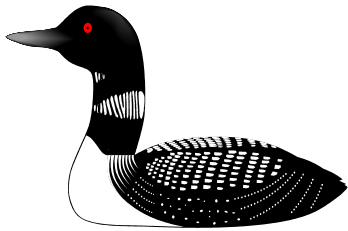

Taylor Pond Association News

*July
2012*



TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, August 5, 2012, 7-9 p.m.

Taylor Pond Yacht Club

Guest speaker – Land Use Specialist Mike Gotto

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

Editor's Note by Michael Dixon

This year's newsletter features interesting and informative articles by Dana Little, Susan Trask, and Bettyann Sheats, as well as a report on finances and memberships. Dana has provided two articles on invasives, and also reports on the results of the water quality monitoring conducted last year by Woody Trask. Susan updates us on the Association's shoreland improvement grant program, describing a project completed by Bettyann Sheats on her property.

Partly in response to the recent flooding, the newsletter also includes an important article co-authored by Susan and Dana about water levels on Taylor Pond. We are urging members concerned about this issue to attend our annual meeting on Sunday, August 5 at 7 p.m, since water levels on Taylor Pond is a topic which will be addressed by our guest speaker, Land Use Consultant Mike Gotto. We will also be discussing the implications of the new Flood Plain mapping, which will have an impact on the necessity of carrying flood insurance for some Taylor Pond owners.

Also of interest is the article by long-term member, Bettyann Sheats, regarding the recent legislative session, including ideas about how to impact that process. The Association maintains a membership in the Maine Congress of Lake Associations, whose efforts were instrumental in turning back some of the more onerous proposed laws that might have adversely impacted Taylor Pond.

Finally, thanks to all the writers and also to those who made behind-the-scenes contributions to this newsletter: Connie Bedette, Suzanne Deragon, Cathryn Falwell, Gabbie Gray, Dana Little, Jan Marston, Dyanne Smith, Susan Trask, and Jim Whipple, who provided many wonderful pictures taken on the pond -I only wish I had room to include more of them; proofreader Kay Little; and the staff of Bates College Mail and Print Services, especially graphic designer *par excellence*, Laurie Henderson.

Demonstration Project Site Sought

Do you have a waterfront property that you suspect needs an upgrade to meet "Best Practice" standards? The Taylor Pond Association is looking for a shoreline property that could be used as a demonstration project to educate others about how to make lake-friendly improvements while also enhancing the beauty of their shorefront. It would wonderful to be able to share with others what a rain garden looks like, and what kinds of vegetation work well to stabilize soil and prevent non-point source pollution.

The Association would work with the owner to plan and install the improvements, mostly at the Association's expense. We would then work with the owner to devise a way for other interested parties to view the site. If you might be interested, please contact either Dana Little, president (danawl@roadrunner.com) or Susan Trask (susantrask@roadrunner.com) for details.



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 2012 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.

Maine Boating regulations state:

“Speed Regulations

Watercraft may not be operated at a speed greater than headway speed while within the water safety zone or within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters except while actively fishing.

"Headway speed" means the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage and control of the watercraft while the watercraft is moving. The operator of any watercraft must operate at a reasonable and prudent speed for existing conditions and regulate the speed of a watercraft so as to avoid danger, injury or unnecessary inconvenience in any manner to other watercraft and their occupants, whether anchored or under way. The operator must consider the effect of the wash or wave created by their watercraft to waterfront piers, floats or other property or shorelines.”

“Water Safety Zone means the area of water within 200 feet of any shoreline, whether the shoreline of the mainland or of an island.”

For the sake of all, please operate your watercraft responsibly.



2012 slate of candidates for the Taylor Pond Association Board of Directors to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 5, 2012:

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)
Board Member	Peter Bunker (784-2909)

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.

Invasive Plants: By Dana Little

The earliest findings of plant use by people are flowers placed in a Neanderthal grave site found in Iraq dated 25,000 years ago. Crop agriculture in the Fertile Crescent area of the eastern Mediterranean dates back to 10,500 years ago. The Chinese cultivated rice 8,000 years ago along the Yangtze River. Early farmers in Mesoamerica, Andean South America and eastern North America all independently developed agriculture. Our backyard gardens today contain representatives from all over the world: potatoes from Peru, broccoli from the northern Mediterranean region, corn from Mesoamerica, beans of various types from Afghanistan, Egypt, Peru and North America and various kinds of squash from Mesoamerica.



