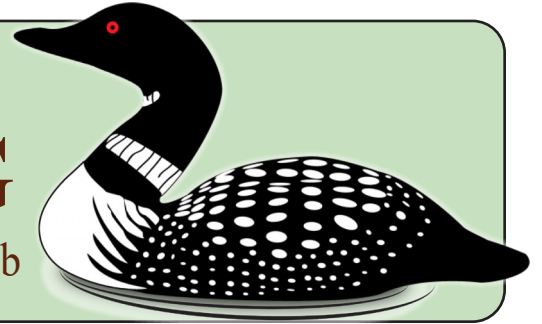


# Taylor Pond Association News

SUMMER 2022

## TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, August 28th | 7 pm | Taylor Pond Yacht Club



**Returns and address corrections to:** Edwin Gray, 153 Chicoine Ave., Auburn, ME 04210  
Interested in volunteering to help with TPA programs? Please call Dana Little at 207.784.1908

Please visit the TPA website: [www.taylorpond.org](http://www.taylorpond.org)

# TPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Directors whose terms expire Summer 2022

Dana Little  
President (784-1908)  
danawl@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

Bill Turner  
bill@mainesource.com

## Directors whose terms expire Summer 2023

Brian Cullen  
(241-0505)  
kingkull73@gmail.com

Luci Merin  
Secretary (240-3811)  
lucile.merin@gmail.com

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

## 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.



## PHOTO CREDITS

Thank you to the following Taylor Pond residents for contributing newsletter photos this year: John Bell, Dana Little, Barbara Mitchell, Jennifer Pare, Heidi Stoddard, and Susan Trask.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the TPA board of directors, I am happy to share some of our activities in support of TPA's mission this year, as well as raise a few topics to keep you aware of activities related to preserving the ecology of Taylor Pond.

## **THREATS TO THE POND'S HEALTH**

We were alerted to two threats to Taylor Pond's health this last year—construction of a new horse farm on West Auburn Road and logging at Taylor Pond Yacht Club. As a result, we started monitoring for pollution entering the pond via feeder streams that drain these two properties. We found no evidence of contamination from the horse farm activities but were alarmed by elevated levels of phosphorus from the Yacht Club stream. Fortunately, these elevated levels have since dropped to normal, but we will continue to monitor and report back. You can read more about this on page 8, in addition to a summary of pending zoning changes which may affect properties on Taylor Pond written by board member Barbara Mitchell on page 7.

## **PHOSPHOROUS CONTROL ORDINANCE**

In relation to water quality threats, one of our board members, attorney Brian Cullen, brings clarity to the City of Auburn's phosphorus control ordinance in an article on page 9. The rules become applicable when new construction involves more than 250 square feet of ground floor area or with certain earthmoving, tree or brush cutting or paving activities. When one seeks a permit for such activities, the city's planning department will guide you through the process.

## **WATER QUALITY AND WARMING**

Another board member, retired professional chemist Woody Trask, writes about water quality testing on page 13. His report shows the levels of phosphorus in the pond remain stable with an average in 2021 of 12, below the level of 15 at which algal blooms can

occur. Records of ice in and out dates are showing a trend toward later ice in and earlier ice out dates. This trend has also been seen in Lake Auburn and many other Maine lakes and is consistent with global warming. The monitors also measure the water temperature which shows an upward trend over the last fifty years. With less ice cover on Taylor Pond warming will occur leading to an increased likelihood of algal blooms.

## **\$500 LAKESMART MATCHING FUNDS**

I serve as our pond's local contact for LakeSmart, a volunteer run program run by the nonprofit organization Maine Lakes. Last year, I visited two homes, showed owners how to make their property more lake friendly, and helped them each earn \$500 grants. Taylor Pond Association will match up to \$500 of your expenditures if you are a member, have a LakeSmart evaluation, follow the recommendations made and do nothing to worsen your impact on the lake. If you are interested, please contact me [danawl585@gmail.com](mailto:danawl585@gmail.com) or [Kristi Norcross Knorcross@roadrunner.com](mailto:Kristi.Norcross@roadrunner.com) or 207-577-6408.

