

Taylor Pond Association News

JULY 2020



TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

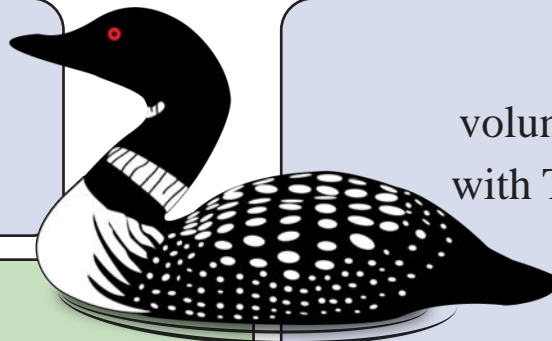
Sunday, August 23, 2020 | 7-9 pm | Taylor Pond Yacht Club
Subject to Change Due to COVID-19 Safety Concerns.
Watch for Updates via Email.

Returns and address corrections to:

Edwin Gray
153 Chicoine Ave.
Auburn, ME 04210

Please visit the TPA website:

www.taylorpondassociation.org



Interested in
volunteering to help
with TPA programs?

Please call
Dana Little
at 207.784.1908

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Taylor Pond Association (TPA) is dedicated to protecting the quality of water in, and life on, the pond. Thanks to the vigilance and partnership of property owners, we continue to report that both are very good! As a community and as stewards of this valuable natural resource, we can take pride in our collective work...and then redouble our efforts to do even better next year. Your individual work--avoiding pesticides and fertilizer, preventing runoff, being responsible boaters, and respecting wildlife habitat--is ongoing and critical to pond health.

WATER QUALITY

Central to our mission is monitoring the quality of water in Taylor Pond. Woody Trask manages testing and provides the annual water quality report on page 4, where we are reminded that invasive aquatic plants represent the most imminent danger to our enjoyment of the pond. A pond filled with invasive plants can make swimming and boating unpleasant, even impossible. Last year Michael Heskanen and I toured the entire lake looking for these aliens, and are happy to report that none were found from the surface. This summer, we are looking for volunteer swimmers and divers to expand this surveillance underwater. And as always, it is critical for boaters to thoroughly inspect their boats before launching.

PROPERTY VALUES & POND HEALTH

We work with local and state officials responding to inquiries, and advocate for the health of our pond. Read inside (page 13) for an update on Auburn's reevaluation of Taylor Pond properties and the status of planned improvements to the Hotel Road Taylor Brook culvert for flood mitigation. There are also details on the LakeSmart program (page 5)--

a free evaluation of your property, suggestions for improvements that will keep the pond healthy and a possible \$500 matching grant to make those improvements.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Please consider volunteering with Taylor Pond Association, which depends on the time and talents of many. (Contact me at danaw1585@gmail.com) There are many ways to serve, including attending public meetings, water quality monitoring, advocacy, education or Board membership. TPA maintains a website (www.taylorpond.org) where you can read more about the organization and its activities. Learn more about lake stewardship in general, and how you can be involved, online at either the Lake Stewards of Maine (www.mainevlmp.org/) or the Maine Lakes Society (mainelakessociety.org/). Both are holding their annual conferences virtually this year, providing these excellent education opportunities to a broader audience (see page 11).

ANNUAL MEETING & COVID-19

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 23 at Taylor Pond Yacht Club, pending COVID-19 developments and our ability to offer a safe meeting format. We will keep you updated via email. As noted on the invoice sent in May, dues are optional this year in response to the economic hardship of the pandemic. Therefore a reminder invoice is not enclosed in this newsletter. Your support of our mission, however you are able to show it, is always highly valued. Thank you.

Dana Little

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.



SPECIAL THANKS

Long-time TPA Secretary Susan Trask retired from the Board last year, but it doesn't seem right to let her go without just a little fanfare in this year's newsletter. (It's the first issue we've put together without her, and we can tell you it's taken a full team to replace her as editor!) The consummate team player, Susan rarely grabbed the spotlight, so we want to shine a light on all that she's done and how very well she's done it. In addition to serving as secretary (since 2002), Susan took on many jobs for TPA over the years. She researched and wrote educational articles, edited the newsletter, coordinated the LakeSmart program, spearheaded the Defensible Space fire prevention program, maintained TPA records, kept the membership informed, and a myriad of other big and little things. Passionate about safeguarding the health of Taylor Pond as a natural resource and a community, Susan has been a critical and effective member of TPAs leadership team who will be dearly missed. Thank you, Susan!



