



Taylor Pond Association Newsletter
<http://www.taylorpondassociation.org>

President's

Column
 by Dana Little

The organization has been busy over the winter. Our largest project has been the Watershed Survey which started with great success with our orientation meeting May 21. We were hosted by Dan Thayer, past president of TPA, who generously donated the use of his conference room at his beautiful new building on Hotel Road. The Survey targeted phosphorous input into the pond, which as you will read in the 2004 Water Quality Report, is the major danger to the pond. We intend to follow up our watershed survey with an application for a federal grant to correct any problems found.

Monitoring our water quality shows that the quality has deteriorated slightly from last year. Continued building of new garages, expanded homes, logging north of the pond and persistent neglect to install a buffer zone between homes and the pond all threaten our water quality. Projected costs to monitor our water quality this year exceeded \$5,000, a number almost twice our expected revenue from dues. For about \$2,000, we have purchased our own equipment. For about \$500 per year, we will be able to perform our own testing.

Please feel free to attend any board

meeting or contact us about any pond related issues. The best way to contact me is by Email at president@taylorpondassociation.org.

Area representatives are people who live in your area who have volunteered to assist TPA in its activities. There are 11 area representatives who can also be contacted about issues: Kathy Arnoldy, Michael Dixon, Yolande Gay, Frank Goss, Ralph Gould, Jan Hall, Mike Keaney, Regis Roy, Wes Sawyer, Marita Toussaint and Nancy Weber.

I want to thank all of you for your generous donation of time and money to support Taylor Pond Association. We have an active group of volunteers who have performed invaluable services to the pond. You have a board of directors who are committed to spending your time and money wisely to protect the pond:

Michael Dixon, Treasurer
 Susan Trask, Secretary
 Tim Priestly
 "Mike" Mikesell
 Mike Keaney
 Ann Goorhuis
 Jim Melloh

Retired this year: Ralph Gould, Wes Sawyer and Dan Thayer, many thanks for their tremendous past service to the board and their continuing service to the organization.

Annual Meeting August 7th 7-9PM at TPYC

Come to the annual meeting of Taylor Pond Association at Taylor Pond Yacht Club from 7-9pm. Meet your neighbors and all the board members, review the year's activities and vote on any issues. Meet Phoebe Hardesty from Androscoggin Soil and Water Conservation who will answer your questions.

Kindred Spirits

Submitted by Michael Dixon

Since October of 2003, I have been attending the quarterly meetings of the Lewiston/Auburn/Sabattus NPDES Storm Water Phase II program. NPDES stands for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, the Federal law which establishes standards for the management of storm water runoff that municipalities must meet. Of course, controlling storm water run-off into Taylor Pond is a paramount goal in the Taylor Pond Association's efforts to protect the Pond's water quality. After all, storm water run-off can carry non-point source pollution, such as phosphorous, into the Pond, thereby increasing the likelihood that we will experience an algae bloom. So, there is a natural fit between the work of the NPDES group and the Association.

One of the efforts of the program has been to provide public education through the Think Blue campaign. The following article was created by Aquarion Engineering Services for the Auburn Storm Water Phase II Program.

Why Should You "Think Blue?"

Do you remember seeing "rubber ducky" ads on television last year? ("If stormwater pollution were Rubber Duckies, we wouldn't have a problem..."). The ads were the beginnings of a campaign by the Think Blue Maine Partners to

promote clean storm water. Because they were such a huge success last year, the television ad and its companion radio ads will air again this summer.

But what exactly is storm water? Storm water is produced by rain or snow melt. Under natural circumstances, the water infiltrates into the ground and recharges the groundwater. However, in developed areas, it flows over solid surfaces, such as roofs, driveways, streets, sidewalks and parking lots, and even compacted dirt driveways and roads. As it flows over these surfaces, it increases in volume and speed, and picks up sediment, pesticides and herbicides, spilled oil and gasoline, and bacteria that are in its path. The storm water, now contaminated, will flow overland directly into a local water body, or go into a storm water catch basin, and then into the water.

So why should we protect storm water from becoming polluted? The contaminated storm water flows directly into your local ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. This storm water pollutes our local fishing spots, swimming holes, and drinking water. The sediment that can collect in storm water (known as TSS, or Total Suspended Solids) can suffocate aquatic life. The bacteria from dog waste or leaking septic systems can cause beach closures.

