property values, please join us. If you are a former member who has not yet rejoined this year, please do so. If you are an active member, thank you for your ongoing support.

CRAYFISH

By Dana Little

Hiding in the shallows around Taylor Pond you will find a small relative of the lobster called the crayfish. Typically a few inches long they hide out amongst rocks and logs. Scientists call the group of animals containing crayfish decapods (Greek term for ten-footed) due to having one pair of legs for each of the five segments of the thorax. Crayfish have a total of 20 segments to their body and each segment has an appendage. Each pair of appendages may serve a different purpose, some as mouthparts, one pair in front as legs with large pinching claws, nine smaller legs each with small pinching claws and the last few form part of the tail. Crayfish belong to the group of animals called crustaceans which includes crabs, lobsters and shrimp. In turn, crustaceans belong to the group of animals called arthropods (Greek for jointed feet) which includes insects and spiders. All arthropods have skeletons on the outside of the body (exoskeleton), a three segmented body (head, thorax and abdomen) and jointed appendages.

Dr. Karen Wilson works at the University of Southern Maine teaching limnology (the study of freshwaters) and ecology. She contacted volunteers in 2016 to trap as many crayfish as possible from lakes in Maine. She has studied the effect of alien species of crayfish in lakes and the loss of plants and animals that results. Alien crayfish have been introduced into Maine lakes when fishermen release unused bait crayfish either intentionally or unintentionally. Through her research she hopes to find the extent of invasion and the species found typically in Maine lakes. As part of her research I placed a trap for crayfish in the Taylor Pond last summer but caught no specimens. Fortunately I had a young partner, Merlin Smith, who provided me with many samples that I sent in to be identified. His technique of wading in the shallows and hand-catching produced many fine specimens! The results of Dr. Wilson's studies have not yet been published.

Crayfish will eat almost anything organic, feeding upon both living and dead parts of animals and plants, in effect recycling otherwise wasted energy. They convert organic matter that is inedible to most animals into a delicious package. In Louisiana I have been served up trays containing dozens of "crawdads", (their term for crayfish). One only eats the tails and I can attest to their being delicious. People locally seldom eat them, and, given the difficulty in catching them and their ability to concentrate pollutants in the water, this is probably wise.

However I have watched herons and diving ducks feed on them with enthusiasm. Many animals prey on them including muskrat, mink, raccoon, pike, pickerel and bass. Over 400 different species can be identified in the US, but only seven species are native to Maine. Although they have sharp claws to protect themselves and grab prey, they will not pinch you unless handled. The largest arthropod native to our pond, the amazing crayfish is best left alone to freely roam the water.



WATER QUALITY SUMMARY FOR TAYLOR POND – 2016

By Woody Trask

In summary, 2016 was a better than average year for water clarity, including one reading that was just slightly higher than the previous record. Water levels were unusually low due to dry conditions, which may explain the high clarity readings, since fewer rain events meant less soil and nutrients being washed into the pond. Phosphorus level and the associated possibility of an algae bloom continue to be a major concern. However, I'm not aware of any blooms being reported.

The full battery of tests (color, pH, alkalinity, conductance, phosphorus and clarity) was conducted monthly from June through September, with additional clarity readings taken bi-weekly to establish a good data base. Phosphorus analyses of water samples taken from the surface and bottom of the pond were performed by the State of Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab in Augusta. Surface samples showed no increase in phosphorous levels compared to last year but the bottom samples were higher and will be closely monitored in 2017 to see if it is a trend or just an anomaly.



Even though the testing results for clarity included the best ever single reading, the average was about the same as last year. The readings averaged 5.39 meters (17.7 ft.) which is quite high compared to the historical average of 4.64 meters (15.2 ft.) -- a positive indicator of the health of the Pond.



The overall water quality of Taylor Pond is considered to be average compared to all Maine lakes. Barring a major environmental event that causes significant soil erosion and phosphorus-rich run-off entering the pond, the water quality is expected to remain stable going forward.

The ice-out date for spring 2017 was recorded as April 19, which is a whole month later than last year and close to the historical average of April 14th. The pond also froze over the third week in December compared to January 5th last year. This was good, since a longer period of ice cover is generally considered beneficial to overall water quality.