When people find a plant that especially attracts them for its food or aesthetic value they transport it long distances. Where would we be without the spicy peppers that came from Mexico found in Szechuan cooking or the tomatoes that hail from Peru and characterize Italian cuisine? Our gardens would be impoverished without the roses first cultivated 5,000 years ago in China and poppies grown 4,500 years ago in Southern Europe and North Africa.

However, some plants can become a nightmare when transported to new locations. We call such plants invasive. Invasive plants may cause problems by crowding out a more desirable native species, shading slower growing plants or reproducing faster than native plants.

The Japanese brought Kudzu, also called the “Mile-a-minute Vine”, to the bicentennial celebration in the US in 1876. In Japan they ate the starchy roots and livestock grazed on the green leaves. In the US, people loved the purple flowers and the shade provided by the rapidly growing vine. In the 1930s our government planted millions of seedlings in the South to control the erosion that tobacco and cotton farming created. Without natural predators, it grew up to 60 feet yearly, smothered native vegetation and climbed over anything in its way, including trees and homes. By the 1970’s the US declared Kudzu a weed and today economists calculate it costs the forestry industry 100 million dollars a year.

Beekeepers and plant lovers first transported another invasive plant, Purple Loosestrife, to the US in the 1800’s. The plant produces three million seeds every year which are rapidly carried by wind and water to settle in any moist soil. Now large tracts of wetland have few plants other than Purple. Scientists fortunately have discovered that the introduction of a number of insect pests can control it.

Another invasive, a species of grass, *Phragmites australis*, comes from Europe where grazing cattle kept it under control. In the US *Phragmites* grows anywhere from 6-18 feet tall and spreads at a rate of 30 feet per year, quickly



shading out the native cattails and other wetland species. Bird and mammal diversity drops rapidly when this grass takes over. We see monoculture Phragmites swamps for many miles along 495 driving down to Boston. We have a small colony starting on the southwest cove near my home.

You can find lists of invasive plants at www.invasive.org or www.eddmaps.org. Plants commonly sold in nurseries are listed on these sites and include Barberry, Oriental Bittersweet, Norway Maple, Honeysuckle, Russian Olive, English Ivy and Winged Euonymus. There are nearly 1200 plants native to New England. Buying native plants ensures that you will not spread invasive plants. If you educate yourself before transplanting new plants you will keep our pond healthy.

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.

Snail Invasion by Dana Little

Large snails known as Chinese Mystery Snails have invaded Taylor Pond. Found normally in Southeast Asia, Japan and eastern Russia, people first brought these snails to San Francisco in 1892 for the Asian food market. They released the snails into local streams to provide a supply of these edible snails. They quickly spread and were found in Boston as early as 1915. They have been reported in at least 35 other towns in the state but not previously in Taylor Pond. They spread easily and have been found attached to boats and inside bait buckets. People in the aquarium trade use the snail for cleaning algae off glass and sometimes release them into ponds.

This snail thrives at temperatures from 34-80 degrees, just the range we typically see in Taylor Pond. They tend to live in shallow water plowing shallow grooves as they burrow just below the surface of the mud. They migrate to deeper water to winter over. They are about the size of a large walnut and have a brownish greenish shell. When stressed they have a trapdoor (operculum) that they shut and can survive extreme heat, cold and most pesticides intended to kill them. They feed on algae and microorganisms found in the mud. Their toughness and willingness to eat rotting organic matter has yielded a large population in Taylor Pond. Fortunately crows and diving ducks enjoy eating them. On Sabattus Pond I have often observed ducks (Lesser Scaup) swallowing these snails in one large gulp.

A single female snail can produce over a hundred babies, each of which can live up to 5 years. When they die they may wash up on shore where they produce a foul odor. According to the US Geological Service website this species “has exerted no recorded impacts in the Great Lakes and is considered relatively benign.” So rest easy and enjoy some escargots fried with garlic and wine sauce.



TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 7 P.M. AT THE TAYLOR POND YACHT CLUB

Please plan on attending the TPA Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will feature a presentation by land use expert Mike Gotto, who will speak about the recent flooding of the pond, and also will be able to answer questions about the impact of the newly revised flood plain map. Light refreshments will be provided.

Water Quality Report By Dana Little

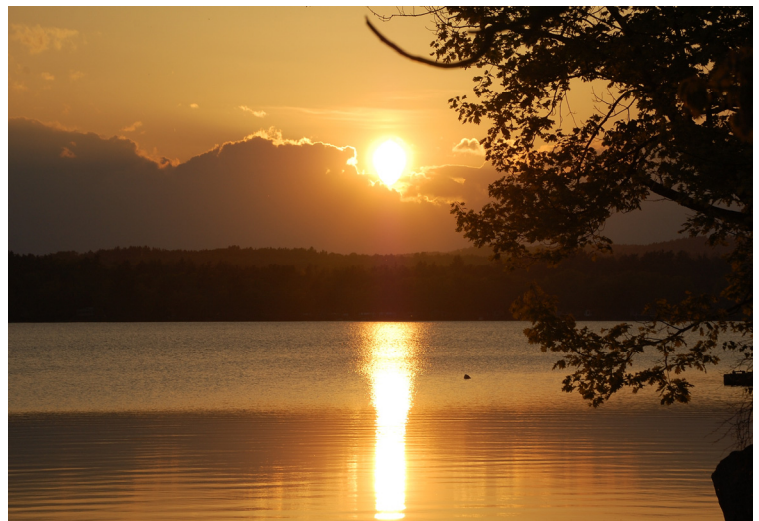
After 36 years of monitoring, the water quality of Taylor Pond has not changed. In August of 2011, Hurricane Irene dumped sediment into the lake and churned up the water with fierce winds. This storm dropped the clarity of the water from an average last year of 4.7 meters to a low of 3.9 (versus an all-time low of 1.9). Despite the effects of Irene, phosphorous readings did not change significantly. High levels of phosphorous, which cause algal blooms, have not occurred since we began monitoring in 1975.



Compared to other Maine lakes, Taylor Pond remains average in water quality. We have a “moderate” risk for an algal bloom to deteriorate the water. Due to the shallow depth of the pond, a mean depth of 17 feet, we will always be vulnerable to high levels of phosphorous causing algae overgrowth. The primary source of phosphorous remains water runoff from developed properties. Maintaining at least a 20 foot buffer zone of unmown vegetation between the pond and your home, lawn and paved areas remains the most important action to continue our water quality.

In 2011, low oxygen occurred at depths of greater than 5 meters. Cool water collects in the deep areas where trout need to hide out in the heat of the summer. Due to the low oxygen in the deep cool sections we will never be able to have breeding populations of trout. However, fishermen still enjoy the abundance of Northern Pike and bass. Furthermore, the Department of Marine Fisheries depends upon our rich waters when they relocate 6000 alewives from the Brunswick Dam to Taylor Pond each spring. Hundreds of thousands of eggs hatch each summer and the young alewives return to the ocean in the fall.

Taylor Pond continues to be a tremendous resource. In the winter people bring out the ice shacks and in the summer fisherman explore the entire shoreline. The warm waters provide pleasure to swimmers, boats drag children about on tubes, water skiers carve curves and many people just gaze at the beauty. Bald Eagles and Osprey soar over the pond daily searching for fish to feed their nestlings. Ducks trailing large families search the shallow waters for food. Although we occasionally need to dig out from blizzards or wait for spring floods to subside, we love our pond. Taylor Pond Association continues to pay for monitoring to maintain the rich life we enjoy here. Our thanks go to Woody Trask who volunteers his time and chemical expertise to ensure accurate results for our annual report.



Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

By Michael Dixon

The following is our 2011 end-of-year financial report:

Balance through 01/01/2011					\$22,865.89
2011 Income					
	Dues & Contributions	\$5,015.00			
	Interest Income	\$125.61			
	Income Total	\$5,140.61			
2011 Expenses					
	State fees		\$35.00		
	C.O.L.A. dues		\$250.00		
	VLMP Contribution		\$100.00		
	Web Hosting Fee		\$60.90		
	Dues Letter Printing & Mailing		\$144.45		
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$783.06		
	Annual Meeting Expense		\$60.71		
	End-of-Year Printing & Mailing		\$30.24		
	Miscellaneous Printing & Mailing		\$14.92		
	Water Monitoring supplies & testing		\$29.60		
	Technical Services		\$250.00		
	Expense Total		\$1,758.88		
Net Gain				\$3,381.73	
Balance through 12/31/2011					\$26,247.62

As of 07/19/2012, the Taylor Pond Association checking account had a balance of \$13,848.26. We also have a CD whose current value is \$15046.28. 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.

