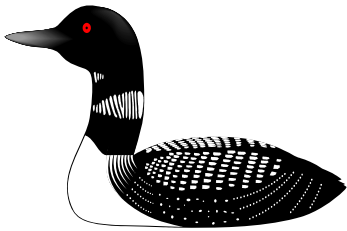

Taylor Pond Association News

*June,
2011*



***TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING***
Sunday, July 10, 2011, 7-9 p.m.
Taylor Pond Yacht Club
Guest speaker – Nature Photographer Dan Marquis

Returns and address corrections to:

Michael Dixon
126 Everett Road
Auburn, Maine 04210

Interested in
volunteering to
help with TPA
programs?
Please call
Dana Little at
784-1908 or
Michael Dixon
at 783-7763.

Please visit the TPA website:
www.taylorpondassociation.org



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 2011 dues. 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.

Taylor Pond association would like to thank Dom Casavant, Dana Little, Leslie Thayer, and Susan Trask for contributing photos for this year's newsletter.



President's Report Dana Little, June 1, 2011

Taylor Pond Association works to protect the pond for all to enjoy. We support those activities that promote water quality, safe recreation and an appreciation of the beauty of the pond. Several people this year have contacted me about issues around feeding of ducks and geese. I love seeing birds and I like the enthusiasm of people who feed the birds. However, I have included an article on some precautions that one should consider when feeding wildlife.

I especially enjoyed the ice fishing derby on the pond this year, February 5th. Cindy Leavitt initiated this event to support her nonprofit charity, Healthy Smiles for Maine, that provides free dental care to many needy families. I saw Northern Pike pulled out that measured over 36 inches. I counted over 100 people roaming the ice that day. To see a video about this event go to www.wmtw.com/video/26758732/detail.html.

We have not had enough people applying for grants this last year. We match up to \$500 of qualified expenses for improvements to a property's landscaping that bring it into compliance with the LakeSmart Program. Call Susan Trask for information about our grant program or go to the website <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/lakesmart/> for more information on LakeSmart.

Please join us at our annual meeting July 10th at Taylor Pond Yacht Club at 7pm and be prepared to be inspired by a presentation of photos by Dan Marquis. We welcome anyone with an interest in serving on the board or helping us with projects, email me at danawl@roadrunner.com for more information.

2011 slate of candidates for the Taylor Pond Association Board of Directors to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2011:

President	Dana Little (784-1908)
Secretary	Susan Trask (784-4606)
Treasurer	Michael Dixon (783-7763)
Board Member	Larry Faiman (782-4648)
Board Member	Dick Marston (784-1445)
Board Member	T.L. Mikesell (783-0575)
Board Member	Tim Priestly (784-8393)
Board Member	Marc Tardif (783-7395)

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

Secretary's Report By Susan Trask

For the fifth straight year, the Taylor Pond Association is offering matching grants of up to \$500 for watershed residents to improve their property in lake-friendly ways. This year we've made it easier than ever to apply for and receive support. "Lake-friendly" improvements include (but are not limited to) creating or expanding a buffer strip, installing rip-rap, creating better walkways to the water, etc. So far we have awarded three grants, expending \$1500. Several more residents have used the grant program to have their properties evaluated and received expert advice on improvements, although they did not apply for matching grant funds.

Your Board of Directors still feels that your dues money is well spent in offering advice and monetary assistance to lakeside members (including Road Associations) who wish to enhance their property to improve the quality of living for both themselves and for the future. Grant monies are still available! For information or questions, please contact Susan Trask at susantrask@roadrunner.com or 784-4606.

On a related note, The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offering free technical assistance to a limited number of watershed road associations around the state. Recognizing that camp roads are responsible for most of the non-point source pollution that enters Maine lakes, the groups have come up with a way to assist road associations in their efforts to improve their roads in lake-friendly ways. For more information, the program's flyer is included in the newsletter. If your group is interested in participating, it's important to act immediately, as the program will end when grant funds have been expended.



Ducks: To Feed or Not to Feed **By Dana Little**

The law protects any migratory birds from harassment or injury but does not prevent you from feeding them. According to Judy Camuso of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, feeding ducks and geese on Taylor Pond is not against the law, but it's not a good idea, for several reasons.

Attracting large numbers of ducks and geese into a small area produces a huge amount of concentrated excrement. One goose produces about 1/3 pound of feces per day and a duck, about half that. This winter I counted over 200 ducks being fed by one person. This produced 2 tons of fresh manure, yielding over 11 pounds of phosphorous, potentially affecting water quality.