TAYLOR POND WATER QUALITY REPORT— 2019

Water quality monitoring for 2019 was conducted by Woody Trask and Michael Heskanen from May through September. The findings for 2019 for the major parameters--clarity, phosphorus level, temperature, and oxygen content--showed no significant change from 2018 or compared to the historical averages for the past 10 years.

Measuring clarity is perhaps the best and simplest way to monitor water quality and detect any changes good or bad. It is determined by lowering a Secchi disc (see picture) and measuring the depth at which the disc is no longer visible. The test, along with all the other testing, is conducted at the deepest part of the pond (a 40+ foot spot roughly halfway between Taylor Pond Yacht Club and Cove Road) so as to ensure consistency and reliability of the data year to year.



If there has been any trend at all over the past decade, it has been a very slight warming of the surface temperature. The average temperature for 2019 was 74.3°F which was about a degree higher than the 10 year average. The third week in July was the warmest of the summer at 78.5°.

The ice out date for 2020 was April 2nd which was 20 days earlier than the 2019 ice out date of April 22nd. More weeks of open water are generally considered by lake scientists to be undesirable since it results in a longer period of sunlight exposure and warming, conditions conducive to increased algae growth.

The bottom line is that the quality of our water continues to be very good. We all need to continue to do our part as responsible land owners and pond users to see that it stays that way.

Woody Trask

KEEP IT CLEAN...SHORELINE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS SUPPORT TAYLOR POND WATER QUALITY

It's Summer...finally! Whether your idea of summer on Taylor Pond includes boating, floating, paddling, fishing, sailing, or simply relaxing in a deck chair on solid ground, you count on its clean water and accessible shoreline to get the most out of every, precious summer day. We all do. Of all the issues on TPA agendas over the years, none is more consistent and more important than water quality. It is no accident that our water is clear; it's thanks to the stewardship of us all.

One of the best ways to maintain water quality is from the shore. TPA offers help to property owners who want to make their shoreline more lake friendly. Free property evaluations and matching grants up to \$500 are available to members. Participation is completely voluntary. Property owners can opt out at any time (i.e. they are not required to implement any improvement suggestions and the property evaluation is purely educational, not regulatory).

Evaluations do advise property owners on Maine's shoreland zoning law and include customized recommendations for property improvements that will keep the pond healthy such as:

- Preventing rain runoff from directly entering the pond
- Planting a buffer along the shore
- Leaving grass at least three inches long when cutting
- Avoiding pesticides and fertilizers and
- Reducing lawn sizes

Homeowners (or road associations) who do want to apply for a matching grant (up to \$500) will follow these steps:

1. An initial, free LakeSmart property evaluation
2. Make improvements as recommended in the written evaluation
3. Provide proof of associated costs
4. Not make changes to the property that would worsen its score
5. Have a follow up evaluation to ensure satisfactory work

To find out more or schedule a LakeSmart evaluation, call Kristi Norcross at 577-6408.

PUBLIC NOTICE

There are **NO FIREWORKS** allowed in the City of Auburn.



Any consumer firework use or sales in the City of Auburn is a VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCE.

- Children should never handle, play with, or light fireworks.
- **Never throw or point fireworks at other people.**
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- **PARENTS are responsible for any damages associated with their children using fireworks.**
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that **FIREWORKS** were involved in an estimated 8,800 injuries treated in emergency departments this year.

PLEASE BE SAFE

Auburn Fire Department • 550 Minot Avenue • (207) 333-6633 ext. 6
fireprevention@auburnmaine.gov

Fourth of July Boat Parade



Come join the fun and celebrate our nation's founding for the Fourth Annual 4th of July Boat Parade on Taylor Pond! Deck out your boat with red, white, and blue and meet in front of the Yacht Club at 4 pm on the 4th. Boats will circumnavigate the pond, wave to neighbors along the shoreline, and have a blast! (A boat parade may just be the original social distancing celebration!)

