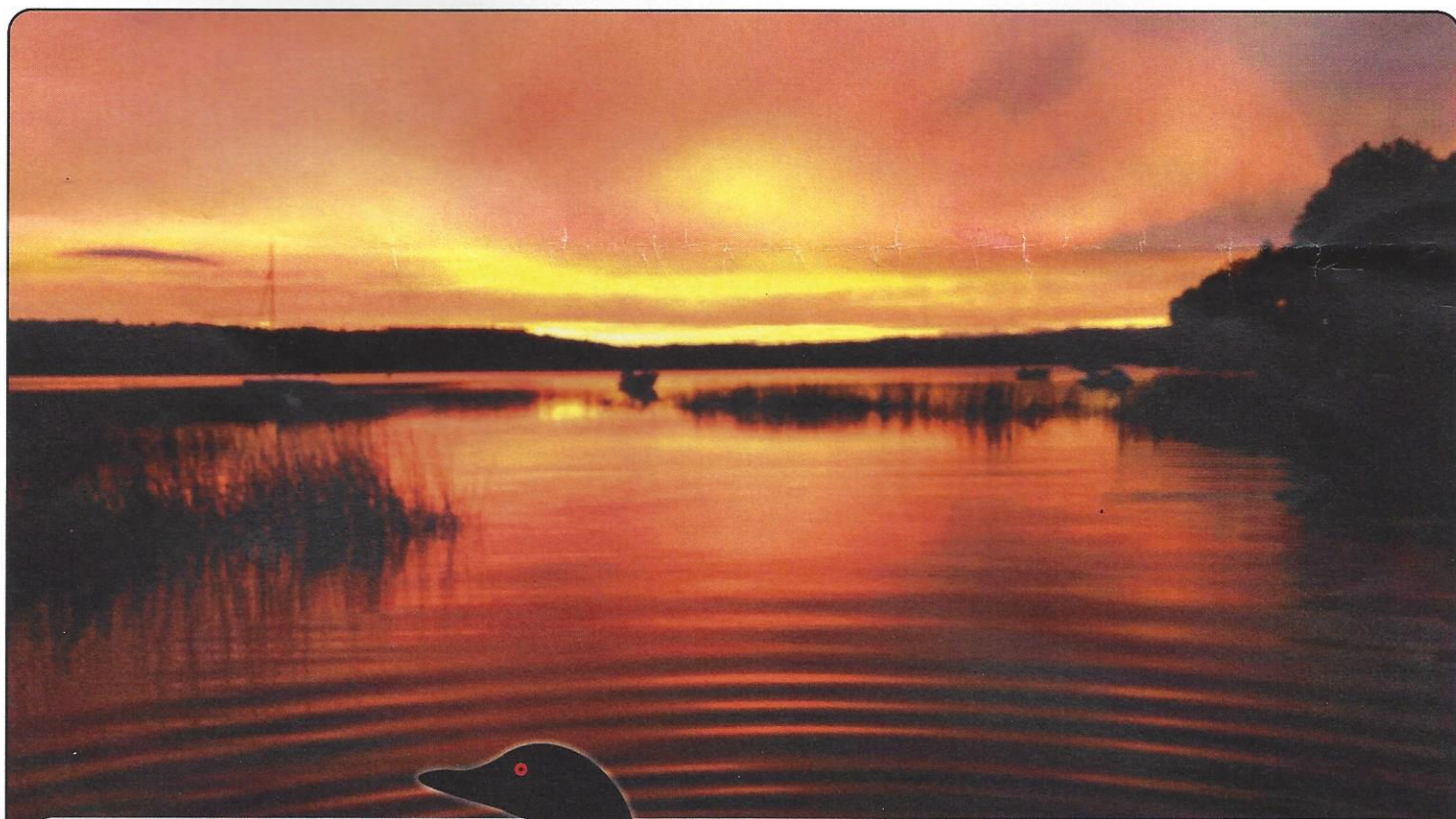


Taylor Pond Association News

SUMMER 2021

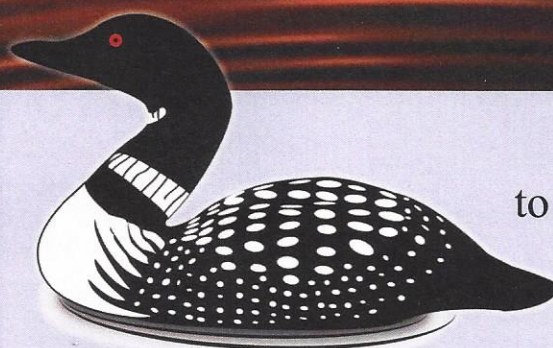
TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, August 29, 2021 | 7 pm | Taylor Pond Yacht Club



Returns and address
corrections to:

Edwin Gray
153 Chicoine Ave.
Auburn, ME 04210



Interested in volunteering
to help with TPA programs?

Please call Dana Little
at 207.784.1908

Please visit the TPA website: www.taylorpondassociation.org

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors whose terms expire Summer 2022

Dana Little
President (784-1908)
danawl@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

Bill Turner
bill@mainesource.com

Directors whose terms expire Summer 2021

Luci Merin
Secretary (240-3811)
lucile.merin@gmail.com

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

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

Woody Trask (784-4606)
woodytrask@roadrunner.com

Directors serve two-year terms and are elected at the annual meeting. If you have internet access and are willing to serve as an officer or director, please contact Dana Little. We are grateful to all our directors for their commitment and welcome new members of the board.

