
Taylor Pond Association News

*August
2016*

***TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING***

Sunday, July 31, 2016, 7-9 p.m.
Taylor Pond Yacht Club

Returns and address corrections
to:

Edwin Gray
153 Chicoine Ave.
Auburn, Maine 04210



Interested in
volunteering to
help with TPA
programs?
Please call
Dana Little at
784-1908

Please visit the TPA website:
www.taylorpondassociation.org

President's Message

By Dana Little



I am happy to report the board of Taylor Pond Association has been hard at work this year. I'd like to acknowledge two community members who donate a huge amount of time to our organization. Ed Gray, our treasurer, performs a great job keeping our finances straight and our balance sheet healthy, ready to meet any contingency. Woody Trask continues to monitor the health of our pond, producing an annual water quality report.

I am concerned that the last two years we have seen a slight upward trend in phosphorus. Fortunately we are still below the critical level at which an algal bloom can occur. The most important action you can take as a homeowner is to build a buffer zone between your home and the water. If you would like to learn how to do this, please take advantage of our grant program. The grant provides for a consultant to visit your home and give advice, and in addition, it matches up to \$500 of expenses. *See the article by Susan Trask later in the newsletter for details.*

Global warming seems to be having an impact on the pond; ice-out was March 18th, the earliest on record in the last 46 years. Earlier ice-out means earlier warming of the water, which allows for increased phosphorous production. We will continue to keep a close eye on that.

You may be interested to know that Taylor Pond is part of an alewife restoration project. Every year the Department of Marine Resources trucks nearly 4,000 alewives to the Pond where they are dumped into the water. The fish spawn and quickly return to the ocean, while the fry (babies) hatch and spend the summer in large schools before returning to the ocean in the fall. A representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contacted us this winter to work on a grant to promote alewife migration above the Lower Barker Mill Dam. Although the grant was not funded, this inspired me to research the possibility of salmon returning to our waters (see article in this issue). Another study taking place on the Pond is headed by Karen Wilson from the University of Southern Maine. She is trapping crayfish in Maine, looking for the spread of invasive species. As a volunteer, I will be setting out a trap this summer and risk pinching my fingers.

In other news, I am sad to report that Dick Marston died this spring. Dick helped to set up our current accounting system and provided valuable advice through his membership on our board. Peter Bunker left our board this year to move closer to family in New Hampshire. Both long-time residents on Taylor Pond, they leave a hole in our community as well as on the board. We miss them and hope new volunteers will step up to help us out.





TPA's Unique Shoreline Improvement Grant Program Celebrates 10 Years!

By Susan Trask

Ten years ago, the Taylor Pond Association embarked on a unique project designed to help protect our precious resource by supporting lakeside landowners as they sought to make improvements to their properties. At first, we aligned with the DEP program called LakeSmart, which recognized those whose properties met their criteria for responsible shoreline zone land maintenance. The LakeSmart program involved sending an expert out to a property, evaluating it according to their criteria, and making recommendations for upgrades that would support the health of the lake. At that point TPA tied into that program and offered to support such improvement projects with matching grants up to \$500. A few people took advantage of the program the first couple of years, but we found that the layer of red tape involved in the State program prevented others from participating.

In 2010 we simplified the process. Even though LakeSmart is a wonderful program with goals that align with our own, we decided to separate our grant process from their evaluation process. Since then, we have contracted privately with Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD) to provide the expertise in shoreline best practices that we need to continue the program. This has been – and continues to be – a wonderful partnership. They provide some initial free consultations, and then charge property owners a very reasonable rate for further work.

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TPA's Unique Shoreline Improvement Grant Program Celebrates 10 Years! (continued)

In ten years, more than 30 property owners and road associations have received expert advice on how to improve their lakeside property and help preserve Taylor Pond at the same time. Six grant awards of \$500 each have been made. (This relatively low number only reflects how few people have actually applied for reimbursement. To date, every request has resulted in a grant award.) The recommended projects have varied and range from the very small to the very extensive. Here's a partial list:

- Plants for a buffer strip
- Steps and pathways
- Rip-rap
- Rain gardens and rain barrels
- Drip edges for roofs
- Sedimentation pools
- Level lip spreader (a large stormwater drainage structure)
- Road ditches and grading

We can all be very proud of this outstanding and unique grant program! One of our association's goals involves educating watershed landowners as to best practices in managing their properties. We believe this has been the single most effective tool we've had to advance that goal.