1ST ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY WATERCRAFT PARADE ON THE POND!

By Kristi Norcross

Let's begin a new tradition on Taylor Pond! Deck yourself and your watercraft in patriotic colors and assemble at 11am in front of Crescent Beach. We will need one head boat (preferably a pontoon boat) that will lead the train of watercraft for a loop around the perimeter of the pond. Feel free to play music, beep your horn, wave to the people on shore and wave your American flag. Once the loop is complete, go enjoy your 4th of July festivities. Hopefully we will have nice weather so we can show our Patriotic Pride!!

If you have a pontoon boat and would like to lead the parade please let me know.

Any questions? Feel free to email or call me.
Knorcross@roadrunner.com
207-577-6408



SOME SAFE BOATING REMINDERS:

MAINE BOATING REGULATIONS REQUIRE:

- Boats must maintain no more than "headway speed" (i.e. minimum speed needed to maintain control and forward motion) within 200 feet of the shoreline.
- All children 10 years old or younger must wear a PFD (i.e. life jacket) when aboard any vessel.
- All water craft (including kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards) must be equipped with an appropriate PFD for each person aboard.
- Waterskiing is prohibited between the hours of ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
- Anyone towing a water skier or tuber must have an additional watcher at least 12 years old aboard.

On Taylor Pond, at any one time there are more kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, and small sailboats on the water than motorized craft. Please be considerate of others at all times.

TPA GRANT PROGRAM STILL ALIVE AND WELL!

By Susan Trask

Most of our readers know that the Taylor Pond Association has been consulting with property owners and awarding grant monies toward lake-friendly improvements. Last year we took a break as we re-evaluated our procedures and streamlined the process. We're glad to report that the grant program is up and running once again, and it's simpler than ever.

Board president Dana Little and member Kristi Norcross have been trained as LakeSmart evaluators, which means that we will no longer need to use outside consultants to advise property owners as to the best practices to employ when improving their property. Keeping our program entirely in-house will both expedite the process and save the Association some money.

Because one of TPA's main goals is to educate residents about ways that they can help ensure the health and beauty of our lake, we offer grants to those who wish to make improvements to their watershed properties. Here's how the program works:

1. You must be a TPA member. Road associations who apply must have at least 50% of the residents be members.
2. Call Kristi Norcross (577-6408) or email her (knorcross@roadrunner.com) with your interest in making improvements to your lakeside property.
3. Kristi will set up an appointment at a mutually convenient time for Dana or her to visit your property to discuss the improvements you wish to make. After your discussion they will write up a report of the suggested improvements.
4. Complete any or all of the work recommended, saving all invoices. You may also count personal work, so keep track of any man-hours you expend. *You do not need to complete all the items recommended. The items you do complete should comply with the best practices outlined in the report.*
5. Alert Kristi that the project has been completed. Either she or Dana will come by to view the work that's been done and write up a summary.

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TPA GRANT PROGRAM STILL ALIVE AND WELL!

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6. Submit your invoices and other records to Kristi.
7. The Board will determine if the work done complies with the best-practice standards outlined. If it does, a matching grant of up to \$500 will be awarded. (In other words, \$1000 or more would need to be expended in order to receive the full \$500.)
8. Note: If the follow-up evaluation reveals that steps have been taken that are *not* in the best interests of the lake, the Board reserves the right to deny the grant request. To avoid having this happen, be sure to consult with Dana or Kristi before making any changes that are *not* in the original recommendations.

Even if you do not plan to apply for the matching grant, TPA will provide the initial consultation and recommendations for you at no cost to you. *How can you go wrong??* There are no strings attached and no requirements at the outset other than a desire to learn about good lakeside stewardship.