There were over 1,500 beach closures attributed to polluted storm water in 1998. Studies have also shown that people that swim close to storm water outfalls (the actual pipes that the storm water comes out of) have a higher chance

TPA T-Shirts & Caps

We continue to have TPA t-shirts and caps for sale. These are very attractive, high quality items, and make great gifts. Your purchase helps support the work of the TPA. T-shirts are \$10 (\$12 for XXL) and caps are \$15. Please contact Michael Dixon at 783-3052 or msdixon@adelphia.net to purchase yours.

of a getting a gastrointestinal illness than those that stay 400 yards or more away. Ugh!

Household hazardous wastes also contribute to polluted storm water. When people accidentally or purposefully dump oil, old paint, or cleaners down the storm drain, it's as if they have dumped these substances directly into their local water body. These chemicals poison aquatic life.

Litter, like plastic bags, paper, and cigarette butts can injure, suffocate, and disable wildlife like birds, turtles, and fish. Even your grass clippings and leaves can impact water bodies as they are swept into gutters or ditches and washed away by storm water. When a normal amount of organic matter (grass and leaves, for instance) naturally falls into a lake, there is little impact. But when too much organic matter flows into a lake, it uses a large amount of oxygen from the water as it decomposes. Since this decreases the amount of oxygen in the water, everything suffers that lives in the lake – from the invertebrate to the fish.

You can protect storm water. Here are some quick, easy tips:

- Be sure to repair drips in leaky vehicles. Storm water that washes underneath these cars will carry the oil and gasoline away. Also, wash your car in your yard, so that the

water (and the cleaners, oils, and dirt) infiltrates into the ground. Try to dispose of used oil, antifreeze, etc. at recycling centers or during a Household Hazardous Waste days in your area.

- To prevent bacteria from reaching storm water, maintain your septic tank. Pump your tank as necessary, usually every 3 to 5 years. Also, be sure to pick up your pet waste. In many areas, it's often the law, and it's a good pet owner's responsibility.
- We all know not to litter. Try going the extra step and pick it up if you see it, or join a local watershed or lake clean up day.
- Plant a buffer. Buffers are grassy swales and vegetated strips that act as the last line of defense against polluted storm water. They can be manicured (flower beds or vegetable gardens) or natural areas (brushy, overgrown areas). They serve as a filter, preventing many of the pollutants from reaching the water bodies they surround. They provide natural places for the rain water to collect and soak in. Rain from roof tops and paved areas can be diverted into buffers.
- Compost your lawn and garden waste (grass clippings and leaves). If you use pesticides or herbicides on your

Did you know that declining water quality and clarity is directly correlated with decreases in property values? Take the following steps to protect Taylor Pond and your property's value:

- Establish an unmowed vegetation buffer on the shoreline
- Use phosphorous free fertilizers on lawns and phosphate-free detergents
- Control runoff and erosion on your property

For more information, please visit www.taylorpondassociation.org, or contact Dana Little at 784-1908.



Anne Goorhuis in front of buffer strip with lake

lawn or garden, try the organic kind. Which ever type you use, be sure to read the directions carefully and do not over apply.

Remember, storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system, and do not get treated. What ever goes into those drains goes directly to your local water bodies. For more information about what you can do to help, visit the website: www.thinkbluemaine.org.

Nature on Taylor Pond

By Dana Little

The ice on the pond closed in December this year. Just before it closed the migrating ducks moved through: small groups of Hooded Mergansers, American Mergansers, Buffleheads and Goldeneyes. These ducks joined the loons who remain on the pond until the ice closes in. They stuff themselves with fish, mussels, snails, crayfish and frogs. The mergansers will sit on the surface bobbing on the waves until ready to fish. When fishing they swim with just their heads submerged looking for prey. When they spot a likely fish they dive rapidly, catching it in their serrated bill. If you watch carefully, as they surface, you will notice they flip the fish up in the air and swallow it head first so that the spines on their fins do not catch in the throat. After they fatten up in the pond, and the ice chases them away, they travel down to the coast for the winter, feeding in the ocean. In spring they will return once again on their way to Canada to breed. Only the Hooded Merganser and the Loon remain to breed on the pond.

When the pond froze solid we had a couple of weeks of good skating. At night the ice expands as it freezes. The ice seems to sing and groan from the stress. Sometimes the ice cracks beneath as you skate along. A starry night with the moon shining and the ice singing is an unbeatable experience. We had a few nights where we saw the Northern Lights but they were not as spectacular as last winter. The ice boats made it out a couple of times and achieved some remarkable speeds.