The grant program continues! The process of applying is simple:

1. You must be a TPA member. Road associations must have at least 50% of the residents be members.

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TPA's Unique Shoreline Improvement Grant Program Celebrates 10 Years! *(continued)*

2. Call Susan Trask (784-4606) or email her (susantrask@roadrunner.com) with your interest in making improvements to your lakeside property.
3. She will contact AVSWCD and have a consultant contact you to find a mutually convenient time for a visit.
4. The consultant will examine your property and discuss the projects you wish to work on. He/she will give you and TPA a written report of the visit and the projects discussed.
5. Complete any or all of the work recommended, saving all invoices. You can also count personal work (e.g. planting, digging, etc.) so keep track of your work hours. You do not need to complete all the items recommended. The items you do complete should comply with the best practices outlined in the AVSWCD report.
6. Alert Susan that the project has been completed. She will have the consultant schedule another visit. He/she will submit a written report of the work completed.
7. Submit your invoices and other records to Susan.
8. The Board will determine if the work done complies with the grant parameters. If it does, a matching grant of up to \$500 will be awarded. (In other words, \$1000 or more would need to be expended in order to receive the full \$500.)

Important note:

Even if you do not plan to apply for the matching grant, TPA will provide the initial consultation for you **at no cost to you.** How can you go wrong?? There are no strings attached and no requirements at the outset other than a desire to learn about good lakeside stewardship.

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.



YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors whose terms expire July of 2016, who will stand for re-election to another two-year term:

Dana Little, President (784-1908);
danalw@roadrunner.com

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

Larry Faiman (782-4648);
bmfaian@gmail.com

Donna Morin dmoren77@aol.com

Directors whose terms expire July of 2017

Susan Trask, Secretary (784-4606);
susantrask@roadrunner.com

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

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

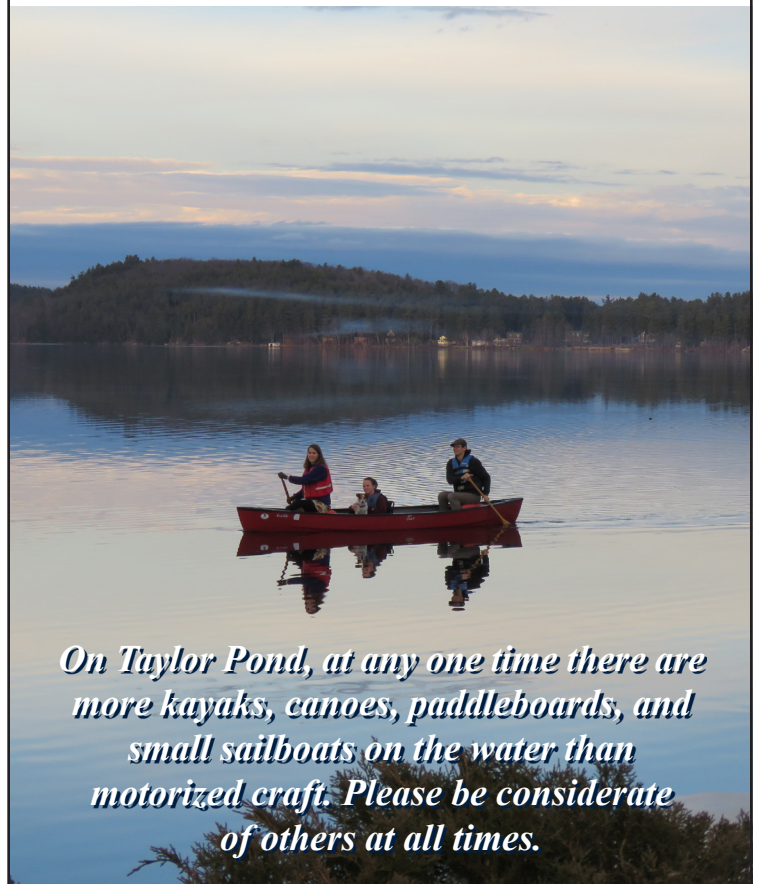
Thank you to all of our directors for their commitment to keeping Taylor Pond healthy!

