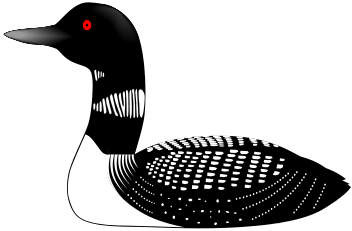

Taylor Pond Association News

*July
2018*



***TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING***

Sunday, July 29, 2018, 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 REPORT

By Dana Little

The Taylor Pond Association continues to work for you using an all-volunteer board. The Board has been busy this last year, working with City and State officials to ensure the continued quality of our precious resource. Here's what's been happening since our Annual Meeting in July of 2017:

Flooding Issues:

Over the years we have been able to create a budget surplus that we drew down this year in contracting two major engineering studies that we felt were in the pond's best interests. Both studies were done by Joseph McLean of Wright-Pierce Engineering and provided us with the level of expertise to make well-informed recommendations.

We contracted for the first study to help us reduce the chance of flooding on the pond. Mr. McLean surprised us when he determined that beaver dams control the usual water level. He found that the Hotel Road culvert and a public road accessing the Kendall property both obstruct water flow during flooding events. His findings will help us to reduce flooding and possibly eliminate the need for many homeowners to carry flood insurance. Please read the full article for more details.

Potential construction at Lost Valley:

The City of Auburn contacted me last summer about a potential commercial development at Lost Valley by Kassbohrer, a manufacturer of snow-grooming equipment. Ultimately, the manufacturer decided against the site at Lost Valley and instead chose what most would consider a more appropriate site in the industrial park off Merrow Road. In contacting us, the City wished to know if we had projects that needed funding for phosphorus reduction. The planned project was looking to offset its phosphorous export into Taylor Pond by funding improvements in other known phosphorous-generating areas. The TPA board met and had three

concerns about the project: (1) Noise generation from running heavy equipment at the site; (2) Large trucks negotiating access along Young's Corner Road; and (3) The magnitude of phosphorus runoff. An increase in the pond's phosphorus could trigger serious algal overgrowth. We turned again to Wright-Pierce Engineering, who provided us with a comprehensive analysis of the projected impact of this project. The most important conclusion was: *The information provided regarding the Phosphorus Standard does not appear to be in compliance with State regulations and the development appears to be dramatically increasing phosphorus export from the developed parcel.* We believe the impact of this report helped to steer Kassbohrer to a safer site in the interests of the health of the pond.

Taylor Pond's water quality continues to be excellent and is monitored throughout the summer by Woody Trask. Woody uses his expertise in chemistry to provide us with timely and accurate data to protect water quality. In the past we paid over \$4,000 yearly for similar services that now are provided free by Woody. Please see his annual summary of water quality in this newsletter.

Taylor Pond provides a rich habitat for wildlife, including fish and birds. Annually the Maine Department of Marine Resources catches over 3000 adult alewives at the Brunswick dam and places them in our pond. These fish spawn and the young develop over the summer in our rich waters before returning to the ocean. All summer people enjoy catching bass and, during the winter, large pike retrieved through holes drilled in the ice.

Wildlife abounds on the water, surrounding wetlands and woods of Taylor Pond. This area serves as the breeding ground and a resting spot for migratory birds. Please read my article on "Year of the Bird" to understand the variety that can be observed.



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 2018, 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, bmfaiman@gmail.com

Donna Morin
dmorin77@aol.com

Kristi Norcross
577-6408
knorcross@roadrunner.com

Directors whose terms expire July of 2019

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

Barbara Mitchell
783-9000, bmitch61@aol.com

Marc Tardif
783-7395, tardifml@efp-efs.com

Woody Trask
784-4606, woodytrask@roadrunner.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.



By Dana Little

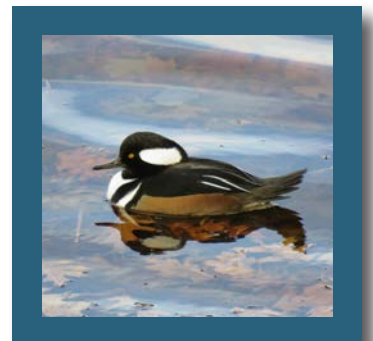


2018 has been designated for the birds! One hundred years ago Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which protects birds that pass between the United States and Canada. This act currently lists over 800 birds for protection. Prior to passage of the act some birds were hunted to extinction. The Passenger Pigeon once darkened the sky as it flew over this area in flocks of millions. Experts considered it the most common bird in the US and possibly the world in the mid 1800's. People hunted the bird to extinction for its meat. Prior to the passage of this act, the abundant Snowy Egret faced a similar fate as hunters sought their feathers to sell for decorating hats.