An important part of our efforts is our annual newsletter. We mailed out almost 250 copies of our 2011 newsletter. Our database is constantly updated in an effort to send the newsletter to all property owners in the Taylor Pond 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.

We continue to maintain our Nonprofit Corporation status with the State and IRS. Thanks to Peter Garcia for his long years of service as our Registered Agent with the State. I recently have take over that function, so that Peter will have a little more time to enjoy his retirement.

In 2011, we had 127 dues-paying members, which is up slightly from 2010 and is the highest number of members we have had since I have been treasurer. We had 79 basic memberships, plus 46 memberships at higher levels of giving, including 35 Supporters (\$50) and 13 Benefactors (\$100 or higher). So far this year, I have processed 97 memberships. The Association is very appreciative of the generosity of all its members.

Water Levels on Taylor Pond

By Susan Trask and Dana Little

Those of us who live around Taylor Pond will remember the first weekend of June, 2012 for a long time. We discovered that we live in a flood plain. Although heavy rains were predicted, none of us expected nearly nine inches in three days! Those of us who live on the north end experienced submerged docks, floating furniture and runaway boats. Those at the south end fared much worse, with houses surrounded by water, sump pumps useless, and sewage backing up through showers. The lake was quick to fill (it rose an estimated three feet in those three days), and, at this writing 10 days later, is just now receding to what we consider “normal” levels.

The prolonged flooding at the south end of the Pond provoked much conversation among waterfront property owners this year. Recurring speculation about a dam or dams preventing outflow resurfaced, and inquiries were made to the TPA Board about the flooding problem. Here’s a summary of the concerns expressed along with a little history and a bit of research.



First, it should be noted that all of the properties located at the south end of Taylor Pond are within the 100-year flood plain. A look at FEMA’s recently updated flood plain map shows that Pondview Dr., Ledgerview Dr., Valview Dr., Chicoine Ave., and much of Garfield Rd. are within this area. The floodplain map may be viewed via the City of Auburn website. Although the recent 3-day storm was not of the “100-year” magnitude, it was the most significant (in terms of rainfall and water level) in about 25 years. Many people have considered the outlet to be the source of high water. There have been reports of beaver dams and brush swept downriver that might clog up the

drainage of water from the lake. In addition there has been concern that the dam located on Taylor Brook might impact the water level. When the state wildlife officials investigated several years ago they found no obstructing beaver dams, that Taylor Brook empties the pond unimpeded and that the dam on Taylor Brook does not affect the water level in Taylor Pond.

Anyone who has tried to navigate through the outlet has found that it’s extremely overgrown and congested. In 1974 a group from the Taylor Pond Association mounted a clean-up effort there, which resulted in the removal of huge amounts of trash and debris. Although the area was undoubtedly improved by the action, residents found very little difference in the water level. People have proposed dredging the outlet to lower the pond’s water level or requesting a lower level on the Taylor Brook dam downstream.

According to Jim Glasgow of the Maine DEP, any alteration in Taylor Pond’s water level from dredging, installation of a new dam or alteration of the Taylor Brook dam would require a permit. A consensus of homeowners on the Pond would have to agree to and pay for the permit process and project. At a minimum a

project like this would take the services of an engineer to design the method, a biologist to assess the environmental impact and a construction firm to carry out the process.

Sabbatus Pond provides an example of the regulatory process. In 1978 the DEP first started the assessment process issuing their order after 11 years of deliberation. In order to develop a consensus many public meetings occurred in which they considered spawning grounds, alewife stocking, migration of eels, replenishment of water in marshes, recreational fishing, duck hunting, access to boat ramps, swimming, dock installations, flooding from water releases, prevention of damage from ice formation, algal blooms and finally the interests of homeowners in preventing flooding. Once the DEP evaluated all of these issues they came up with an order that established lake levels that varied with the season. Failure to adhere to the order at any time in the future would result in the dam being fixed at a set level potentially leaving Sabattus Pond even more vulnerable than Taylor Pond to flooding.