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 and proper light if operating at night.
- 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. If you are transiting at night, be aware that loons and ducks may be in your path. Be vigilant!



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Taylor Pond is one of the few area lakes that is not infested with milfoil, an invasive feathery plant that can completely take over a shallow lake in a season. 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. The best, and almost only, defense is prevention. A one-inch piece of milfoil kept in a freezer for a year is still hearty and robust once submerged in water again. **Thank you for your vigilance!**

A POND FOR ALL SEASONS



MIDGES & MAYFLIES

What are those swarms of insects found hovering in the air near the pond? Midges make up most of these groups. The small flies look like tiny mosquitoes but do not bite. They smear our windshield on a summer night's drive, swarm over our head as we walk near the pond, cluster near bushes and collect around our porch lights at night. Most of their life they live in the water and only emerge as adult flies when the water warms up. Midges first appeared this year in early May, signaling that mayflies would soon appear.

Mayflies emerge as the pond water warms further. The first hatch I observed this year occurred in mid-May. Although called mayflies, adults appear all summer long, each species emerging at different times. It has been claimed that there are 162 species that live in Maine. When perched they hold their wings over their back like two praying hands. The adult female lays eggs in the water. The eggs hatch into the larval stage, the nymph. To mature, the nymph lives in water for up to three years. When signaled by rising water temperature, thousands of nymphs come to the water's surface where their skin splits and the adults emerge, ready to form a swarm.

Swarms of midges and mayflies can be so large that weather radar will pick them up. Estimates of swarm sizes range up to 80 billion individuals. In past springs along Lake Erie, snow plows were used to scoop them off the roads. As reported in National Geographic recently, scientists have found that the numbers of mayflies around Lake Erie have declined by 50%. The cause is thought to be water pollution which kills the nymphs.

Males predominate in swarms, whether midges or mayflies. They cluster together, flying rapidly up and down, waiting for females. Once they mate the female immediately flies to the water and lays her eggs to begin the cycle again. Mayflies belong to the group of insects called Ephemeroptera, the name of which is derived from the Greek words ephemeros (lasting only a day) and ptera (wings). Whereas the aquatic nymph stage lasts up to three years, the flying adult may live only a few hours or days.

Both mayflies and midges provide food for wildlife. Midges eat algae and decaying plants in the water and thereby remove phosphorus, improving the health of the pond. Abundant mayflies in a pond are also a sign of good water quality. Like midges, they remove phosphorus from the pond, and do not bite. So please welcome the annual emergence of midges and mayflies.

Dana Little



*Recently emerged Mayfly (2 inches long),
resting on an Alder Leaf*



A unique opportunity to learn about safeguarding Maine lakes is available this summer...and you can do it from the comfort of your own lakeside home. In lieu of their annual Lake Monitoring Conference, Lake Stewards of Maine/Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program will host a series of weekly informational webinars from June through August. "Fridays at 4 for

Lakes" will cover a wide range of topics pertaining to Maine Lakes. Approximately one hour in length, the webinars are open to Maine's citizen lake scientists and the general public.

The live webinars take place at 4pm on Friday afternoons, June 5, through August 28, with the exception of July 3. **Pre-registration is required for all who plan to attend the live webinars at lakestewardsofmaine.org** All sessions will be recorded and available for future viewing. The complete season of webinar topics and speakers will be posted at lakestewardsofmaine.org