This winter the ice fisherman were busy. Five ice shacks were erected for protection from the bitter cold north winds that cross the frozen snow. Many

fisherman did not have a shack and just wore their warmest clothes. The prize for their efforts included many large pickerel, bass and perch, as well as the privilege of being outside in a beautiful spot.

Wendell Nason spotted a deer carcass on the ice just before it broke up. Over the next few days he spotted many crows visiting the site. A Bald Eagle made several visits to feed on the meat, as well as a coyote. Once the ice opened up muskrats could be seen diving for mussels which they would bring up onto the ice and eat.

In the winter of 2003-2004 a Mr. Tufts came at the behest of some of our neighbors and trapped 5 beaver off of the marsh on my property. The beaver are trapped underwater and drown. When we protested, the game officer pointed out that Mr. Tufts needed no permission to trap if he could access the beaver lodge from the frozen pond. This last summer, after intensive trapping all winter, we noticed three large beaver swimming about, no young, however. My reading tells me that trapping does not decrease the beaver population. If all the beaver are removed, new ones move in; if not all beaver are removed, they reproduce at a higher rate due to less competition for food. I know that Beaver cause much destruction as they have cut down a number of my crabapple trees. Four-foot-high turkey fencing firmly staked provides the best protection. Two years ago they tore off and reached over three-foot-high chicken wire to neatly cut down my young trees.

April 8, before the ice and snow were gone, the Wood Frogs started announcing their mating season. By April 22nd egg masses were spotted in the marsh. Spring Peepers started singing the next week and then the Leopard Frogs the following week. Early May the Common

Toad began its chorus and the Green Frog was heard first May 20th. When the Bull Frogs begin singing in June we know that



Kay and Robbie Little negotiating the 'driveway'

warm weather is upon us. On warm and rainy spring nights the amphibians move about. Large numbers of frogs and toads can be seen crossing the roads around the pond. May 21st my son went out with his flashlight and found a half dozen Yellow Spotted Salamanders crossing Garfield Road. Twice that many had been killed by cars. Black with yellow polka dots and up to 9 inches in length, they were spectacular to see. I know of one community in Massachusetts that values its salamanders so highly that it built a tunnel under the road to allow safe passage.

In early April we were flooded out with 5 inches of rain over a couple of days that melted off the winter's accumulated snow. People who have lived here longer than myself tell me the pond was at its highest in 20 years. We had a few days where we had to canoe down the driveway to get home. The level rapidly dropped and we were grateful that we did not have to ferry the groceries in the canoe. The beavers swam all around the house. One morning on my way to work the beaver kept slapping his tail at me as I waded

down the driveway to my parked car. The beaver seemed to be telling me that this was beaver, not human, territory.

TPA Board Activities

by Susan Trask, Secretary

Although formal activities around Taylor Pond wane after summer is over, your Board remains active. We met in September, November, March, April, and June. Most of our discussions revolved around the organization of the Watershed Survey, but other business was conducted as well. Topics included:

- *Water Quality Monitoring:* We are transitioning to taking on all the water quality monitoring ourselves. Professional monitoring costs are increasing, and we feel that we will be better served by purchasing equipment, getting proper training, and conducting the testing ourselves. Dana Little has received training and begun to secure the appropriate equipment. See his full report elsewhere in the newsletter.
- *Monitoring of construction projects:* We reviewed various local construction projects. We discussed the possibility of negotiating ordinances that would require “lake-friendly” practices (such as buffer strips) as a trade-off for lakeside construction of garages or other structures.
- *Board membership change:* We accepted with regret the resignations of Ralph Gould and Wes Sawyer. We enthusiastically welcome new members Ann Goorhuis and Jim Melloh.



Michael Dixon observes roadside erosion

Taylor Pond Watershed Survey

by Dana Little

On May 21st we held a training session for 23 people in assessing our watershed for sources of non-point pollution. Non-point pollution provides the largest source of phosphate input to the pond. Seven professionals and 23 volunteers surveyed an area containing over a thousand properties and 13.6 square miles in Auburn and Minot. Pollution sources looked at included erosion around culverts, roadside ditches, bare piles of soil, roof runoff, undercut shoreline, lack of adequate shoreline vegetation, livestock access to water, manure washing off site and construction or logging activities with inadequate conservation measures. Members of the board have met with a group of professionals over the last 4 months and will continue to meet over the next three years to coordinate this project. Once the survey is completed this summer, we will be reviewing a summary of the findings. We will then apply for federal funding to correct identified problems. We received \$12,368 from the federal grant and provided out of our own resources \$8,982 for a total of \$21,350. Our contribution consisted primarily of

volunteers who donated their time. Our treasury spent only \$500 on this project. For every \$1 you spent in dues, you were returned almost \$43 in value to the pond.