## **FIREWORKS**

According to the fire department "Consumer fireworks in the City of Auburn are a violation of city ordinance and carry a fine of \$200 to \$1,000 for each violation. This includes firecrackers, bottle rockets, and missiles." Please celebrate safely this summer.

## **BOATING**

The most common violation of boating laws that we see on the pond is excessive speed. Within 200 feet of shoreline watercraft may only travel at headway speed which is defined as the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage of the watercraft. Boaters are responsible for maintaining a safe distance from swimmers and other boats and for the effects of their wakes on the shoreline and other watercraft.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## (CONTINUED)

### LOON NESTING

Loons enjoy our pond as much as we do. Unfortunately, we rarely see any breeding success. Although there are usually a half dozen loons on the pond, the last observed chick was several years ago. I have seen chicks on ponds smaller than ours, so it is not our size that inhibits them. I suspect it is the degree to which the shoreline is built up with homes. Michael Heskanen and Peter Durgin last year constructed a floating nest to encourage the loons to breed here. The nest is located at the mouth of Lapham Brook, and we encourage you not to disturb the site.

### SWIMMER'S ITCH (AND FEEDING DUCKS)

I love all the birds we have on Taylor Pond and you can read about them in my article on page 10. There are two health issues with having birds too close to us, however. Swimmer's itch is caused by a parasite that depends on ducks pooping in the water which releases the parasite's eggs. The eggs hatch and then the parasite lives in snails before they drop into the water and crawl into the exposed skin of a swimmer. They cause an itchy rash that can last several weeks. Keeping the ducks away and drying your skin with a towel as soon as leaving the water will usually prevent problems. There is also a new influenza virus carried by birds that so far seems not to infect people but has caused the death of millions of chickens across the country. In both cases bird poop is the agent by which these diseases are spread. Once you start feeding the ducks you invite both infections into your home.

### BROWNTAIL MOTHS

Unfortunately, Taylor Pond resides in the middle of a zone of widespread Browntail Moth infestations. Three years ago, I observed them nearly denuding the trees above Kohl's along Gracelawn Road and I acquired an itchy rash that lasted 3 weeks from their urticarial

hairs. Their hand-sized silvery web nests can be spotted at the tops of numerous oaks and fruit trees around the pond. The State of Maine maintains an excellent website and professionals who can advise you on management of this pest. The preferred technique for removal is hand removal of the winter nests. Spraying pesticides anywhere near the shoreline is illegal. I recommend hiring a licensed pesticide applicator if you decide you cannot tolerate them. There is a technique used by experts in which trees close to the water can be injected safely to kill the caterpillars. So far, I have preferred to leave them for the Cuckoos to eat.

As always, thank you for your continued membership support, your stewardship of our shared natural resources, and your willingness to volunteer when needed. I am always happy to share ways you can learn more about our pond and participate in keeping it safe. To that end, I invite you to join me on June 29 at Auburn Public Library, where I have been invited to speak about Taylor Pond as part of the library's adult summer reading program. See page 11 for details.

*Dana Little*



# wa•ter•shed

"noun"

1. The entire region draining into a river, river system, or other body of water
2. A critical point that marks a division or a change of course; a turning point

Source: The American Heritage Dictionary

Everyone lives in a watershed. The water in your backyard drains over or under the ground to a body of water and is a part of its watershed—whether that body of water is literally in your backyard or miles away.

Watershed condition is important to everyone and everything that uses and needs water. Healthy watersheds provide critical services, such as clean drinking water, productive fisheries, and outdoor recreation, that support our economies, environment and quality of life.

In Auburn, historically and of late, considerable public discussion has centered on the Lake Auburn watershed. Most recently, the effects of proposed and enacted regulations (zoning and septic), and ensuing potential development, have sparked public/private debate over the short- and long-term effects on water quality in Lake Auburn, the public water supply for Auburn and Lewiston. With a mission to

maintain the water quality of Taylor Pond, and as stewards of an inextricably linked ecosystem, our association is paying mindful attention.

Our work remains even closer to home, as two potential direct threats to Taylor Pond’s water quality through feeder streams (page 8) have prompted increased water quality monitoring; the application of the existing local phosphorous control ordinance designed to address such instances is highlighted (page 9); and the proposed and enacted changes in state and local zoning on Taylor Pond properties (page 7) is clarified with a map that includes the Taylor Pond watershed. To provide continuing opportunities for our members to learn and model best practices for stewardship of our pond, Auburn’s Deputy Director of Planning and Permitting John Blais will speak at our annual meeting. (See page 11.)