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

SOME 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.
- 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.

Memories of Taylor Pond

By Joan Macri

Life on Taylor Pond has been a treasured experience for generations. Efforts have been made in the past to chronicle this history, most notably in the book “Now and Then at Taylor Pond” by Helen Andrews in 1986. That was 40 years ago and much has changed—but much has remained the same. While many more homes are year-round, they remain family-focused and more often than not, multi-generational. The Taylor Pond Association is interested in collecting stories and memories from people who have spent many years on the pond in order to hold on to that history. If you have some memories to share, please contact Joan Macri at joanmacri48@gmail.com.

Nancy Weber has been spending her summers on Taylor Pond since 1949. In the 1930's her grandmother, Bertha Rattigan, and her four siblings each bought camps next to one another on what is now Taywood Road. Descendants still occupy 4 of the original homes.

Nancy recalls that her grandmother's passion was to be at Taylor Pond as early in the spring and as late in the fall as possible. Bertha was a determined woman so she made it happen despite working as a weaver at the Bates Mill and walking to and from the mill each day. That is approximately 12 miles round trip and this was before the buses made pick-ups at the intersection of Park Avenue and Lake Street. No wonder she lived to be 91!

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Memories of Taylor Pond (*continued*)

Nancy remembers her grandmother's cottage well. No heat, no electricity, no running water, no fireplace. A wood stove to cook on, heat water and make "the best toast ever" by just placing the bread on top of the stove. Everyone washed up in the pond using little wire cages with bits of soap in them to create a lather, brushing your teeth and spitting from the steps. Ivory soap was the preferred choice because it floated.

With no running water, rain barrels were used to capture water for washing dishes and the entire family would drive to the Spring Road in Auburn with gallon jugs to fill from the natural spring so they would have drinking water for the week.

There was no garbage service so people burned what little trash they created or buried it. Years later, Nancy was working in her garden and discovered lots of buried glass bottles.

People had outhouses back then. Rather than awful, Nancy thought her grandmother's was "inspirational." It was papered with old calendars' scenic sites across the country, such as the Grand Canyon and Pike's Peak. And yes, it was a one-holer.

Favorite summer memories include:

- using a path through the woods to Black's Store (the small pointed roof building at the intersection of Hotel and Lake Street) for popsicles,
- a single bed metal coil box spring hammocked between two pines with a thin pallet on top and a Bates coverlet. "You could just lie there and hear the hum of the pines, feel the air, smell it"
- an owl that came every summer and a very large turtle that is still around
- going to see a water ballet performance at Simpson's Beach where they had spotlights focused on the synchronized swimmers.—quite a sight for her 5 year old eyes
- spending time with all her many relatives,
- the clarity and coolness of the water

Peter Durgin has been coming Taylor Pond since he started dating Judy Pontbriand in the 1950's. Her father Bert built a home in the 1950's and his family was the first to live year-round on East Shore Road. Peter eventually built a year-round house next door to the Pontbriands in 1984.