“Swimmer’s itch” comes from a parasite called Schistosomiasis released into the water through duck feces. The more ducks concentrate in an area, the more likely the disease will affect swimmers. When eggs in duck waste hatch, the small larvae (miracidia) then infect snails. The larvae mature into cercariae which leave the snail to infect another duck. Immature parasites can burrow into the skin of human swimmers and waders, causing an itching rash for up to one week. Ducks also carry Salmonella, a bacteria, that can infect both people and animals and cause bloody diarrhea.



Over the years I have spotted 14 different species of ducks on the Pond. Many use it as a staging point on their migration to and from water in northern Maine and Canada. We have at least six species known to breed on Taylor Pond in the summer: Wood, Mallard, and Black Ducks, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and Canada Geese.

I do not recommend feeding the ducks. If you do feed them, understand that an artificial diet may cause Duck Virus Enteritis that can kill off the entire population. The only artificial diet should be high quality grains that are free of mold or spoilage. However, ducks routinely fed on such a diet tend to become obese, develop heart disease, liver problems and malnutrition. Uneaten food should be quickly removed because left over food will attract rodents and can quickly grow a fungus, Aspergillus, that is fatal to ducks. Rotting food may contain botulism that quickly kills ducks.

An overfed duck will not be able to fly as fast or escape from predators. In addition, when food is provided in the winter they may not migrate to a climate more suitable for them. The best nutrition for a duck consists of natural foods growing in their environment that allow them to be trim, fly fast and stay healthy. If you must feed the ducks, provide food only intermittently and in small amounts to avoid large collections of birds. Finally, I hope that you will, most of all, appreciate the wild nature of the ducks, keeping them at a distance.

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.

Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership By Michael Dixon

We mailed out almost 250 copies of our 2010 newsletter. Our database is constantly updated in an effort to send the newsletter to all property owners in the TPA shoreland zone, whether they are TPA members or not. We also send the newsletter to many "honorary" members, such as City Councilors, members of the Planning Board, and so on.

In 2010, we had 122 dues-paying members, which is the same number we had last year. We had 74 basic memberships, plus 46 memberships at higher levels of giving, including 31 Supporters (\$50) and 17 Benefactors (\$100 or higher). The Association is very appreciative of the generosity of all its members.

The following is our 2010 end-of-year financial report:

Balance through 01/01/2010					\$19,354.50
2010 Income					
	Dues & Contributions	\$5,165.00			
	Interest Income (CD and Checking)	<u>\$162.44</u>			
	Income Total	\$5,327.44			
2010 Expenses					
	State fees		\$35.00		
	C.O.L.A. dues		\$250.00		
	VLMP Contribution		\$100.00		
	Web Hosting Fee		\$49.95		
	Dues Letter Printing & Mailing		\$135.24		
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$762.72		
	Annual Meeting Expense		\$16.27		
	End-of-Year Printing & Mailing		\$30.90		
	Miscellaneous Printing & Mailing		\$10.40		
	Water Monitoring supplies & testing		\$251.85		
	Technical Services (Adros. Vllly. SWCD)		<u>\$173.72</u>		
	Expense Total		\$1,816.05		
Net Gain				\$3,511.39	
Balance through 12/31/2010					\$22,865.89

As of 05/31/2011, the Taylor Pond Association checking account had a balance of \$12286.43. Our savings account is currently at \$13615.62. We continue to build a balance that can be used to carry out the work of the Association, such as supporting projects that will decrease the amount of phosphorous entering the pond.

Water Quality 2010 Report

By Dana Little

We had a warm spring in 2010 with an early ice-out date of March 17th. I was worried that the additional warming of the water and increased time for runoff would decrease water quality. However, according to our studies, water quality continues to be stable. The phosphorous level averaged 11 in 2010, slightly lower than the historic value of 12. This indicates a slightly better than average water quality last year. Levels above 15 can cause an algae bloom which we have not had in years. The depth at which an object disappears provides a simple measure of water clarity. Last summer we measured a distance of 18.5 feet, compared to the historic average of 18.1 feet. Greater clarity of water indicates less algae and improved quality.