Luci Merin

## 1937 - Water Quality Uproar at Taylor Pond



Lewiston Daily Sun news clippings from 1937 illustrate turbulent times as health officials, cottage owners, and city leaders spar over water quality, septic ordinance compliance and the safety of bathers in Taylor Pond. Clippings courtesy of Androscoggin Historical Society.

# Fourth of July Boat Parade

Join the fun at the Fifth Annual 4th of July Boat Parade on Taylor Pond! Deck out your boat in Red, White & Blue. Meet in front of Crescent Beach at 4 pm on the 4th to circle the pond and wave to neighbors on shore!



## PLEASE CELEBRATE SAFELY!

There are NO FIREWORKS allowed in the City of Auburn.  
Any consumer firework use or sale in the City of Auburn  
in a VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCE.

Auburn Fire Department • (207) 333-6633 ext 6  
[fireprevention@auburnmaine.gov](mailto:fireprevention@auburnmaine.gov)

# AUBURN REZONING AND TAYLOR POND PROPERTIES

As part of Auburn’s updated comprehensive plan, the “Future Land Use” section calls for changes in zoning districts and density limits in an effort to help ease Auburn’s housing shortage. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan suggests “reducing the number of distinct zones to 10 zones from more than 20 zones, and increasing density limits in the majority of zones, especially in areas that already have public utilities.”

In public and private forums there has been considerable debate about the plan, including questions about the impact on the Lake Auburn watershed. Lake Auburn provides the public drinking water supply to Auburn and Lewiston. Increased development in the watershed has the potential to impact water quality and a recent study recommends against additional housing density in the watershed as proposed in the plan. According to Lake Stewards of Maine, there are many imminent threats to Maine lakes. Near the top of the list, and perhaps the most pervasive, is the potential for lakes to become nutrient enriched and more biologically productive as a result of development in lake watersheds, the organization notes.

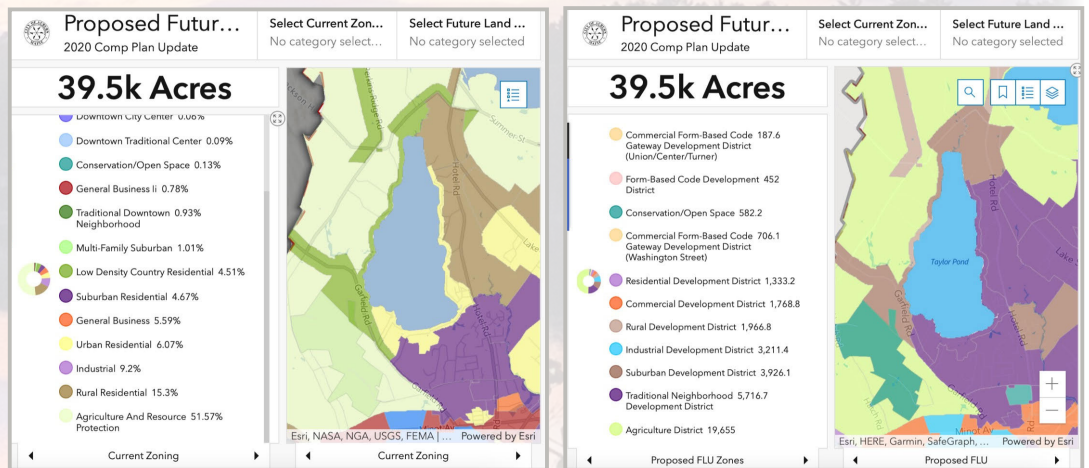
In addition to the zoning changes in areas surrounding Lake Auburn there are significant changes proposed for land in the Taylor Pond watershed that could increase density by 8-16 times in some areas of the watershed if approved. Some of these areas do not already have public utilities (year-round city water, sewer, road maintenance and firefighting capacity), seemingly in opposition to the plan’s stated priority to focus density in areas with existing utilities.