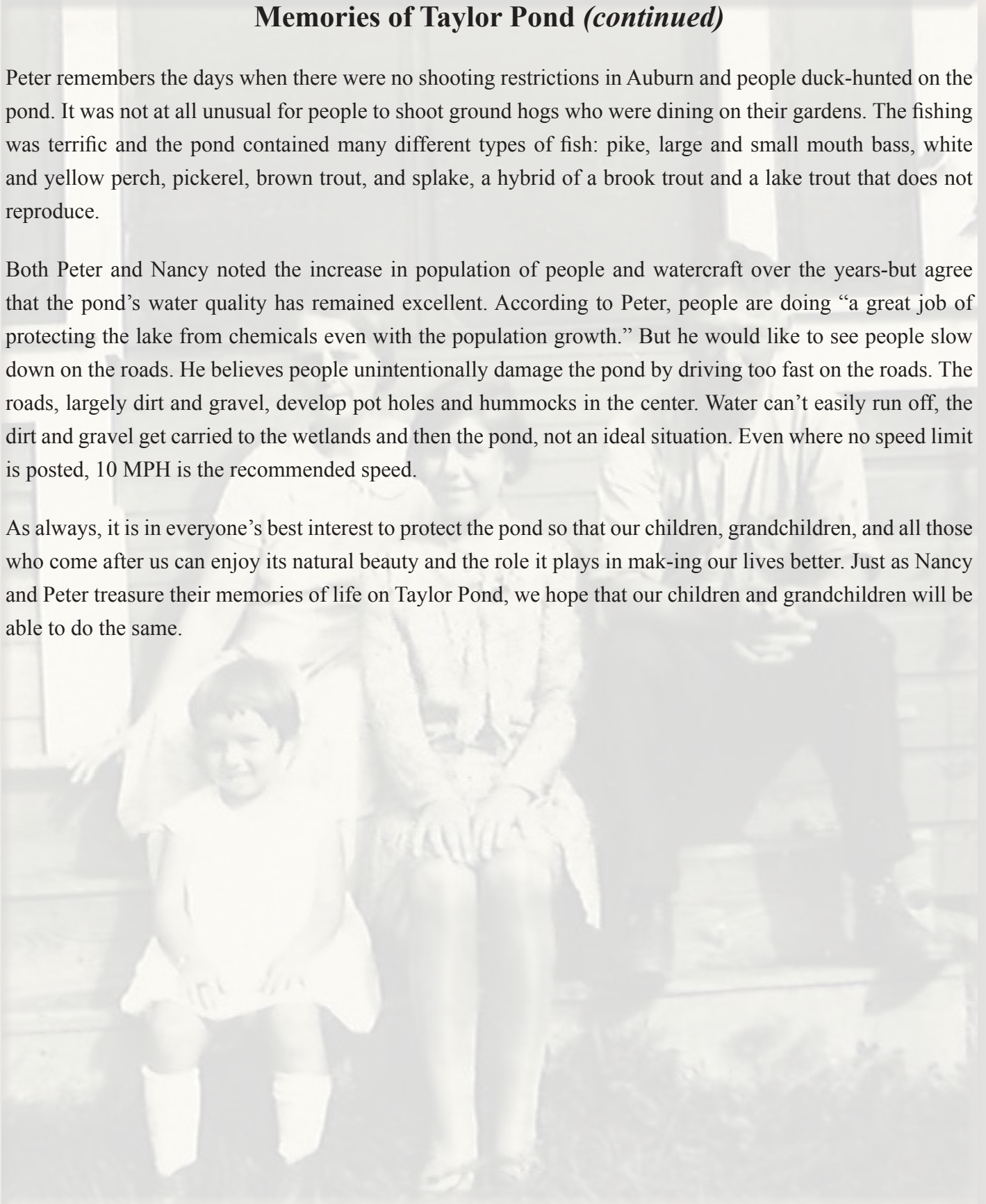
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Memories of Taylor Pond (*continued*)

Peter remembers the days when there were no shooting restrictions in Auburn and people duck-hunted on the pond. It was not at all unusual for people to shoot ground hogs who were dining on their gardens. The fishing was terrific and the pond contained many different types of fish: pike, large and small mouth bass, white and yellow perch, pickerel, brown trout, and splake, a hybrid of a brook trout and a lake trout that does not reproduce.

Both Peter and Nancy noted the increase in population of people and watercraft over the years-but agree that the pond's water quality has remained excellent. According to Peter, people are doing "a great job of protecting the lake from chemicals even with the population growth." But he would like to see people slow down on the roads. He believes people unintentionally damage the pond by driving too fast on the roads. The roads, largely dirt and gravel, develop pot holes and hummocks in the center. Water can't easily run off, the dirt and gravel get carried to the wetlands and then the pond, not an ideal situation. Even where no speed limit is posted, 10 MPH is the recommended speed.