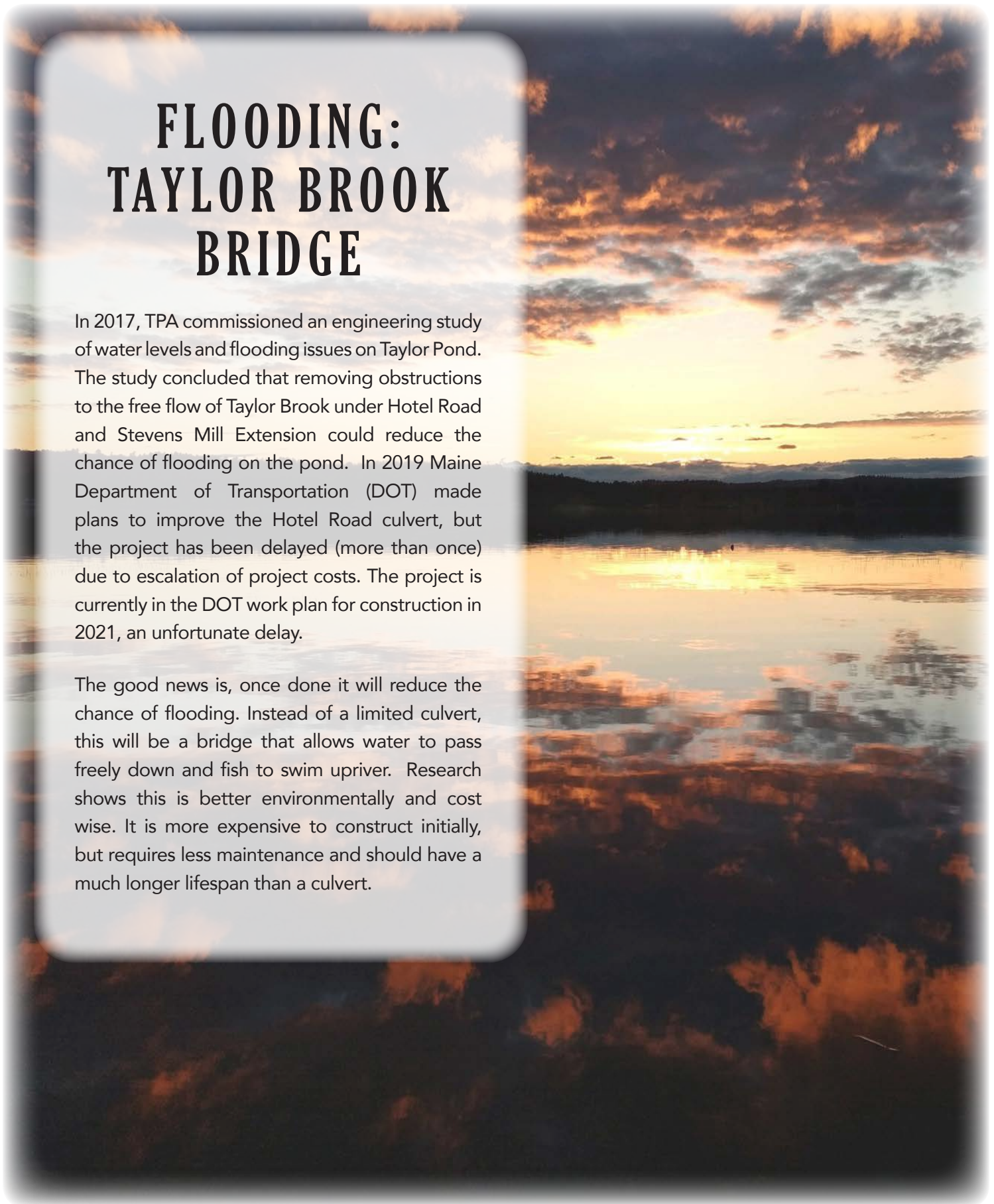
Maine Lakes Society celebrates their 50th annual Maine Lakes Conference virtually this year. With a mission to save Maine's lakes through science-based action, education and advocacy, the group has made the content of this milestone conference available to a broad online audience.

In light of COVID-19, Maine Lakes Society has taken the content of their 2020 in-person conference and created a series of eight weekly Wednesday webinars that started April 29 and ended June 17. Recorded webinars are posted at mainelakessociety.org and include topics such as LakeSmart Q & A; wakes and soil erosion; native plants for lakefront landscaping; loon mortality; citizen science tools; and more. The series culminated on Saturday June 20 with a keynote address by Hilary Snook, Senior Scientist at the EPA. Questions? Call (207) 495-2301 or email info@mainelakessociety.org.