Over 150 organizations world-wide, including the National Geographic Society and the Audubon Society, are celebrating birds this year in various ways. My personal celebration this year will be to participate in the Maine Bird Atlas. This largely volunteer effort led by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife aims to answer two questions: How many breeding and winter birds can be found in Maine and where are they found? I am submitting data to the atlas online through the program Ebird for my observations around Taylor Pond and Androscoggin County.

Taylor Pond provides diverse habitats for birds including areas of open water, upland woods, swamps, grasslands, fens and marshes. Over the 19 years that I have lived on the pond I have catalogued 105 species of birds that nest or raise their young in the area. These include seldom-seen birds such as the Green Heron, Virginia Rail and American Bittern as well as the more commonly-seen birds such as the American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee and American Goldfinch. Another 53 species migrate through the area with the change in seasons. One has to keep an eye out as these birds typically do not stay long. Such transients include many ducks such as Ring-necked, Ruddy, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Lesser Scaup. I have observed 6 species of birds almost exclusively in the winter. These include the Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Bohemian Waxwing and Snow Bunting.

Most birdwatchers consider warblers to be the "jewels" of the bird world. Bright colors and shy habits make them seldom seen without some effort, but the labor is worth it. They typically winter in Central or South America and travel here only for the brief summer to consume our abundant insect population. They live only in this part of the world and Maine has one of the highest concentrations -- thanks to those pesky mosquitoes and blackflies! I have catalogued 11 species of warbler that commonly nest here and another 16 species seen only on their way north. So I recommend grabbing a pair of binoculars and gazing up into the trees for some entertainment. Join me in celebrating The Year of the Bird!



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ON-SITE DEFENSIBLE SPACE DEMONSTRATION

On June 2, about a dozen TPA members gathered on Taywood Rd. for a demonstration of how to mitigate the danger of wildfires around our properties. The demo was led by Forest Ranger Kent Nelson. Also attending and adding their expertise were Auburn Fire Chief Robert Chase, Fire Prevention Officer David O'Connell, and EMT Director Brad Chicoine. All who attended were in agreement that we learned a lot of useful information. Here are a few highlights:

- Make sure that your street number is clearly visible from both directions.
- Keep your roof clear of pine needles and debris; clean out gutters regularly.
- Create defensible space (clear area free of flammable material), as much as possible, within 30 feet of your home. Any flammable vegetation, brush piles, firewood, wood chips, etc. should be moved away from your structure.
- Care for your lawn and keep it moist.
- Avoid having an easy path for a fire to spread between properties, such as connecting hedges or wooden fences.
- Trim low-hanging branches (called *ladder fuels*) at least 10 feet above the ground.
- Keep fire-pits, barbecue pits, grills, etc. in proper working order and away from flammable vegetation.

We also learned the proper way to cut and stack limbs and brush. Those who applied to the AFD were eligible to have their brush piles chipped and the chips removed by the MFS and AFD on June 29. Attendees also received free work gloves, saws, and loppers.

Demonstration attendees also learned some facts about local ordinances concerning private burning and fireworks, some of which surprised us. There's some misinformation out there! Here are a few key regulations to consider:

- Fireworks are *illegal in Auburn*, including on holidays such as the Fourth of July.
- In areas without local prohibitive ordinances, out-of-state fireworks are also prohibited.
- Private burns are allowed *by permit only*. Contact the Auburn Fire Department for permitting.
- Only clean wood may be burned. Paper, cardboard and leaves are among the *prohibited* items.
- A burn must be at least 50' from any structure and at least 25' from any road.

Please plan to attend the TPA Annual Meeting on July 29 to learn more about protecting our properties from fire danger.



PUBLIC NOTICE



There are **NO FIREWORKS** allowed in the City of Auburn

Any consumer firework use or sales in the City of Auburn is a **VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCE.**

- Children should never handle, play with, or light fireworks.
- **Never throw or point fireworks at other people.**
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- **PARENTS are responsible for any damages associated with their children using fireworks.**
- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported that FIREWORKS were involved in an estimated 8,800 injuries treated in emergency departments this year.