As always, it is in everyone's best interest to protect the pond so that our children, grandchildren, and all those who come after us can enjoy its natural beauty and the role it plays in mak-ing our lives better. Just as Nancy and Peter treasure their memories of life on Taylor Pond, we hope that our children and grandchildren will be able to do the same.



Water Quality Summary for Taylor Pond – 2015

By Woody Trask

To quickly summarize the water quality for 2015, it was a better than average year for water clarity but increasing phosphorus levels are a concern.

Testing began later than usual because the dissolved oxygen/temperature meter had to be sent out for repair, so those measurements could only be taken from mid-July to the end of September. Water clarity readings were taken every other week from June through September. Water samples were also mailed to the State of Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab to be analyzed for total phosphorus at the surface and near the bottom.

The testing results for 2015 were some of the best ever for water clarity. The readings averaged 5.48 meters (18 ft.) which is quite high compared to the historic average of 4.62 meters (15.2 ft.). That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that the phosphorus readings, which are a measure of the potential for the pond to have an algae bloom, were higher than last year. The readings weren't high enough to cause alarm but will be a real concern if they continue to rise. We will continue to closely monitor the amount of phosphorus and record any observations of algae blooms if they occur.

The overall water quality of Taylor Pond is considered to be average compared to all Maine lakes. Barring a major environmental event that causes significant soil erosion and phosphorus-rich run-off entering the pond, the water quality is expected to remain stable going forward.

The ice-out date for spring 2016 was recorded as March 19, which is a whole month earlier than last year. The pond was also late freezing over (January 5). A longer period of open water is generally considered to be unfavorable to water quality because of the resulting higher temperatures and lower oxygen levels. It will be interesting to see how the water quality has been affected.

Woody Trask

6/15/16



Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

By Edwin Gray

The following is our 2015 end-of-year financial report:

Balance through 12/31/2014					\$29,868.32
2014 Income					
	Dues & Contributions	\$5,205.00			
	Staples Rebate	\$4.79			
	Interest Income	\$61.71			
	Income Total	\$5,271.50			
2014 Expenses					
	State fees		\$50.00		
	C.O.L.A. Dues		\$500.00		
	VLMP Contribution		\$200.00		
	Dues Letter Printing & Mailing		\$172.21		
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$1,093.16		
	Computer & Software		\$242.67		
	Annual Meeting expense		\$5.07		
	Water Testing expense & Lab Fees		\$417.84		
	Office Supplies		\$13.69		
	Technical Services		\$592.97		
	Expense Total		\$4,287.61		
Net Gain				\$938.89	
Balance through 12/31/2015					\$30,852.21

In 2015, we received 134 dues-payments at various amounts. The Association is very appreciative of the generosity of all its members.

An important part of our efforts is our annual newsletter. It is our intention to send the newsletter to all property owners in the Taylor Pond shoreland zone, whether they are TPA members or not. Our mailing list currently consists of 247 addresses, including "honorary" members, such as City Councilors, members of the Planning and Zoning Boards, certain City staff, and so on.

As of 06/15/2016, I have processed 93 memberships, and the Taylor Pond Association checking account has a balance of \$33,142.11.

The Return of Salmon to Taylor Pond? Not Soon.

By Dana Little

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) has recently identified eight species of wildlife as being most at risk for extinction. The Atlantic Salmon of the Gulf of Maine is on that list. Fisheries biologists agree that one of the most effective ways to restore salmon to their native habitat is the removal of dams or with the use of fish ladders to bypass dams. The US Fish and Wildlife Service describes the Little Androscoggin River as providing “the best opportunities for Atlantic Salmon spawning and rearing”.

A salmon spends the first half of its life, one to four years, in freshwater rivers and streams and then migrates to the ocean to mature and fatten up. After one to four years in the ocean salmon return to their waters of origin to lay their eggs. Scientists have discovered that they use their keen sense of smell to find their birthplace; only 5% of fish travel up the wrong river.