FLOODING: TAYLOR BROOK BRIDGE

In 2017, TPA commissioned an engineering study of water levels and flooding issues on Taylor Pond. The study concluded that removing obstructions to the free flow of Taylor Brook under Hotel Road and Stevens Mill Extension could reduce the chance of flooding on the pond. In 2019 Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) made plans to improve the Hotel Road culvert, but the project has been delayed (more than once) due to escalation of project costs. The project is currently in the DOT work plan for construction in 2021, an unfortunate delay.

The good news is, once done it will reduce the chance of flooding. Instead of a limited culvert, this will be a bridge that allows water to pass freely down and fish to swim upriver. Research shows this is better environmentally and cost wise. It is more expensive to construct initially, but requires less maintenance and should have a much longer lifespan than a culvert.



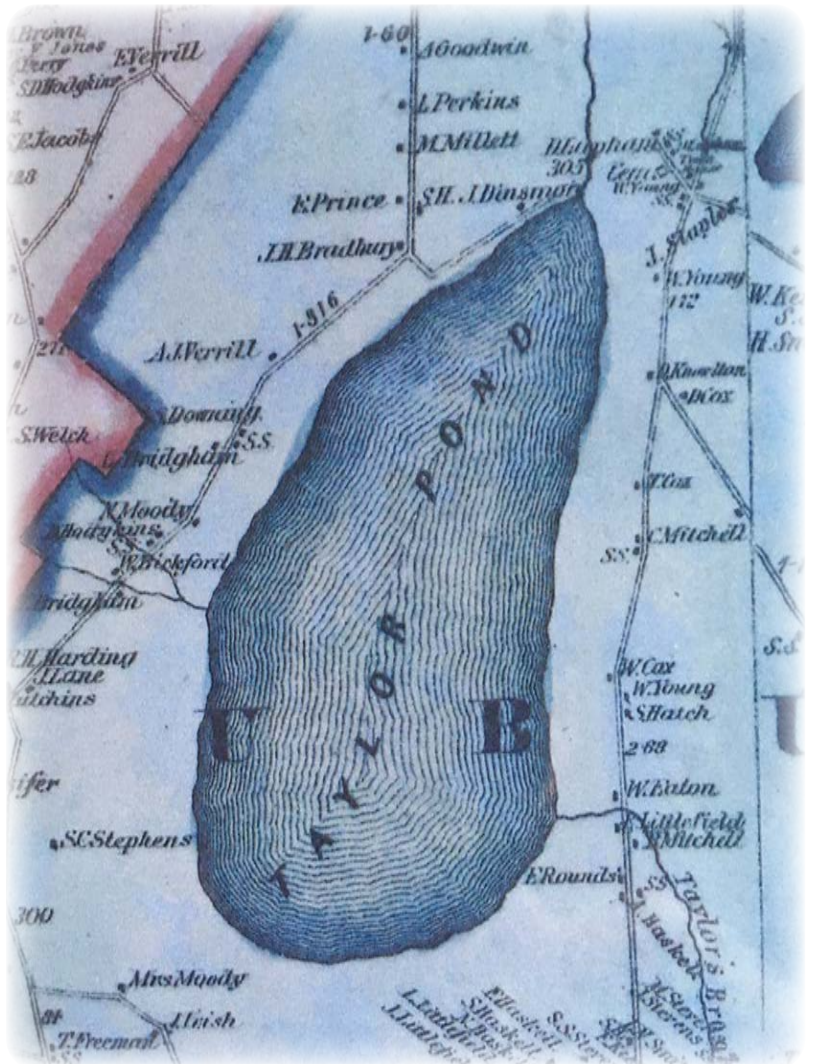
TAYLOR POND VALUATION UPDATE

The City of Auburn, Assessing Division has been engaged in a review of waterfront Taylor Pond property values. This multi-year appraisal process includes an analysis of sales and property inspections. As of April 1, 2020 the analysis was not complete. As such there will be no market adjustments made for the upcoming tax year as a direct result of the study.

Although there will not be any overall market adjustments for the upcoming tax year, edits to value were necessary for some properties following inspections. These adjustments were for new additions, demolitions, decks, garages, miscellaneous outbuildings, additional bathrooms, condition changes or other corrections that were discovered during the inspections or subsequent to permit work.