The new maps show areas being rezoned from Low Density Country Residential (1 residential building per 3 acres) and Rural Residential (1 residential building per acre) to Suburban Residential or

Traditional Neighborhood Development (which, as proposed, could allow 8 and 16 residential units per acre).

In addition to these municipal rezoning proposals, the Maine State Legislature has passed a law potentially increasing the current densities allowed by cities and towns by up to 250%. That potentially allows 20 and 40 residential units in areas around the pond that currently allow only one if both local proposals and state laws are applied. Development at that pace could not only change the character of neighborhoods, but potentially affect water quality in the pond. Taylor Pond is currently on the State of Maine’s list of water bodies most at risk from development.

The maps shown here indicate that zoning of almost all the land immediately surrounding Taylor Pond will change under this proposal. In most cases, new zoning would accommodate considerably higher density than is currently allowed. The maps show the current zones (left) and the proposed zone changes (right).



As citizen committees, elected officials and city staff work diligently to find balance between development and natural resource protection, the details of this issue will change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to [www.auburnmaine.org](http://www.auburnmaine.org) for meeting minutes and reporting at [www.sunjournal.com](http://www.sunjournal.com)

Barbara Mitchell

# INCREASED PHOSPHORUS FROM TPYC STREAM THREATENS TAYLOR POND

This spring Taylor Pond Association tested the stream that crosses the Taylor Pond Yacht Club property and found high levels of phosphorus draining into the pond. High levels of phosphorus can cause algae blooms that threaten our water quality. It is not certain what caused these high levels but they did coincide with spring runoff following a timber harvest. Woody Trask and I have been investigating the possible cause.

In late 2021, TPA was alerted to two possible causes of increased erosion and potential phosphorus runoff into Taylor Pond. Underwood Farm, off West Auburn Road, cleared trees around a feeder stream supplying Lapham Brook, the main inlet for Taylor Pond. This clearing violated Best Management Practices for erosion control. The City of Auburn became concerned because of the potential to pollute Lake Auburn. As a result, The city required Underwood Farm to develop a phosphorus control plan. The plan requires a 75-foot buffer on each side of the stream. In addition, they need to comply with a manure management plan that involves removing all manure and trucking it off site on a regular basis. Followup investigation of runoff suggested that little water from the farm makes its way to Lake Auburn and that it primarily drains into Taylor Pond.

A second area of concern arose this winter when Taylor Pond Yacht Club conducted an extensive timber harvest on their 44 acres. A small stream courses through the property and empties into Taylor Pond. The harvesting machinery crossed the stream using a temporary bridge and erosion of the bank was visible at the site. In addition, trees were harvested on both sides of the brook and

deeply rutted trails were created with the potential for soil, and therefore phosphorus, washing into the pond.

Because of these two issues we began testing for phosphorus in selected feeder streams to Taylor Pond. We had not been testing feeder streams prior to last year. For the last 36 years we have been testing the water at the deepest spot on the pond using techniques taught to us by the Auburn Water District and Lake Stewards of Maine. Lake Auburn has had its feeder streams tested for years and their technicians provided us with expertise to test Taylor Pond's streams. We sent the water samples to the state lab in Augusta and A&L Lab in Auburn for testing.

Initially, we just checked Lapham Brook and obtained a level of 8 (parts per billion) in December and this rose to 12 in March. By comparison, the average phosphorus last year in Taylor Pond was 12 (the 36-year average was 10.25). Levels in this range will not typically cause harmful algal blooms. This provided some small reassurance that Underwood Farm was not causing problems for Taylor Pond.

We then tested the brook crossing Taylor Pond Yacht Club property in January, prior to spring runoff, and we obtained a level of 4. However, in March, after the completion of timber harvesting, this rose to 37. This high level was obtained after a rain event and the snow had mostly melted. If all streams leading into Taylor Pond had levels this high, we could face a significant algal bloom. Algae can not only be unsightly and decrease home values, but they can also produce toxins that can be harmful to pets, people and wildlife.