Salmon once swam abundantly in the waters of the Androscoggin River all the way up to Rumford Falls. Because Taylor Pond drains into Taylor Brook, which feeds into the Little Androscoggin River and from there into the Androscoggin River, at one time salmon likely travelled through our pond and spawned in local brooks. A 1673 a commercial fishing operation at Pejepscot Falls in Brunswick preserved 40 barrels of salmon and would have taken more fish but they had no more salt in which to preserve them for export. In 1793 an Abenaki Native American, Perepole, described the Androscoggin River. In reference to the falls in Rumford, he claimed “the Indians used to catch the most salmon at the foot of them falls”.

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The Return of Salmon to Taylor Pond? Not Soon. *(continued)*

By the early 1800s, mill dams illegally constructed on the Androscoggin River destroyed the great fish runs. The last Atlantic Salmon on the river was seen in 1816 at Great Falls in Lewiston. Despite petitions to restore the fish runs, the Maine Legislature refused to enforce existing laws requiring fish passage around the Androscoggin's dams. In the early 1900s large pulp and paper mills were built upriver and dumped large amounts of pollutants into the water. In addition, towns along the river dumped raw sewage, contaminating the water. By the 1960s the Androscoggin was one of the most polluted American rivers. Today, pollution has been markedly reduced and water quality in the Androscoggin is capable of supporting a healthy salmon population. However, the dams continue to block fish passage.

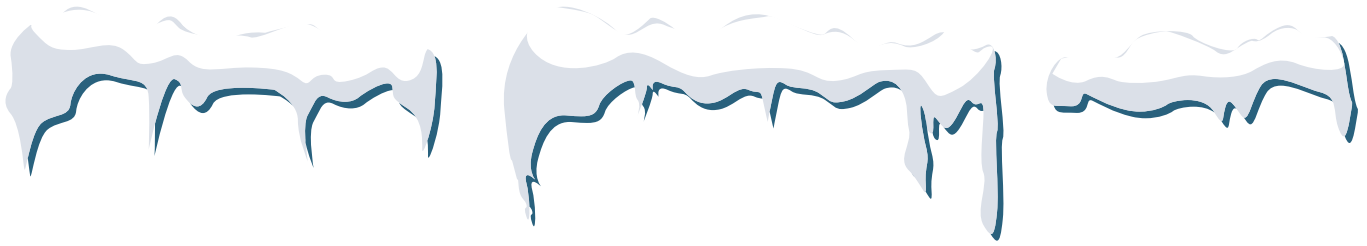
Under the Endangered Species Act the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) develops a recovery plan for each species in danger of extinction. This March the USF&WS submitted a draft recovery plan for the subpopulation of Atlantic Salmon unique to the Gulf of Maine. The estimated total cost for this plan is a third of a billion dollars with expenses spread out over the next 75 years. No money has been raised for this plan; funding occurs through smaller federal grants aimed at more achievable objectives such as fish passage around certain dams. The recovery plan itself is an overall description of goals, methods and ways to measure outcomes.

For a salmon to travel from the ocean to Taylor Pond it would need to ascend the Androscoggin Dam in Brunswick, the Pejepscot and Worumbo Dams on the Androscoggin River, the Lower and Upper Barker Mill Dams on the Little Androscoggin River, and finally the dam at Dag's Bait Shop and Kendall's dam on Taylor Brook. Although the fish ladders at the Androscoggin, Pejepscot and Worumbo dams have existed for years, salmon have not been observed above the Brunswick dam. The alewife, a smaller fish, has also been unable to significantly traverse these barriers. Annually, the Department of Marine Resources catches alewives at the Androscoggin Dam and distributes them to many ponds that drain into the Androscoggin River, including about 3,800 fish to Taylor Pond.