We hope to receive a grant for \$30-40,000 next year as a result of these efforts.

Financial Report

by Michael Dixon, Treasurer

2004 End-of-Year Report

Balance as of 01/01/2004		\$3,336.25
Total Income		\$4,845.45
	Dues & Contributions	\$3,945.00
	Shirt & cap sales	\$796.00
	Interest	\$4.45
	Advertising	\$100.00
Total Expenses		\$3,255.00
	State fees	\$35.00
	Shirts & caps	\$627.38
	Printing-30th Annv Invitations	\$32.00
	Printing-Newsletter	\$93.00
	Printing-Gen Mtg Announcements	\$13.50
	Mailing labels	\$9.27
	Postage	\$96.15
	C.O.L.A. dues	\$256.00
	30th party expenses	\$9.99
	Dissolved Oxygen meter	\$702.71
	Lab Fees	\$72.00
	Scott Williams' Fees	\$1,310.00
Balance as of 12/31/2004		\$4,926.70

2005 Year-to-Date Report

Balance as of 01/01/2005		\$4,926.70
Total Income		\$2,877.21
	Dues & Contributions	\$2,865.00
	Shirt & cap sales	\$10.00
	Interest	\$2.21
Total Expenses		\$684.58
	State fees	\$35.00
	Caps	\$249.38
	Printing&Postage-Dues Notice	\$110.75
	Printing&Postage-Survey	\$41.45
	C.O.L.A. dues	\$248.00
Balance as of 06/14/2005		\$7,119.33

Last year, the Association had 124 dues-paying members. As of June 14, we have received 79 renewals.

If you have any questions regarding the financial report, please contact Michael Dixon at 783-7763 or msdixon@adelphia.net.

It's time to renew your membership for 2005.

The TPA continues its work of protecting the Taylor Pond eco-system, the quality of residential life on the pond, and the property values around the pond. In the past 24 months, the Taylor Pond Association has:

- Is in the process of completing a watershed survey to identify sites requiring erosion control measures
- Received recognition from DEP's LakeSmart program for examples of environmentally-friendly residential landscaping
- Performed water clarity readings as part of the Volunteer Lake Monitor Program and purchased lake biologist services
- Purchased water quality monitoring equipment to make the process of collecting technical data more efficient and affordable
- Held three educational workshops, two for members/interested persons and one for city officials
- Been granted tax-exempt status as a non-profit corporation by the IRS
- Had a 30th anniversary celebration
- Held two general meetings and many Board of Directors' meetings
- Put out several informative newsletters
- Maintained a website at www.taylorpondassociation.org
- Sent representatives to the Congress of Lake Association convention, to regional lake association meetings, and to educational workshops
- Sent representatives to City Council, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings, and placed a member on the Zoning Board of Appeals

Please help us continue this work by renewing your membership

Membership status info now contained on your mailing label

If you look to the right of your name on your mailing label, you will find information about your current membership status, according to the following key:

Basic:	You made a dues contribution between \$25 and \$49 during 2005.
Support:	You made a dues contribution between \$25 and \$49 during 2005.
Benefactor:	You made a dues contribution of \$100 or more during 2005.
Past (year):	You were formerly a member in the past three years, and last paid dues in (year).
Potential:	You were formerly a member in the past three years, and last paid dues in the year shown. Please consider rejoining.

Honorary: You have shown an interest in, or provided service to the Taylor Pond Association. You might be a city official, or an employee of DEP or of the Soil & Water Conservation District.

If you believe your label incorrectly states your memberships status, please contact Michael Dixon at 783-776

2005 Membership Renewal Form

Please send your tax-deductible dues contribution (payable to TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION) and completed membership form to:

Michael Dixon, Treasurer
Taylor Pond Association
126 Everett Road
Auburn, ME 04210

If you fold this sheet along the dotted lines on the other side, insert a check, and tape the ends and flap, you can use this sheet as mailer.

2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME:

MAILING ADDRESS:

TAYLOR POND ADDRESS:

PLEASE SEND NEWSLETTERS AND ALERTS TO MY EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CIRCLE ONE)

BASIC
\$25.00

SPONSOR
\$50.00

BENEFACTOR
\$100.00

OTHER

ALL DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE

Michael Dixon, Treasurer
Taylor Pond Association
126 Everett Rd
Auburn, ME 04210