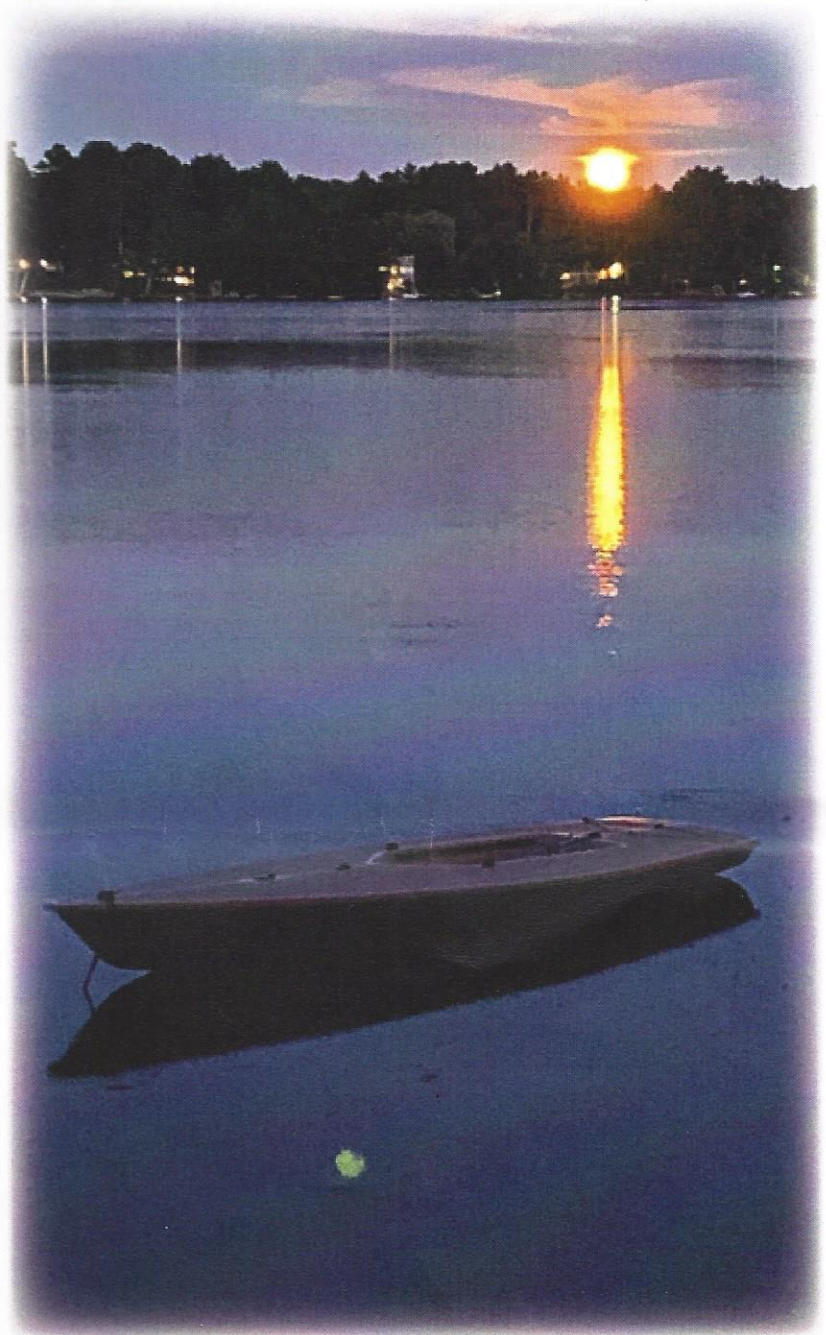


PHOTO CREDITS

Thank you to the following Taylor Pond residents for contributing newsletter photos this year: Connie Bedette, Steve Bouchard, Rich Byard, Cecile Doyon, Amy Gusefski, Doug Libbey, Dana Little, Barbara Mitchell, Wylie Mitchell, Kristi Norcross, Jennifer Paré, William Phillips, Linda Pierson, Joel Richmond, Dyanne Smith

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Taylor Pond Association, over the course of this most unusual year, continues the work of protecting our pond. The Board has met virtually and we were pleased with the participation in last summer's Annual Meeting via Zoom. That said, we look forward to greeting each other in person August 29 at the 2021 Annual Meeting at the Taylor Pond Yacht Club. We hope you can join us--vaccinated, masked, or distanced, however you feel safe. It will be good to be together.

And speaking of the pandemic, we know that Taylor Pond families were not untouched by this ravaging virus. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to those who lost loved ones, our sense of relief for those who were sick and recovered, and our encouragement to those who may still be feeling the physical, mental, or emotional effects of COVID-19.

WATER QUALITY

The quality of our water remains excellent. Over the last 17 years of my involvement, we have not had a harmful algal bloom. The best way to continue the pond's good health is to prevent rainwater from running directly into the pond. By allowing water to first percolate through the soil, harmful nutrients that promote algae growth are filtered out. We thank all our resident citizen scientists, especially Woody Trask and Michael Heskanen, who take seriously their task of monitoring water quality throughout the summer. They report readings to the statewide database maintained by Lake Stewards of Maine, an organization celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. See the article on water quality, as well as information on Lake Stewards of Maine, and think about joining our citizen scientist corps.