On April 19th we repeated the testing on the Taylor Pond Yacht Club stream and Hodgkin's Brook just after another heavy rain event. We tested Hodgkin's Brook because it is another small feeder stream running into Taylor Pond. The results for the Yacht Club stream came back at 8 and Hodgkin's Brook at 7 for phosphorus. This reassured us that high levels of phosphorus are still not entering the pond. Actions have been taken by Wylie Mitchell to reduce the likelihood of further erosion into the Yacht Club stream, using hay bales as barriers, spreading hay and seeds on exposed soil. Taylor Pond Association will continue to monitor feeder streams regularly and as needed if concerns are raised.

*Dana Little*





# AUBURN'S PHOSPHORUS CONTROL ORDINANCE

## ITS APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCTION AND LAND USE ACTIVITIES IN THE TAYLOR POND WATERSHED

After investigating two potential threats of increased phosphorus in Taylor Pond recently, the board wanted to learn more and share information about local ordinances that relate to phosphorus control for the protection of the watershed. The City of Auburn's comprehensive Code of Ordinances contains a section titled Environmental Performance Standards. (Chapter 60, Article XIII.) Within that section are provisions for Phosphorus Control measures required in connection with various construction and land use activities occurring within the Lake Auburn and Taylor Pond watersheds. (Division 2.) The ordinance and its measures are intended to mitigate the introduction of additional phosphorus into Taylor Pond and Lake Auburn.

Phosphorus is a common, naturally occurring element which acts as a nutrient. When introduced into a pond or lake, phosphorus promotes algal growth and if unchecked, can proliferate into the phenomenon known as algae bloom. Algae blooms are harmful to lake health, difficult and expensive to remediate, diminish lake clarity and deplete lake oxygen. This can lead to murky, odorous water and cause fish kills. The resulting degradation of the water quality also typically diminishes the value of surrounding lakeshore property.

Many Taylor Pond property owners may not be familiar with Auburn's specific phosphorus control requirements. The requirements apply only to the Taylor Pond and Lake Auburn watersheds and are in addition to the City's building code and zoning ordinance provisions, which apply to construction and land use activity throughout the city. For example, although the construction and maintenance of septic systems may

present phosphorous related issues, the City's requirements pertaining to septic systems are separate and distinct from the Phosphorous Control Ordinance. Indeed, ongoing efforts to amend the City's septic regulations applicable to the Lake Auburn watershed, may further compound property owner confusion.

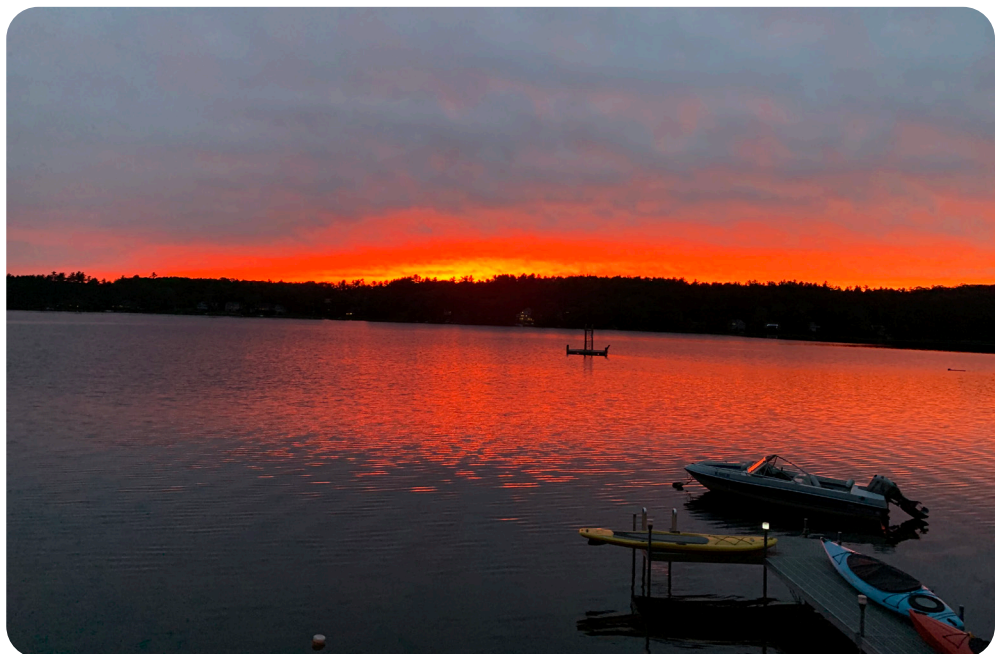
Refocusing on the Phosphorus Control Ordinance is particularly timely in light of a recent amendment which makes it applicable to even more projects. Previously the ordinance applied to new buildings of 575 square feet or more. As amended, the ordinance now applies to the construction of new buildings or structures with more than 250 square feet of ground floor area. The revised standard could apply to many large sheds, garages and building additions. The ordinance also applies to building expansions of more than 30%.