IMPORTANT NOTE

Taylor Pond is one of the few lakes in the area is that *not* infested with milfoil, an invasive feathery plant that can completely take over a shallow lake like ours. Before launching a boat **always** check carefully to be sure that not a speck of plant material is on it. Just a tiny piece tucked away in a propeller can produce a whole colony of milfoil. *Thank you for your vigilance!*

TAYLOR POND WATER LEVELS ENGINEERING STUDY

By Susan Trask

On the first weekend in June of 2012, Auburn received nine inches of rain in just three days. This event resulted in major flooding issues at the south end of Taylor Pond. Some residents were surrounded by water for up to two weeks, with basements flooded and sewage backing up through shower drains. In the fall of that year, the Taylor Pond Association convened a special committee to study the issues concerned with water levels. Over the next several years, the committee met with Auburn city officials, land use consultants, surveyors and environmental engineers in order to more fully understand how both natural and man-made features affect Taylor Pond's water levels.

It has become clear that any possible remediation efforts need to be done carefully and in consultation and coordination with City and State entities. The City of Auburn funded a study of the Hotel Rd. culverts and then applied for a grant from the DEP to rebuild them. The application was denied in part because it did not include a study of the bridge and dam on the Kendall property downstream. The City asked the TPA to fund a further study, which after careful consideration, we agreed to do. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to authorize up to \$10,000 in order to fund that study. Environmental engineering firm Wright-Pierce is currently collecting all available information and will construct a hydraulic model in order to analyze the effects of all the identified factors downstream of the Pond. Project Manager Joe McClean has been directing this study and has been in frequent communication with the Board. Special thanks go to board member Marc Tardif for all his diligent behind-the-scenes work on this project!

Joe McClean will be the featured speaker at the TPA Annual Meeting on August 6. Please make every effort to come and to be informed about the study's findings to date and learn about next steps. We did receive the good news that the City's second application to the DEP for the Hotel Rd. project was approved for \$95,000. The results of the study that we are funding will certainly inform the new construction, and we look forward to continuing to work with the City, DEP and FEMA on this important project.



Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

By Edwin Gray

The following is our 2016 end-of-year financial report:

Balance through 12/31/2015				\$30,852.21
2015 Income				
	Dues & Contributions	\$5,415.00		
	Interest Income	\$45.08		
	Income Total	\$5,460.08		
2015 Expenses				
	State fees		\$35.00	
	MLS Dues		\$200.00	
	MVLMP Contribution		\$500.00	
	Dues Letter Printing & Mailing		\$11.39	
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$1,044.15	
	Computer & Software		\$0.00	
	Annual Meeting expense		\$9.20	
	Water Testing expense & Lab Fees		\$33.20	
	Office Supplies		\$129.91	
	Lake Smart Payments		\$500.00	
	Technical Services		\$1031.00	
	Expense Total		\$3493.85	
Net Gain			\$1,996.23	
Balance through 12/31/2016				\$32,818.44

In 2016, we received 134 dues-payments at various amounts. The Association is very appreciative of the generosity of all its members.

An important part of our efforts is our annual newsletter. We make an effort to send the newsletter to all property owners in the Taylor Pond shore land zone, whether they are TPA members or not. Our mailing list currently consist of 247 address, including "honorary" members, such as City Councilors, members of the Planning and Zoning Boards, certain City staff, and so on.

As of 06/11/2017, I have processed 81 memberships, and the Taylor Pond Association checking account has a balance of \$35,340.31.

LOOKING BACK: WHEN SIMPSON'S BEACH WAS RICE'S BEACH

By Joan Macri

For the first half of the twentieth century, on a hot summer's day, Rice's Beach, now known as Simpson's Beach, was the place to go. Located on the east shore of Taylor Pond just off of Hotel Road, Rice's Beach was a public beach that offered lovely white sand, benches, swing sets, teeter-totters, bath houses, and McGlinchey's Store, where one could buy anything from franks to potato chips and soft drinks—just what one needed for a day at the beach. Over time, the bathhouses were replaced by four small rental cottages that were in high demand in the summer months.

Young swains would take their lady friends paddling in the canoes available for rent, occupy the benches overlooking the beach to enjoy a fine sunset, and finish off a perfect Saturday by enjoying a dance or two at Roy Wallingford's dance pavilion, "The Showboat."

Various camps encircled the beach. Some of the same families still own these properties today and have vivid memories of what Rice's Beach once was and what it became over time.