FISH

Fishing on Taylor Pond yields ample Perch, Bass and Pickerel as well as the invasive and nuisance Northern Pike. Enthusiasts have wondered about stocking other varieties, but our pond's ecology supports only warm-water fish. Trout and other salmonids cannot live in shallow ponds like Taylor Pond.

LAKESMART GRANTS

To learn how you can improve your effect upon the pond, consider scheduling a LakeSmart evaluation by calling me at 576-6563. I perform the evaluation myself and will meet with you at your home to make specific recommendations. I will let you know about legal requirements, but I am not part of any enforcement program, and making any changes is strictly voluntary. If you do complete one or more recommendations, TPA can match up to \$500 of your expenses so long as you meet all other requirements. We gave two \$500 LakeSmart grants to TPA members this past year--one to an individual homeowner and one to a road association.

Like the pond we support, Taylor Pond Association thrives from the careful attention of many. Please send your membership dues if you have not already, consider volunteering as a board member/officer, or take part in LakeSmart or Invasive Plant training. We always welcome new volunteers. Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Dana Little

TAYLOR POND

WATER QUALITY REPORT— 2020

Water quality monitoring of Taylor Pond was conducted by Woody Trask and Michael Heskanen from May through September. TPA has been doing its own monitoring since 2004. During that time period the water quality of the pond has remained consistently good and comparable to other Maine lakes of similar size and characteristics.