Installing a dam can actually worsen flooding. Engineers design dams to manage up to a certain water level. Above that water level, dams restrict the exit of water which increases flooding during a torrential downpour. For example, on Patriot's day in 1997 Panther Pond flooded following a heavy rain because the dam restricted outflow. It took two weeks after the storm for the water levels to return to normal. The Dead River dam provides another example of what occurred during the June 2012 rainstorm. Mark Margerum, at the Maine DEP, reports that the dam increased flooding around Androscoggin Lake by restricting water outflow. According to Jim Glasgow also at DEP, the dam into the Presumpscot River limited the outflow of water from Lake Sebago causing many properties to flood during the same June downpour that affected us.

Unfortunately with heavy rainfall many properties in the flood zone will continue to flood. Taylor Pond Association does not regulate the level of the pond. Streams, springs and rainfall all raise the pond level. Water exits the pond by Taylor Brook and evaporation. Artificially altering lake levels requires a costly, complex and lengthy



consensus process that considers many factors besides flooding. Dredging, cleaning the outlet, building a dam or altering existing dam levels will not prevent flooding from an unusually heavy rainstorm. We wish there were an easy answer but there is no simple solution to protect homes in a flood zone.

Recent and Pending Legislation of Interest

By Bettyann Sheats



We on Taylor Pond benefit from aggressive environmental protections which protect the quality of the lake, and hence quality of life on the lake, as well as our property values. In the past year, Maine has had record high winter temperatures, and more recently high rain and water levels. The speed at which the lake rose in May clearly showed how rain, falling on properties in the surrounding area, quickly ends up in the lake, along with the fertilizer, pollutants, and soils it picks up. Unfortunately in the past year we have also seen numerous assaults on our environmental laws. Maine's economy relies heavily on businesses focused on outdoor recreation and the tourism industry, as well as on real estate development and the taxes it generates. While I understand some people perceive that our environmental regulations may slow growth in the latter area, it is imperative we not allow environmental protections to be weakened at the expense of the tourism and recreation industries.

I would like to make you aware of some of the more than 60 laws proposed this year, mostly aimed at weakening our environmental protections. Many would have a direct effect on Taylor Pond and the values of existing properties. I've listed them from an environmental and health perspective as "the good, the bad, and the ugly." Warning: please be aware that the names of the bills are often misleading.

Bad/ defeated: **LD 888 An Act to Allow Flexibility under Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances:** Would have changed rules regarding 30% expansion of structures within shoreland zone, in the process weakening protections of habitat and water quality. Could also reduce property values of existing properties in waiver areas.

Bad/ defeated: **LD 219 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Shoreland Zoning:** Drastic weakening of Maine's shoreland zone, increasing pollution to lakes, rivers, coastal waters; damaging habitat. Would have decreased construction setbacks from 250 feet currently, to only 75 feet.

Bad/ passed: **LD 228 An Act to Revise Notification Requirements for Pesticide Application:** Eliminates required notification about aerial spraying of pesticides near homes, so families can take precautions.

Bad/ passed: **LD 321 An Act to Change the Qualifications of Certain Members of the Board of Pesticides Control:** The Board is comprised of 7 members, two of which by law needed to be members of the public with "a demonstrated interest in environmental protection." The bill strikes this qualification, potentially reducing the level of public involvement in controlling the environmental and public health impacts of pesticide use.

Bad/ passed: **LD 281 An Act to Create a 5-year Statute of Limitations for Environmental Violations:** Weakens environmental enforcement, potentially allowing violators to escape accountability, transferring costs to taxpayers. Most violations are not even identified within 5 years.

Ugly/ passed: The Legislature passed a bill (**LD 1853**) that weakens Maine's open pit mining regulations, which could threaten our waterways. The bill was introduced during the final weeks of the session and the rushed process did not allow for full public debate or robust, scientific input. While the bill was improved from its original version by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the outcome still weakens groundwater standards and reduces the state's protection against abandoned mining sites which could leave Maine taxpayers footing the bill for major clean-up costs. It's expected that there will be many changes to this law before it takes effect in 2014. Whether those changes are good or bad will depend on input from Maine's citizens.