Rice's Beach from an early newspaper photo, c. 1935



David Rand in his "summer kitchen"

David Rand's family bought their place on Willard Road in 1932. He was three at the time and has spent his entire life observing all the changes. A civil engineer for the Maine DOT who surveyed the original path for the Maine Turnpike from Augusta to Sidney, he still thinks like the surveyor he once was and produced the wonderful maps seen below. Drawn from memory, they vividly capture the amusements offered by Rice's Beach and eventually Simpson's Beach until the entire property was purchased by the Toussaint family in the 1990's.

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LOOKING BACK: WHEN SIMPSON'S BEACH WAS RICE'S BEACH

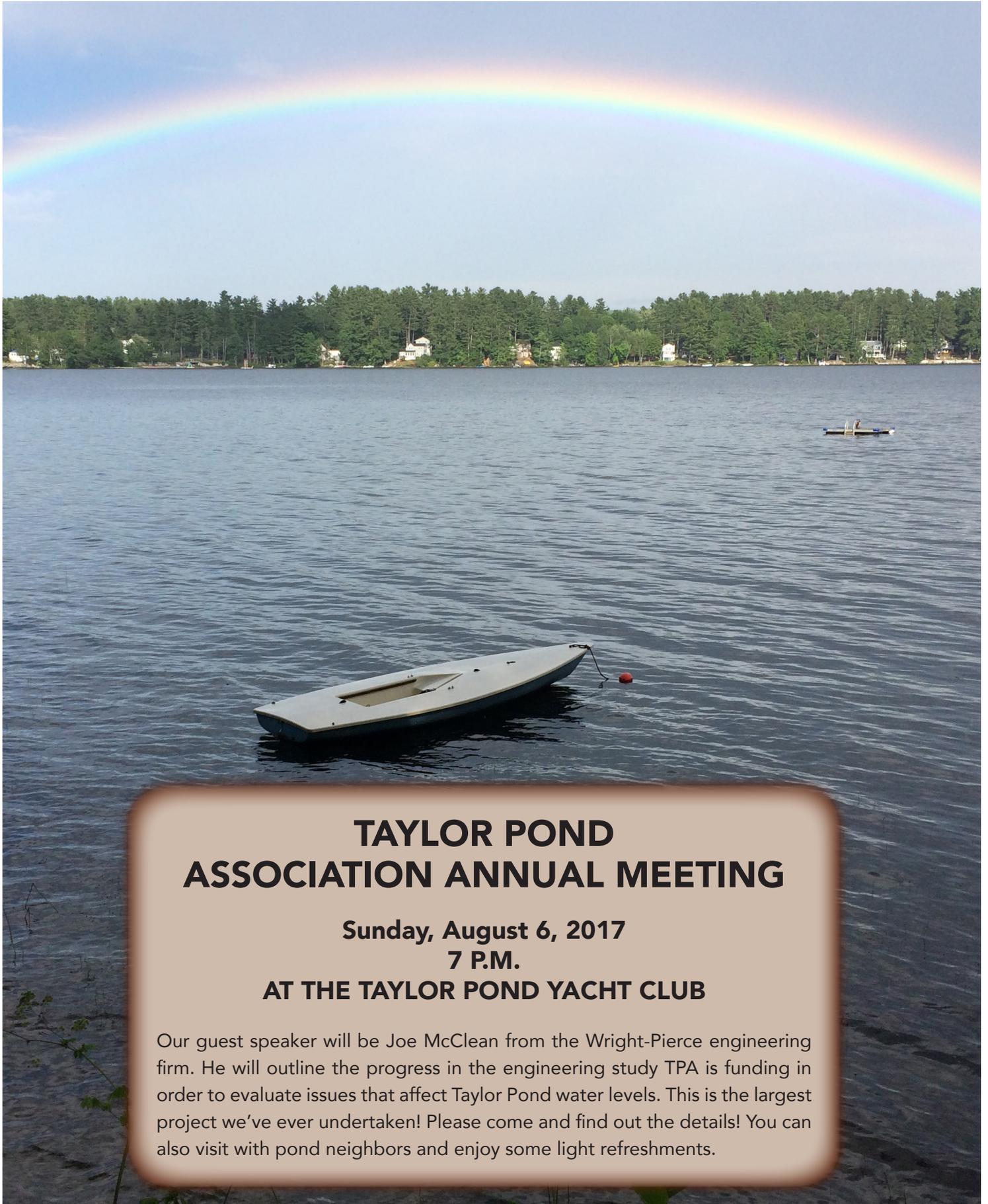
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Mr. Rand recalls being struck by the way the four small cottages that replaced the original bathhouses were constructed. Built by Thomas Simpson when he took over ownership of the beach in the 1960's, they were constructed largely of scrap lumber he had left over from his contracting jobs in town. According to Mr. Rand, Tom Simpson was "a clever carpenter who could get a cheap job that looked good." While they may have been "cute" in Mr. Rand's then-young eyes, they were not built to last. Each cottage's foundation was a 4' by 8' wooden board placed directly on the ground!