2020 was exceptional in that a water clarity reading of 7.0 meters, about 23 feet, was obtained at the end of May, about 2.5 feet greater than the previous record. The average clarity for the entire summer was also above average which is most likely attributable to having a relatively dry summer with less runoff bringing soil and nutrients into the pond.

Phosphorus readings were up slightly from last year but were consistent with the historical average. Higher phosphorus levels can result in algae blooms but none of consequence were reported during the summer.

"Ice In" officially occurred on December 4, 2019, and "ice out" was on April 2, 2020, which was three weeks earlier than 2019 and 12 days earlier than the historical average. "Ice In" for 2021 didn't occur until January 11, 2021, with "ice out" on April 4, 2021 making for a very short time period with ice cover. Longer "ice-over" periods are generally considered beneficial to water quality, so we will now wait to see if the shorter coverage period has had any detrimental effect on water quality.

No invasive plants such as Eurasian milfoil were detected. However, the danger is always present that boats brought to the pond that have been on lakes with milfoil will bring plant fragments to the pond and it will take over the pond. The vigilance of residents and guests is the key to continued prevention of invasive plants in Taylor Pond.

Woody Trask

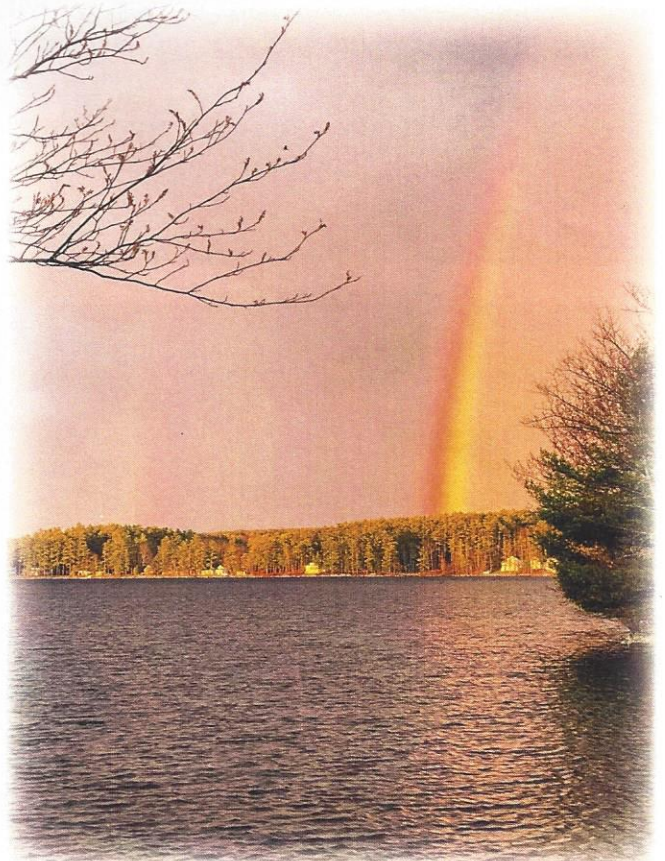


TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

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.

WAKES & WATER QUALITY

Skimming across the pond to enjoy the breeze and the fresh spray of water on a hot summer day is one of the great joys of living on the water. As we enjoy this simple pleasure, our local citizen scientists are following national concerns over the environmental effects of Wake Boats used for the growing sport of wakeboarding. A water sport that combines water skiing, surfing and snowboarding, wakeboarding is enhanced by creating the biggest waves/wakes possible behind a boat. Wake Boats have specially designed wave-enhancing devices to create large wakes. There is growing evidence that larger wakes from wake boats are resulting in accelerated erosion along shorelines and decreasing water quality from sediment and contaminants stirred up by the bigger waves. Luckily, these boats are more likely to be found on larger bodies of water than Taylor Pond. It's a good reminder, however, that boats are required to maintain "No Wake" speed within 200 feet of shore in any Maine lake for safety and the health of the ecosystem. In our small, shallow pond, there are areas even farther from shore where the effects of high speeds and large wakes could quickly decrease water quality. Please boat responsibly!