In addition, the ordinance extends to the following land use type activities: earthmoving or brush and tree cutting affecting 10,000 sq ft or more and road, driveway or parking area construction/reconstruction of 1500 sq ft or more.

Pursuant to the express terms of the ordinance, projects meeting the above criteria require a phosphorus control permit. As currently administered by the City's planning department however, there is no separate permit; consideration of phosphorus control issues is included within the same review process as issuance of a building permit. This may contribute to the relative obscurity of the phosphorus control ordinance.

In any event, when the City's planning department determines that an application for a building permit implicates the phosphorus control ordinance, it will require the applicant to submit a phosphorus control plan. The plan needs to be prepared by an environmental engineer and must meet the standards contained in the Maine Stormwater Management Design Manual, Phosphorus Control Manual Volume II, March 2016. Upon review and approval by the City's planning department, compliance with the phosphorus control plan will be one of the terms of the resulting building permit.

*Brian Cullen*



## BIRDS OF TAYLOR POND



*Cape May Warbler*

The wealth of birdlife around Taylor Pond always amazes me. When we bought our home on the pond it was a Great Blue Heron standing in the waterlily-filled cove that most convinced me to settle along the shore. Last year we had a Bald Eagle nesting in one of the tall White Pine trees on the west shore. In the winter, eagles and crows collect around the ice-fishing shacks to feed on discarded fish. In the summer, osprey hunt the waters for fish and then fly back to their nests in the distance. Belted Kingfishers haunt the edges of the pond, perching on overhanging branches of trees or the mast of a sailboat, before plunging into the water after small fish.

For me, spring officially starts when I hear the first Red-winged blackbird singing in the swamp that surrounds my home. Soon, joined by dozens of other Red-wings and Grackles, there ensues a cacophony of sound for the next month, shouting out that warm days are coming. They nest in tangled buttonbush swamps almost impossible for a person to navigate and difficult for predators to penetrate. A few weeks after they arrive, I will listen in the evenings for the calls and flight songs of the

American Woodcock that probe my lawn looking for worms. As the days warm the Tree Swallows return to their nesting boxes and the flute-like songs of the Veery and Hermit Thrush reassure me that all is well.

The pond and surrounding wetlands nourish a variety of larval insects that hatch into flying adults in the spring and summer. Warblers come from South America to feed and raise their babies on the abundant insect life. The surrounding woods provide summer homes to one of the world's most diverse collection of warblers including Yellow, Chestnut-Sided, Magnolia, Black-Throated Blue, Black-Throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Pine, Tennessee, Nashville, Northern Parula, Black-and-White, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Canada, and Wilson's Warblers. Other warblers only show up for a few weeks as they head north in the spring for boreal Canada or south in the fall to Central and South America. These include the Cape May, Blackburnian, Palm, Blackpoll and Orange-Crowned Warblers. Being hard to spot makes seeing these colorful gems special.

The pond serves as a valuable migration stop for many other birds. Flocks of ducks, tired from flying hundreds of miles, stop to rest and feed on the water. In the spring and fall we often see Ringed-neck, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye and Ruddy Duck.

Shy American Bitterns make their pumping calls from deep in swampy areas and rarely can be seen flying overhead. Virginia Rails skulk about in the tangled wetlands, more often heard than seen, it is a rare reward to watch them walking along with

a half-dozen black, fluffy ping-pong ball-sized youngsters. Green and Great Blue Herons hunt along the shores for fish, snails, crayfish, and aquatic insects. Fruit-loving Gray Catbirds and Baltimore Orioles love the thickets in wet areas that are loaded with berry bushes. As you might expect from the abundance of black flies, mosquitoes and other annoying insects, we have a variety of flycatchers including the Eastern Wood-pewee, Willow, Alder, Least and Great Crested Flycatchers, and the Eastern Phoebe that loves to build its nest around the house. In the summer you can hear the shy Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos calling as they search for the caterpillars feeding on tree leaves.