PLEASE BE SAFE

Auburn Fire Department
550 Minot Avenue
(207) 333-6633 ext. 6
fireprevention@auburnmaine.gov



A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As most of you probably know, the Auburn Fire Department (AFD) and the Maine Forest Service (MFS) have been working with the TPA to educate pond residents about how to mitigate the danger of wildfires. Activities have included an audio-visual presentation, fire extinguisher demonstrations, and an on-site demonstration. You'll see several articles in this newsletter relating to that ongoing project as well as some guidelines given to us from the AFD. In addition, The AFD and the MFS have completed a comprehensive fire danger assessment of the neighborhoods around the pond. The results of this assessment will be presented by Ranger Kent Nelson at our Annual Meeting, scheduled for July 29 at 7:00 pm at the Taylor Pond Yacht Club. Please plan to join us!

On a personal note, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to Joan Macri, who has helped with both writing and editing articles, as well as with general inspiration!

Susan Trask

WATER QUALITY SUMMARY FOR TAYLOR POND – 2017

In summary, 2017 was a better than average year for water clarity although the water was slightly more colored (yellow/brown tone) than last year.

A full battery of tests (color, pH, alkalinity, conductance, phosphorus and clarity) was conducted monthly from June through September, with additional clarity readings taken by Michael Heskinen, who joined us this year as a certified water quality monitor. Thank you Michael! Phosphorus analyses of water samples taken from the surface and bottom of the pond were performed by the State of Maine Health and Environmental Testing Lab in Augusta. Surface samples showed a slight increase compared to last year but the bottom samples tested slightly lower. Just an anomaly? Who knows? We'll see what happens in 2018. To my knowledge there were no reports of any significant algae blooms.

The readings for clarity averaged 5.55 meters (18.2 ft.) which is quite high compared to the historical average of 4.64 meters (15.2 ft.) and slightly higher than last year -- a positive indicator of the health of the Pond.

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 2018 was recorded as April 23, which was 4 days later than last year and about 9 days later than the historical average. The pond froze (gradually) over the last week in December, so there was a longer period of ice cover than last year which is considered beneficial to overall water quality.

Woody Trask

LIVING ON THE POND COMES WITH ITS OWN CHALLENGES

By Joan Macri

Living on the pond comes with its challenges despite its beauties. Our magnificent pines and hard woods provide a spectacular backdrop to our homes but these trees can also pose danger and enormous disruption of everyday life when threatened by ice or wind.

The past twenty years have been bookended by two power outages that challenged the character and resourcefulness of pond dwellers. The first began as an Ice Storm on January 5, 1998. After two days of icing, power went out the night of January 7th. For most of the pond, power would be out for 16 days. The second power outage was this past October. An unexpected wind event on October 29 took down hundreds of trees across the area and power was not restored until six days later. Over that twenty-year span, there have been many improvements in technology but in the end, patience and neighbors helping one another was what made the difference.

The official start of the Ice Storm was January 5, 1998 when the forecast was for two days of freezing rain and drizzle. All seemed fine at first. But ice began to build up on trees and electrical lines. Overnight on Wednesday, January 7, trees came down, and the night was lit by flashes from exploding transformers. Power went out. And it stayed out. For 16 days. For most people living around the pond, there would be no power until January 23.

No one at the time had any idea the outage would last so long and very few people had generators. Those who had kerosene lamps found them to be worth their weight in gold since candles and flashlights aren't designed for long-term use. Ken Lord of Waterview Drive had a collection of more than ten old kerosene lamps and, combined with a stash of spring water and a propane camping stove for making coffee, was able to cope once everyone got out their chain saws and cleared East Shore Road. Lord was a teacher at the time and remembers that all the schools were closed for the first week and a half. Many schools were serving as Red Cross shelters. Lord recalls being grateful that Edward Little HS was open for people to use the locker rooms to shower and fill water jugs. As power was gradually restored elsewhere in the area, schools reopened although the area around Taylor Pond remained dark. Most of Auburn had power restored within a week of the original outage but homes around the pond remained out for another ten days.