KEEP IT CLEAN...SHORELINE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS SUPPORT TAYLOR POND WATER QUALITY

It's Summer...finally! Whether your idea of summer on Taylor Pond includes boating, floating, paddling, fishing, sailing, or simply relaxing in a deck chair on solid ground, you count on its clean water and accessible shoreline to get the most out of every, precious summer day. We all do. Of all the issues on TPA agendas over the years, none is more consistent and more important than water quality. It is no accident that our water is clear; it's thanks to the stewardship of us all.

One of the best ways to maintain water quality is from the shore. TPA offers help to property owners who want to make their shoreline more lake friendly. Free property evaluations and matching grants up to \$500 are available to members. Participation is completely voluntary. Property owners can opt out at any time (i.e. they are not required to implement any improvement suggestions and the property evaluation is purely educational, not regulatory).

Evaluations do advise property owners on Maine's shoreland zoning law and include customized recommendations for property improvements that will keep the pond healthy such as:

- Preventing rain runoff from directly entering the pond
- Planting a buffer along the shore
- Leaving grass at least three inches long when cutting
- Avoiding pesticides and fertilizers and
- Reducing lawn sizes

Homeowners (or road associations) who do want to apply for a matching grant (up to \$500) will follow these steps:

1. An initial, free LakeSmart property evaluation
2. Make improvements as recommended in the written evaluation
3. Provide proof of associated costs
4. Not make changes to the property that would worsen its score
5. Have a follow up evaluation to ensure satisfactory work

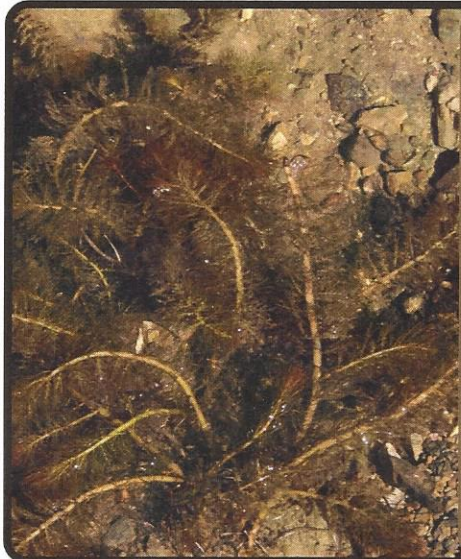
To find out more or schedule a LakeSmart evaluation, call Kristi Norcross at 577-6408.

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 and proper light if operating at night.
- 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. If you are transiting at night, be aware that loons and ducks may be in your path. Be vigilant!



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Taylor Pond is one of the few area lakes that is not infested with milfoil, an invasive feathery plant that can completely take over a shallow lake in a season. Before launching a boat ***always*** check carefully to be sure that not a speck of plant material is on it. Just a tiny piece tucked away in a propeller can produce a whole colony of milfoil. The best, and almost only, defense is prevention. A one-inch piece of milfoil kept in a freezer for a year is still hearty and robust once submerged in water again. ***Thank you for your vigilance!***