A boathouse close to the beach rented canoes by the hour. A big swim raft and an enormous wooden diving platform dominated the water well into the 1950's. By that time, the area was called Simpson's Beach. Ken Lord, whose family bought their camp in 1943 on what is now Waterview Drive, remembers the attractions of the beach well. The beach area was public. There was a large building enclosed by screens with an arcade, a snack bar, popcorn machine, and an open area. According to Lord, it was akin to anything to be found in Old Orchard Beach, the exemplar of all things summer in those days. Behind this building was an old black train engine and sometimes even pony rides.

According to Lord, "the big attraction for us was the diving platform." It contained three diving boards, the highest at 20 feet above the water. Lord was under strict instructions from his parents that he and his twin brother Keith were NOT to venture onto the highest board—so of course he did. He called himself a dare-devil back in those days and one day decided to not only go off the high board but to do a back flip! And he injured his neck. When he returned home, his mother immediately noticed there was something wrong and asked what he had done to his neck. He said "I don't know" and his parents panicked. This was the early 1950's and people were terrified of polio. They called Dr. Gross who immediately came to the house. Yes, doctors still made "house calls" in those days. The doctor examined Lord carefully and then assured the parents that, although he was not sure what

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TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, August 6, 2017
7 P.M.**

AT THE TAYLOR POND YACHT CLUB

Our guest speaker will be Joe McClean from the Wright-Pierce engineering firm. He will outline the progress in the engineering study TPA is funding in order to evaluate issues that affect Taylor Pond water levels. This is the largest project we've ever undertaken! Please come and find out the details! You can also visit with pond neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments.

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors whose terms expire July of 2017, who will stand for re-election to another two-year term:

Susan Trask, Secretary
784-4606
susantrask@roadrunner.com

Barbara Mitchell
783-9000
bmitch61@aol.com

Marc Tardif
783-7395
tardifml@efp-efs.com

Directors whose terms expire July of 2018

Dana Little, President
784-1908
danalw@roadrunner.com

Edwin Gray, Treasurer
720-0098
edwin_gray@hotmail.com

Larry Faiman
782-4648
bmfaiman@gmail.com

Donna Morin
dmorin77@aol.com

Kristi Norcross
577-6408
knorcross@roadrunner.com

Thank you to all of our directors for their commitment to keeping Taylor Pond healthy!

If you have internet access and are willing to serve as an officer or director, please contact Dana Little to add your name to this list.

WHY IS IT CALLED TAYLOR POND?

By Joan Macri

While no one can say for sure, according to an article in the Lewiston Evening Journal in the 1940's by Stanley B. Attwood, a woman named Mrs. Ruby A. Briggs maintained that a Thomas Taylor and his brother Joshua had a land grant dating back to the 1700's (400 acres) between the Androscoggin River and Wilson's Great Pond (now Lake Auburn) that may have surrounded the entirety of Taylor Pond. In "Now and Then at Taylor Pond" by Helen Andrews (1985), several other theories are offered in addition to the Taylor brothers concerning various Tylors and Tylers dating back to early land grants as far back as 1735. The surveyor Phillip Bullen's map of the area, drawn in 1798, does contain the name Wilson's Great Pond but no label on our favorite lake.