The Taylor Pond study includes 196 total parcels. Only 28% of properties saw a value increase. For the most part, any adjustments were minor – often they were less than 1% of the improvement value. Value reductions were posted for 29% of properties and 43% of properties saw no change in value. The Assessing Division intends to notify all Taylor Pond property owners whether or not their value changed in a letter prior to commitment, although the COVID-19 outbreak hampered efforts to do this. They hope to notify individual property owners before July 1, 2020.

Homeowners should also be aware that the homestead exemption is being raised from \$20,000 to \$25,000 this year. This means that many Taylor Pond year round property owners (who have a homestead exemption) will likely see their taxes decrease, even if the property value increases – because very few increased more than \$5,000.



Property Value	Number of Properties
REDUCED	57
NO CHANGE	84
INCREASED*	55

*These increases were overwhelmingly minor, from 0.02% to 14.17%. Only three properties had an improvement value increase greater than 10%.

Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

Balance through 12/31/2018				\$26,433.34
2019 Income				
	Dues & Contributions	\$6,175.00		
	Interest Income	\$28.56		
	Income Total	\$6,203.56		
2019 Expenses				
	Federal Filing		\$39.95	
	State fees		\$35.00	
	MLS Dues		\$200.00	
	MVLMP Contribution		\$500.00	
	Dues Letter Printing & Mailing		\$143.59	
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$1,293.84	
	Annual Meeting expense		\$14.40	
	Water Testing expense & Lab Fees		\$280.17	
	Expense Total		\$2,506.95	
Net Gain, (Loss)				\$3,696.31
Balance through 12/31/2019				\$30,129.95

In 2019, TPA counted 139 dues paying members at every membership level. The Association appreciates the generosity and support of every member, every year. As of 05/26/2020, 42 members have paid dues for 2020 and the Taylor Pond Association checking account has a balance of \$31,691.33

Edwin Gray, Treasurer

As an important part of TPA education efforts, this annual newsletter is mailed to all property owners in the Taylor Pond shore land zone, as well as local and environmental leaders. To be included in future mailings, please contact Ed Gray, 153 Chicoine Ave, Auburn, ME 04210 or email: edwin_gray@hotmail.com

TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020
AT 7 P.M.
AT THE TAYLOR POND
YACHT CLUB

This annual chance to visit with pond neighbors will look a little different this year due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

Check your email for updates as the date draws near. To add or change your email address, please contact Luci Merin
lucile.merin@gmail.com

PHOTO CREDITS

Thanks to the following Taylor Pond residents for the use of photos in this issue: Connie Bedette, Linda Chiaravelotti, Coleman Coyne, Sandy Hansen, Roy L'Italien, Dana Little, Luci Merin, Barbara Mitchell, Jennifer Pare, Dyanne Smith, Susan Trask, Woody Trask, Linda Whitlow

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors whose terms expire
Summer 2020

Dana Little
President (784-1908)
danawl@roadrunner.com

Edwin Gray
Treasurer (720-0098)
edwin_gray@hotmail.com

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Donna Morin
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Directors whose terms expire
Summer 2021

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Barbara Mitchell (783-9000)
bmitch61@aol.com

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

Woody Trask (784-4606)
woodytrask@roadrunner.com

Directors serve two-year terms and are elected at the annual meeting. If you have internet access and are willing to serve as an officer or director, please contact Dana Little. We are grateful to all our directors for their commitment and welcome new members of the board.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Taylor Pond Association members support the mission of maintaining the water quality of Taylor Pond in order to preserve wildlife habitat, protect property values and safeguard recreational opportunities. An active membership remains essential to the overall well-being of our organization. If you have never been a member or are a former member who has not yet renewed, please join us. If you are an active member, thank you for your ongoing support.

Basic Annual Dues are \$25, payable to TPA, and can be sent to treasurer, Ed Gray, 153 Chicoine Ave, Auburn, ME 04210. Please include both mailing and Taylor Pond addresses, as well as a current email address. Donations to TPA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