Sean McDermott of NOAA, based in Gloucester, MA, recently contacted Taylor Pond Association for help in obtaining a grant to study the creation of a fish passage for alewives around the Lower Barker Mill Dam on the Little Androscoggin River. The process to relicense this dam began in 2014 and will be completed in 2019. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requires any dam to minimize harm to the environment. Because of intense competition for limited funds, Sean's grant was not funded, making the free passage of salmon and other fish from the ocean to Taylor Pond for now a dream, not a reality. Under the Endangered Species Act we may still see funding to restore this unique subspecies of Atlantic Salmon to the Taylor Pond watershed. The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) continues to work to allow fish to freely travel the Androscoggin River. Dan Kircheis of the DMR believes that "There is a lot of potential to the Androscoggin" [for salmon]. The fact that a few salmon continue to show up year after year at the Brunswick fish ladder demonstrates their resilience and the possibility that someday they may once again be seen in Taylor Pond.

Winter on Taylor Pond

By Joan Macri



The lake always freezes. Always. It may take days or weeks or it can freeze overnight. One New Year's Eve, the pond flash froze overnight. Nancy Weber of Taywood Road remembers being able to see clear to the bottom and seeing a fish suspended in place, caught mid-swim; Peter Durgin recalls seeing a frog encased in the ice. As with any new ice, it was perfect for ice skating. Nancy recalls that everyone went out to the middle of the pond under a full moon. She described it as a "magical, giggling, skating fest"!

Of course, pond hockey has always been popular. Rinks often accompanied by portable high intensity lights, pop up every year. Skating outside in the cold with friends and family is something every Mainer should experience. Fred Haberman, founder of the US Pond Hockey Championship Tournament, was once asked why anyone would prefer skating on a pond over an interior rink. His answer: "Doing it with the wind blowing in your face, and doing it when you're 10 years old, and until your feet are freezing. It's just the most wonderful thing I could ever think of."



Once the ice is formed, it can vary in depth from 12" to 36". It is a common sight to look out one's window and see people walking, skating, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing right up the center of the pond, often accompanied by dogs. There is nothing quite like being in the middle of the pond, surrounded by the majestic pines and white snow, knowing there is 40 feet of water below your feet—and feeling perfectly safe.

Depending on the winter, ice fishing is always popular, although it is the wise person who keeps a careful eye on temperatures if they put out an ice house! Many pike are caught to the delight of the eagles since most fishermen throw them on the ice rather than take them home!

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Winter on Taylor Pond (*continued*)

Over the years many people have enjoyed ice sailing. Nothing quite beats sailing across the ice with the wind at your back! Peter Garcia of West Shore Road has had a sail boat for many years and in approximately 2004, TJ Thayer took it for a spin.

Well into the 1950's many scores of local men earned money in the winter by harvesting ice. Wesley Urquhart lived on the west side of the pond and had an ice operation. The ice would be cut into huge slabs, often more than 20 inches thick, floated in channels that had been cleared to the "haul way" where they would be pulled ashore and stored in hay in an ice house. When Peter Durgin bought his property on Waterview Road from Sumner Peck, he found debris from the ice operation including lumber, chains, belts, and pull-ups. If you boat near the edge of the property, you can still see the 12" square wooden stanchions filled with rocks that marked the entrance to the haul way. The ice was used in ice boxes throughout the community. Prices probably varied from 15 to 60 cents depending upon supply and demand as evidenced by the sign Peter Durgin discovered in the old Lake Auburn Ice Company when he was a teenager.

Winter on the pond is always special. The colder it gets, the more still the air becomes. Sheeted in crystal and white, it is a lovely image to hold onto for those hot sun-filled days of summer!



*We would like to
thank Dana Little,
Dyanne Smith, Don Mailhot,
Michael Cutter, and
Susan Trask for
contributing photos for
this year's newsletter.*

Editor's note

In this newsletter you will find two articles by pond resident Joan Macri, who has a special interest in the history of Taylor Pond. I am grateful to Joan for her contributions, both as a writer and as a co-editor. If you have some special memories of Taylor Pond in years past, please contact her. She plans to offer more historical features next year.

With sadness I note the passing of director Dick Marston. Dick was an avid outdoorsman, a dedicated supporter of TPA, and a great personal friend. He is sorely missed.