Continued on page 9

LIVING ON THE POND COMES WITH ITS OWN CHALLENGES

(CONTINUED)

On the pond, no power meant no water from the well, no sewer pump, no lights, no heat, no television. Woody Trask on Taywood Road used an ice auger to break open a hole in the pond so he could hand pump water for the house. Pat and Peter Garcia on West Shore Road had an old gasoline generator with a pull chain that had been in a family camp since the 1950's. They were able to get it going but it didn't have enough voltage to run any appliance. On Day 2 of the Ice Storm, that generator failed, but they were able to borrow a new generator from one of Peter's partners once he got power back in town. The new generator was dragged on a sled from house to house on West Shore Road to run pumps and freezers for a couple of hours at each place. Local stores had run out of generators almost immediately, so being good neighbors was essential.

The Garcia kitchen became the headquarters for West Shore Road folk. Days were spent clearing trees from the road. Each night someone would clear out their freezer and communal dinners became the norm. Yolande Gay made her famous soup on her woodstove, gas grills with propane were used nightly, and there was a lot of wine consumed. Edmund Gay managed Graziano's Restaurant back then and he provided the wine. Neighbors across the Pond on Taywood Road were able to snowshoe over to join in.

The weather the first week of the Ice Storm was relatively mild, in the 30's. But then it got cold, complicating recovery and making life even more uncomfortable. Hot showers were taken at friends' homes in town and local gyms. The working conditions for the Central Maine Power workers were brutal. Each day on the pond, the first questions were "Is everyone alright?" and "What are we cooking tonight?" According to Pat Garcia, "Week 2 was "fueled by French wine".

A card table was set up by their woodstove with a jigsaw puzzle, with the label "Who Said That?" on it. There was no box cover to use as a guide or a copy of Bartlett's Quotations. Everyone who came into the Garcia kitchen worked on the puzzle and when it was completed, a portrait of JFK emerged, along with quotes from many famous people.

Back then you could get Channel 6 television shows on the radio, so people gathered each night to listen for updates. It became obvious that it was going to take some time to get power back in the area around Taylor Pond. More than half of the state was without power along with a huge swath of Canada and other New England states. Ultimately, power crews from as far away as North Carolina came to the rescue.

Continued on page 10



LIVING ON THE POND COMES WITH ITS OWN CHALLENGES

(CONTINUED)

Ken Lord recalls the Ice Storm as his “worst experience living on the pond” but never considered moving. By the end of Week 2, the lack of progress became frustrating as residents learned of other parts of the city and state getting their power back. It became a chore to keep on going. But slowly, slowly the power crews restored power closer and closer to the pond.

On Day 15, the Thayer house at the end of West Shore Road got power back and hosted a huge party at their place that night. It felt like a miracle to their neighbors. On Day 16, Pat Garcia heard a noise and went outside. It was a power company truck from Massachusetts. The crew had been in Maine for 10 days and told Pat they had been enormously impressed with the people of Maine. According to Pat, the crew leader said, “You people in Maine have been so gracious. If this had happened in Massachusetts, we would have been hung.”

This past October’s wind storm brought back memories of the Ice Storm to many residents. On Sunday night, October 29th the wind began to blow and to blow hard. Termed a “bomb cyclone” by meteorologists, thousands of trees fell across much of Maine due to a combination of months-long drought, heavy rain, and high winds. On the pond, this situation was made worse by a number of microbursts, strong downdrafts of wind over a relatively small area, causing scores of trees to topple. Several microbursts were identified on the east side of Taylor Pond including East Shore Road, Shore Path, Taywood Road and the Simpsons Beach area. Roofs were caved in, cars and boats crushed and power lines were down everywhere. More Central Maine Power customers lost power in this storm than in the Ice Storm of 1998. At one point, more than 800,000 people in Maine were without electricity. Once again, neighbors around the pond stepped up. Chainsaws were put to use to clear roads. Many more people now had generators, including those that run on propane and come on automatically when power fails. Neighbors checked on neighbors, everyone stepped in to help clear brush. And power was only out 6 days. When asked to compare the October storm to the Ice Storm, Pat Garcia pointed out that it was much easier since it was in the fall rather than mid-winter, much shorter, and so many people now have some kind of generator. But she did miss the companionable aspects of the Ice Storm—although not enough to ever repeat that experience.