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

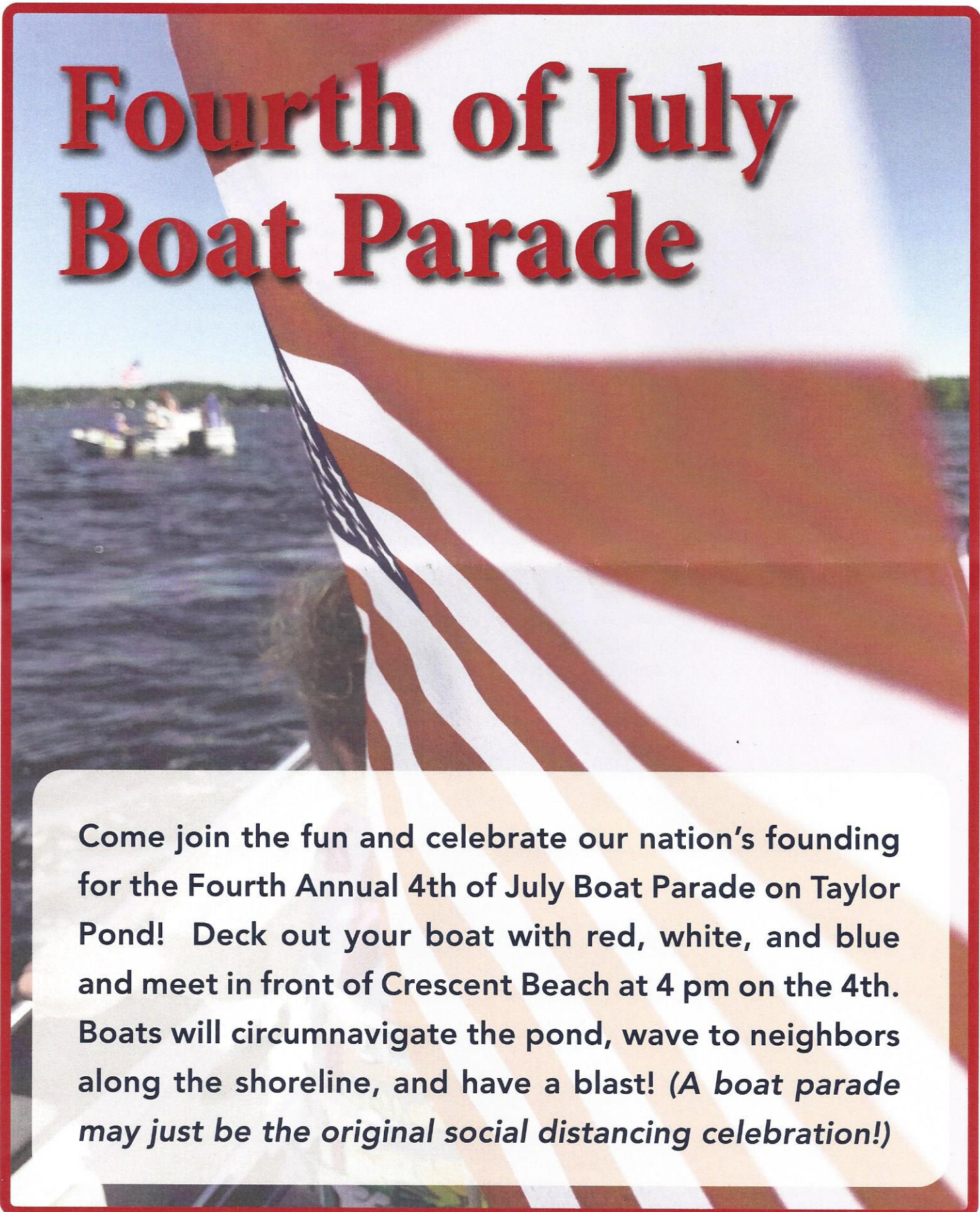


Any consumer firework use or sales in the City of Auburn is a **VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCE.**

- 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



Fourth of July Boat Parade

Come join the fun and celebrate our nation's founding for the Fourth Annual 4th of July Boat Parade on Taylor Pond! Deck out your boat with red, white, and blue and meet in front of Crescent Beach at 4 pm on the 4th. Boats will circumnavigate the pond, wave to neighbors along the shoreline, and have a blast! *(A boat parade may just be the original social distancing celebration!)*

FROGS OF TAYLOR POND



Pickerel Frog

According to the New York Times (October 18, 2018), studies suggest that over 200 frog species have become extinct since the 1970s. Worldwide, a dramatic decline in both species of frogs and numbers seen has been recorded. The numerous causes of such declines include a fungal infection that has spread around the world, as well as declines in quantity and quality of habitat. Because frogs have permeable skin they are susceptible to toxins in the environment and changes in temperature and water quality. The decline in frogs may be a warning that we need to improve the protection of our natural resources.