The major threat to our water quality continues to be anything that causes the phosphorous to increase. Sources of phosphorous include chemical lawn fertilizers, runoff from lawns directly into the pond, the addition of any paved or building structures that increase water runoff, the channeling of water running off the land by ditching or piping the water directly into the pond, and feeding large numbers of ducks (see the article on feeding ducks in this newsletter).

Woody Trask and Ralph Gould collected the data for our report this year with the analysis done by Woody. The complete report is posted on our website at www.taylorpondassociation.org. Dues paid by members and the work done by volunteers pay for 100% of the cost of this report.





Attention Camp Road & Unpaved Private Road Residents

Free Advice on Proper Road Maintenance

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Soil & Water Conservation Districts are teaming up to offer free technical assistance to a limited number of road associations around the state.

★ **What would our road association get?** Staff from a participating Soil & Water Conservation District will evaluate your road and develop a road maintenance plan that includes suggestions for fixing problem areas and cost estimates.

★ **Who can qualify?** Any existing road association on an unpaved private road in a lake watershed.

★ **What does a road association need to do?** The association commits to working with the District, hosting a road association meeting, and at a minimum, a board meeting to review the plan when complete.

★ **What is the cost?** The assistance will be **free** to the selected road associations.

★ **To apply or to learn more:** Contact Kathy Hoppe at Maine DEP
Kathy.M.Hoppe@Maine.gov or 207-760-3134



While road maintenance isn't rocket science, there is science and engineering behind good road construction and maintenance.



The single largest pollutant to Maine lakes is soil and the greatest source is private unpaved roads. Your actions can make a difference.

To protect our lakes for future generations visit: www.MaineDEP.com

Our “Loony” Taylor Pond Friends *By Susan Trask*

Our precious loons: their distinctive, eerie calls, their springtime courtship displays, their smooth and silent dives. After twenty-three years of living on Taylor Pond, I still get excited every time I see one, every time I hear that call at night. But last summer – oh my! To actually have a chick! I know that my excitement over that first-time-in-twenty-years event was shared by virtually all pond residents. For me, the presence of that new little life rekindled my curiosity about the lives and habits of our lovely neighbors, and I dug out a book I’d had for years, *The Loon: Voice of the Wilderness*, by Joan Dunning. Here are some interesting notes that caught my attention:

Mated pairs: Loons mate for life, although they usually separate during the winter. They migrate in loose flocks to the ocean each autumn, and return to the general area where they were before, most often the same lake. Male and female are virtually indistinguishable, although the male may be slightly larger. Once on the ocean, they lose their black-and-white plumage and revert to the grey-brown feathers of juveniles.



Spring rituals: Once the loons return to the lake, mates seek each other out with the familiar wail that we hear. They perform a complex dance-like courtship ritual that is remarkable to witness. After three or four days of courtship, they hoist themselves up on land (with difficulty), mate, and begin building a nest. Because of their awkward movements on land, the nest will be very close to shore. (This may be why we’ve had so few successful chicks. If we get a few days of heavy rain, the rising water levels may wash the eggs away.)

Chicks: Usually two eggs are laid; incubation is 28-29 days. This is a dangerous time, for raccoons, minks, weasels, skunks, gulls, and crows will all prey on the eggs if given the chance. Within a day after hatching, the chicks are in the water and stay there until they migrate in the fall. They swim immediately, but are allowed to ride on their par-

ents' backs in order to rest and to stay safe from predators. From the water, the chicks may fall prey to gulls, turtles, or eagles. Many of us observed some very protective parents all last summer! I know we were anxious whenever we didn't see the family for a couple of days, and were relieved every time they re-appeared.

Migration: During the last weeks of August parents begin preparing their offspring for flight by appearing to "race" back and forth along the surface of the water. Eventually the youngsters lift off successfully. The adults leave for the ocean well before the younger ones, but all will follow the same general route as their parents. Young loons remain on the ocean for three or four years before reaching full maturity and acquiring their adult plumage.

What do the calls mean?

Wail: a location call. *Where are you? I'm over here!*

Tremolo: alarm, from a disturbance from a human, a predator, or another loon. May be protecting territory or chicks. Also used in flight.

Yodel: (a slow, rising note followed by several undulating phrases) used for identification and defense of territory. Distinctive to each male.

Hoot: a "kwuk" sound, used to communicate with chicks and contact with mated pairs

Once again this spring I was thrilled to see two loons in front of our house the very day the ice melted. I know that I'll be watching eagerly to see if our two become three or even four before the end of the summer!