As we enjoy these glorious summer days, surrounded by blue waters, lichen-covered rocks and towering trees, take a moment to appreciate the beauty and to acknowledge that sometimes beauty comes at a price. But it is a price we are willing to pay—every twenty years or so...



Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

By Edwin Gray

The following is our 2017 end-of-year financial report:

Balance through 12/31/2016					\$32,818.44
2017 Income					
	Dues & Contributions	\$6,330.00			
	Interest Income	\$32.32			
	Income Total	\$6,362.32			
2017 Expenses					
	State fees		\$35.00		
	MLS Dues		\$200.00		
	MVLMP Contribution		\$500.00		
	Dues Letter Printing & Mailing		\$0.00		
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$1,179.18		
	Computer & Software		\$0.00		
	Annual Meeting expense		\$5.88		
	Water Testing expense & Lab Fees		\$316.66		
	Office Supplies		\$10.00		
	Lake Smart Payments		\$0.00		
	Technical Services		\$9215.00		
	Expense Total		\$11,461.72		
Net Gain (Loss)				(\$5099.40)	
Balance through 12/31/2017					\$27,719.04

In 2017, we received 137 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. We make an effort to send the newsletter to all property owners in the Taylor Pond shore land zone, whether they are TPA members or not. Our mailing list currently consist of 239 address, including "honorary" members, such as City Councilors, members of the Planning and Zoning Boards, certain City staff, and so on.

As of 06/10/2018, I have processed 82 memberships, and the Taylor Pond Association checking account has a balance of \$25,933.70. Our current balance reflects payment of the remaining balance \$ 485.00 for the Taylor Pond Flood Mitigation Study, as well as \$ 2,923.00 payment for a Phosphorous Impact Study of the proposed Kassbohrer All-Terrain Vehicles development at Lost Valley.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Taylor Pond is one of the few lakes in the area is that not infested with milfoil, an invasive feathery plant that can completely take over a shallow like in a season. Before launching a boat always check carefully to be sure that not a speck of plant material is one it. Just a tiny piece tucked away in a propeller can produce a whole colony of milfoil. Thank you for your vigilance!



TPA GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

By Dana Little

The grant program that provides up to \$500 to eligible homeowners continues to work to improve our pond's health. Both Kristi Norcross and I volunteer to run the program which begins with a LakeSmart evaluation. In 2017 I visited eight homes and this year two homes so far. Of these evaluations, one received the distinction of being a LakeSmart property. In addition this property received a \$500 reimbursement for its lake-friendly improvements. In the past we hired consultants to provide LakeSmart evaluations, which cost us several thousand dollars in 2016. Since 2017 I have provided local expertise, with certification from the Maine Lakes Society, at no cost.

A LakeSmart property award is made when a homeowner designs their land so that it keeps the lake healthy. LakeSmart recommendations include preventing rain from directly entering the pond, planting a buffer along the shore, not cutting grass less than three inches, avoiding pesticides and fertilizers, and reducing lawn sizes. No home is perfect, but I can provide recommendations to improve and instructions on how to apply for a \$500 grant to help make those improvements. I can also advise you on how to stay within the requirements of Maine's shoreland zoning law and other regulations.

To find out more about a free LakeSmart evaluation and an opportunity to receive a \$500 grant, call Kristi Norcross at 577-6408. The basic requirements for receiving a grant include:

1. An initial LakeSmart evaluation
2. Make improvements as recommended in the written evaluation
3. Provide proof of associated costs
4. Avoid making changes to the property that would worsen its score
5. Finally, to have a follow-up evaluation done to ensure that the work has been done satisfactorily

TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018 AT 7 P.M. AT THE TAYLOR POND YACHT CLUB

Our guest speaker will be Ranger Kent Nelson from the Maine Forest Service. He will speak about mitigating the danger of wildfires on our properties, and will also present the results of a recent Taylor Pond Fire Safety Assessment carried out by the MFS and the Auburn Fire Department. Please come and find out the details! You can also visit with pond neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments.

FLOODING ISSUES REVISITED

By Dana Little

Removing obstructions to the free flow of Taylor Brook under Hotel road and Stevens Mill extension could reduce the chance of flooding on the pond. The Taylor Pond Association hired Joseph McLean of Wright-Pierce Engineering to advise us on how to prevent the flooding of so many homes from events like the 9 inches of rain we received over a four-day period in June of 2012. After a year of study he presented his preliminary report at our last association meeting in August 2017.