Ugly/ defeated but not dead: **LD 1135 An Act to Protect the Rights of Property Owners:** This "takings" legislation could result in the state and municipalities having to pay land owners to comply with Maine laws governing environment, safety, and health, or waive those laws. It is identical to a law passed, then

repealed, in Oregon, because it generated \$20 billion in claims against the State. "Takings" legislation undermines land use laws designed to protect our water, land and wildlife; the character of Maine communities; public health and safety; and the value or property for all Mainers.

Good/ passed **LD 837: An Act to Protect Children's Health... by Limiting the Use of Pesticides**. On a positive note, BPA, a hormone interrupter especially harmful to children, was banned from sippy cups and baby bottles in Maine. In addition, the House and Senate unanimously supported a resolution (S.P. 676) in support of reforming the federal law regulating the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products. The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 is recognized as obsolete. This Maine resolution asks Congress to modernize the law to protect the public while also promoting business innovation.

Ugly/ passed: We can tentatively be positive about the approval of a modest \$5 million **Land for Maine's Future Bond bill, LD 852**, which was passed by the legislature and became law without the governor's signature. However the governor has said he will not authorize bond funds to be spent.

You can make a difference in the quality of life here on Taylor Pond by making simple changes in your yard with the guidance of the Taylor Pond Association or by participating in the LakeSmart program. You can also be a positive force for Maine by being informed on environmental issues, and communicating any concerns to your legislators.

The Taylor Pond Association is a member of Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA). Their web site at mainecola.org has an explanation of recent laws and proposals as well as instructions on how to research bills at the State's web site under *policy*.

Another source of information is Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition at maineepc.org. The coalition represents over 100,000 members in Maine and consists of 26 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations, including Maine Audubon, Natural Resources Council of Maine, American Lung Association, Appalachian Mountain Club, Maine Council of Churches and Maine



People's Alliance, which have joined together around a common environmental agenda. They represent individuals and groups who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

TPA Shoreline Improvement Grant Update

By Susan Trask

For the sixth 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. "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 four grants, expending \$2000, with another project under way. Several more residents have used the grant program to have their properties evaluated and have received expert advice on improvements, although they did not apply for matching grant funds.

The most recent project was at the Sheats residence on Water View Drive. Here's a summary to give an idea of how the grant project can work:



This area was exposed soil before the project and was completely underwater during the June 1 storm.

The Sheats family moved into their home in the summer of 2010. Although previous owners had installed rip rap along the shoreline, many of the stones had tumbled down, and erosion had taken place around them. Bettyann Sheats asked for technical assistance from TPA. Phoebe Hardesty of Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD) went out to do an evaluation.

Phoebe recommended that an engineer visit the site to make more specific recommendations about the appropriate placement of new rip rap. She also made recommendations about:

- Introducing natural plants and low-maintenance shrubs among the rip rap. She gave Bettyann a packet of information on this topic published by the Cooperative Extension Service.

- Fixing the problem of water moving down the driveway, causing puddling in front of the doorway.

- Installation of a drip edge at the front of the house that would funnel run-off from three roof surfaces into a rain garden (packets of information about drip edges and rain gardens as well).

- Keeping the box culvert nearby cleaned out.

Bettyann applied for and was granted a Permit-by-Rule from the state DEP in order to install the rip rap. AVSWCD sent an engineer out to the property to determine the specifics of how the rip rap should be installed. Bettyann and son William spent much of the summer and fall installing the rip rap by hand. This was less expensive than having a contractor do it, but – more importantly – it was less disruptive to the existing wall, plants and grassy areas.

She also installed a small rain garden, built a rock wall terrace, and planted some native plants in the buffer zone.

TPA sent Sue Gammon from AVSWCD back out to the site to determine that the work had been completed appropriately and to Best Practice standards.

Bettyann submitted her records of the site visits, permitting, work done and expenses (including 57 hours of labor!).

The TPA Board reviewed the information and approved a \$500 matching grant to the Sheats family.

You can see that the process is not arduous or cumbersome, and that TPA provides support along the way! 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.