I have documented 121 species of birds that nest around the pond or come to this area to feed their young and will post a comprehensive listing on the website [www.taylorpond.org](http://www.taylorpond.org). In addition, another 36 species use the pond or surrounding lands as a staging area on their way north or south in the spring and fall. Rise up at dawn some spring morning and listen to the chorus of birds singing, one of the world's natural wonders everyone should experience. Birds brought me to my home and provide an ever-changing spectacle for me to enjoy my stay.

*Dana Little*



*Black and White Warbler*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## TAYLOR POND – WILDLIFE, WATER & RECREATION

**Speaker: Dana Little, President,  
Taylor Pond Association**

**Wednesday, June 29th 3:00 PM**

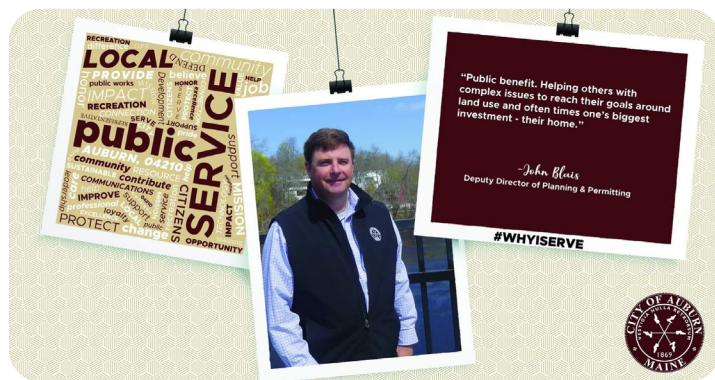
**Auburn Public Library,  
Androscoggin Community Room**

Coming to reside on Taylor Pond several years after first moving to Maine 30 years ago, naturalist Dana Little will talk about the natural history of the pond, including its geological origins, Native American history, colonial history, ecology, wildlife diversity, water quality and recreation. His life-long experiences as a bird-watcher and natural history observer have provided him with extensive knowledge of this precious resource in Auburn. Dana grew up in Amherst, Massachusetts, and became a bird-watcher when his grandfather gave him opera glasses when he was 6. Since then, he has never stopped observing and learning about the natural world! His undergraduate study was in zoology with an emphasis on ecology and limnology (the study of



lakes). In addition to having served as President of the Taylor Pond Association for the past 15 years, Dana is a member of Lake Stewards of Maine and a board member of Androscoggin Land Trust, which works to preserve wild places for people to enjoy and agricultural areas to help sustain local farms.

This program will be presented as part of Auburn Public Library's Adult Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities" wherein adults will spend time exploring Maine's waterways. It will take place in person, and registration is required. Visit [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org) or email [dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org](mailto:dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org) to register for this free program.



John Blais joined the City of Auburn Planning, Permitting and Code Division in 2021. Highly qualified to speak on a variety of topics that impact Taylor Pond, especially current zoning changes around Lake Auburn and Taylor Pond, he has expertise in how to keep our pond healthy, lakeside living and a special interest in fishing. He is a graduate of Unity College and the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service. A veteran with extensive experience in government planning and development, he has worked for the State in the Bureau of General Services/Real Estate Management and Department of Conservation;

## TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL MEETING

**Speaker: John Blais, City of Auburn,  
Deputy Director of  
Planning and Permitting  
Sunday, August 28, 7:00 pm  
Taylor Pond Yacht Club**

the Maine Army National Guard as master planner; and the Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District as watershed project director. He also has private sector experience as a project manager/estimator, environmental inspector, civil manager and more. A resident of Vassalboro, he owns and runs a professional, full-service guide company specializing in freshwater fishing.

Mr. Blais will speak as part of the Taylor Pond Association Annual Meeting, which will also include a short business meeting.