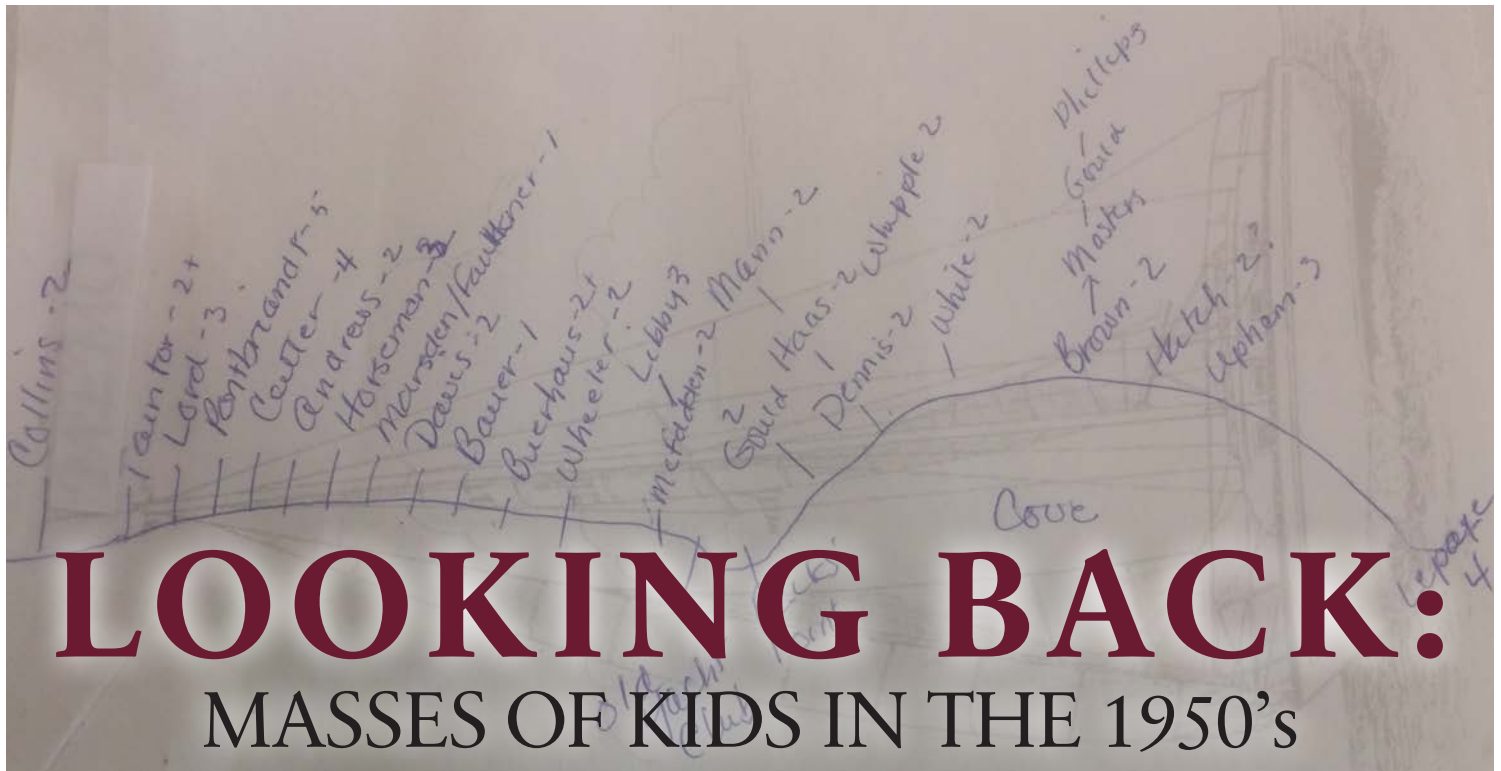
Beaver dams and debris in the outlet have often been blamed for causing flooding. However, Mr. McLean determined that beaver dams, located below Hotel Road, prevent water levels from dropping too low in the summer but do not cause flooding. They block water flow most of the year, but during high water events water easily flows around, over or through the dam. Removal of any beaver dams would result in lower water levels in the pond but no decrease in flooding events.