# 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!***

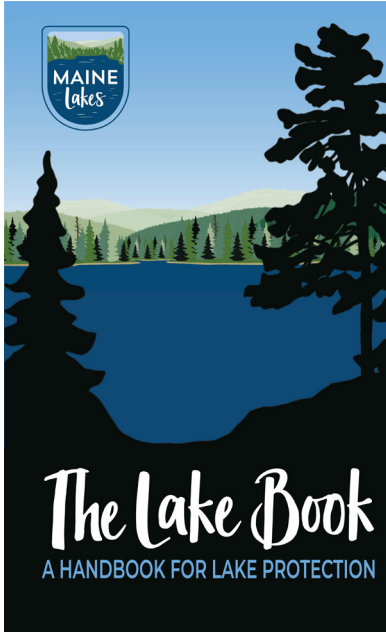


## IMPORTANT NOTE:

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!**

# THE LAKE BOOK 4TH EDITION

You may already be familiar with *The Lake Book*, a publication that first circulated in the lakes community in the 1980s. *The Lake Book* was packed with information about lakes and the impacts people have on lake ecology and health. Forty years later, *The Lake Book's* fourth edition, has a smaller wire-bound format, stunning graphics, colorful photos, and up to date information about lake science, lake wildlife, native plants, best management practices for erosion control, and a list of achievable actions you can take to



improve your lake. New pages on climate impacts, invasive species, and algal threats have been added, making this a useful book for all who use, visit, and live on or near Maine's lakes and ponds. *The Lake Book* is published by Maine Lakes and FB Environmental, with funding provided by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust.

Electronic copies (PDF file) of *The Lake Book* may be downloaded for free at the Maine Lakes website, <https://www.lakes.me/lakebook>. Taylor Pond Association will have a limited number of hard copies of the *The Lake Book* available at the annual meeting or when you request a LakeSmart evaluation.

## TAYLOR POND WATER QUALITY REPORT— 2021



Clarity readings and samplings for phosphorus, temperature and other critical parameters were conducted monthly from June through September by Woody Trask with additional clarity readings taken mid-May to mid-October by Michael Heskanen. Except for a higher than normal surface temperature in 2021, the results were consistent with readings obtained for the past several years and indicate good water quality.

- Average clarity was slightly lower than last year but well above the historic average.
- Phosphorus readings (an indicator of the potential for algae blooms) were up slightly from last year but not high enough to be of concern and well within the normal range for the pond.
- Values for color, pH, alkalinity and conductance were all within the normal range of variation from the historic mean.
- Average surface temperature (taken at 1 meter depth) was 23.9°C (75°F), which is 0.6°C (1.1°F) higher than 2020 and 1.0°C (1.8°F) higher than the average for the past 10 years, an indicator to watch
- "Ice in" occurred on 12/21/21 and "ice out" was officially recorded on April 6, 2022. The historical average for "ice out" is April 14, however the most recent 10 year average is April 10, another indication of warming climatic conditions.

Woody Trask

## Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

<b>Balance through 12/31/2020</b>				<b>\$30,982.32</b>
<b>2021 Income</b>				
	Dues & Contributions	\$7,190.00		
	Interest Income	\$ 33.55		
	Income Total	\$7,223.55		
<b>2021 Expenses</b>				
	Federal Filing		\$ 49.99	
	State fees		\$ 35.00	
	MLS Dues		\$ 200.00	
	MVLMP Contribution		\$ 500.00	
	Lake Smart Payments		\$ 0.00	
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$1,407.58	
	Website Renewal		\$ 94.99	
	Water Testing Expense & Lab Fees		\$ 502.85	
	Expense Total		\$2,790.41	
<b>Net Gain (Loss)</b>				<b>\$ 4,433.14</b>
<b>Balance through 12/31/2021</b>				<b>\$35,415.46</b>

In 2021, TPA received 143 dues payments at various amounts. The Association appreciates the generosity of all its members. As of 05/31/2022, 89 members have renewed for 2022, and the Taylor Pond Association checking account has a balance of \$39,498.04. If you received a membership notice in this newsletter, it means we had not received your renewal as of 6/10/22.

*Edwin Gray*

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

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
- Reducing lawn sizes

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

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



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

## 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.

If your mailing of the newsletter includes a membership form, it means we had not received your 2022 dues as of 6/10/2021. 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.

While the majority of our members are Taylor Pond residents and property owners, membership is open to anyone who would like to stay informed about our activities and support our mission. Thank you!