The Hotel Road culvert through which Taylor Brook flows on leaving Taylor Pond does restrict flow and acts like a large dam during high water events. In 2017 we learned that the state's Department of Transportation (DOT) plans to improve this culvert. The DOT held a public meeting May 2nd of this year at which I and several other members of the TPA board and pondside residents were present. We learned that work will likely begin in 2019 and will finish by winter. TPA is working with the engineers at DOT to ensure that the project will have a sufficiently large span to reduce the chance of flooding. According to Joseph McLean's calculations, if the current culvert (about 18 feet wide) is replaced by a 30 foot span, the high water mark in a 100 year flood would be 4.8 inches lower. The DOT representatives at the May 2 meeting were responsive to the concerns TPA members expressed, and they will look carefully at the Wright-Pierce findings as they continue planning the project.

Two other sites that restrict water flow are the dam on Taylor Brook located on the Kendall property and the Stevens Mill Road extension which crosses the brook and allows access to the Kendall home. We have spoken to the Kendalls and they plan to leave the dam alone. The Stevens Mill Road extension passes over Taylor Brook, is owned by the city and acts as a dam during high water levels. Replacement of the current bridge with a 35 foot wide bridge, in combination with improvements to the Hotel Road culvert, would lower the 100 year flood level by a total of 14.4 inches.

One final finding of the engineering report could help reduce the estimated 100-year flood elevation by almost two feet (from 245.5 to 243.6). The Wright-Pierce study included factors not considered in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) study. For certain property owners this could eliminate the need to pay for flood insurance. To officially change this level, we would need to contract with Wright-Pierce or appeal to the city to work with FEMA to amend the current flood maps. With the proposed improvements to Hotel Road, the Stevens Mill extension, and anticipated changes in the estimates for 100-year flooding, we could see not only the reduced chance of flooding but also elimination of the need for flood insurance payments for many homeowners on the pond.

TPA will continue to work with City, State, and Federal agencies as appropriate to move these issues forward.



In the midst of another lovely summer on the lake, it is interesting to look back in time to see what it was like for a child to spend a summer on Taylor Pond 60 plus years ago. Back then there were “masses of kids” according to long-time resident, Judi Andrews. This was the beginning of the Baby Boomer generation. On the east side of the pond, you could walk unimpeded from LePage’s at the end of the “Cove” to beyond Simpson’s Beach. More than 50 children lived in the small cottages that stretched alongside that portion of the pond.

Everyone knew everyone else and days were completely free and wide-open for children. In

Andrews’ words, “they reported late and reluctantly for meals.” Many cottages had bells and when they rang, that was the signal to report home. Other families relied on the power of a father’s (or mother’s) whistle.

Days were free and filled with all sorts of adventures. The children dug clay from clay pits in the swamp and fired pots in cottage fireplaces. On occasion, a pot would explode but generally the mothers were okay with that. The children played army in the woods; no fear of ticks and tick-borne illnesses back then. They put on plays and sold tickets, watched American Bandstand from the front steps of a cottage that had a television set, and played endless games of canasta in the Cove. There

was volleyball and badminton on the lawns and always a handy hammock when a few minutes of rest was needed.

But the pond itself was the major playground. Everyone had boats and many had spent hours watching their fathers build their own racing sloops. The kids would reconfigure rowboats with broomsticks and sheets and presto, they had their own sailboats. Square-riggers, to be sure, and only able to sail downwind, but lots of fun none the less.

The magnet was the old Yacht Club (now the Upham cottage on the East Shore). There were sailing and swimming lessons, Saturday night socials and the Sunday races where as many as thirty Turnabouts with kids at the helm would race.

The first power boats were small and utilitarian, but by the 1960’s, water skiing was big and required much larger motors. On two skis or better yet, on one, the kids, teens by now, slalomed their way around the pond.

The masses of kids are gone now although many of the original group retain deep ties to the pond as they take over their families’ camps and watch their own children and grandchildren experience their own summers on the pond. It is still a very special experience.



2017 CORRECTION

Please note that there was an error in the 2017 article "Looking Back: When Simpson's Beach Was Rice's Beach." Dr. Andrews was a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine..

PHOTO CREDITS

Thanks to Dana Little, Judi Andrews, Pat Garcia, and Susan Trask for the photos in this year's newsletter.

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 2018 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.