If frogs are a bellwether of habitat quality, then a spring morning frog chorus provides evidence of the health of Taylor Pond. Early in March, as soon as the snow starts to melt and open water appears in the marshes surrounding Taylor Pond, the Wood Frogs start their calls. They sound like ducks quacking. They freeze solid during the winter and appear emaciated in the spring after crawling out of their muddy burrows from surrounding uplands. Within a week of the start of the Wood Frog chorus, the Spring Peepers begin and provide a deafening sound at night for the next two months. If you listen closely a few weeks later, you will hear the hoarse grunting of Pickerel Frogs, usually calling near the shoreline. Once the days become warmer, the twang of the Green Frogs begins in the evening followed a few weeks later, on a hot spring night, by the deep harrumphs of the Bullfrogs, the higher chattering call of the Gray Treefrog and the high trill of the American Toad.

What would we lose if we lost this nightly symphony of frogs? I would certainly miss this amphibious celebration of spring. Scientists have studied the natural toxins found in the skin of many frogs which may lead to new antibiotics and painkillers. But more important than their utility to humans, frogs are central to our ecosystem, both consuming vast amounts of insects and being consumed by the mink, otters, racoons, foxes and other predators around the pond. The loss of frogs in many parts of the world should give us pause, and the sounds of spring around Taylor Pond reassure us that all is well at home.

Dana Little



Green Frog

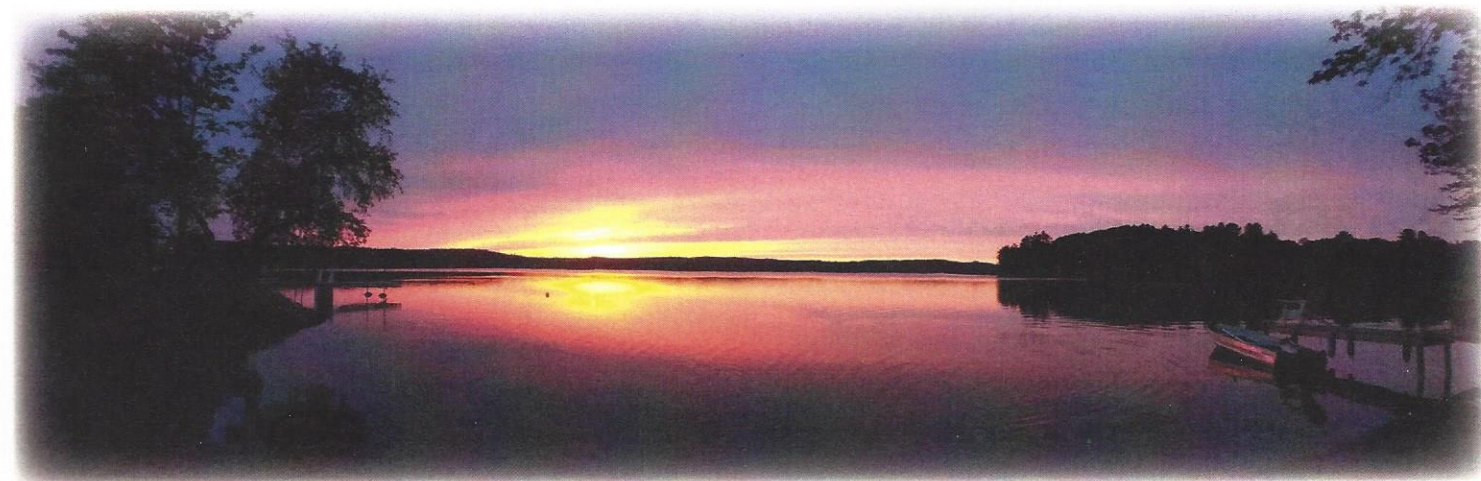
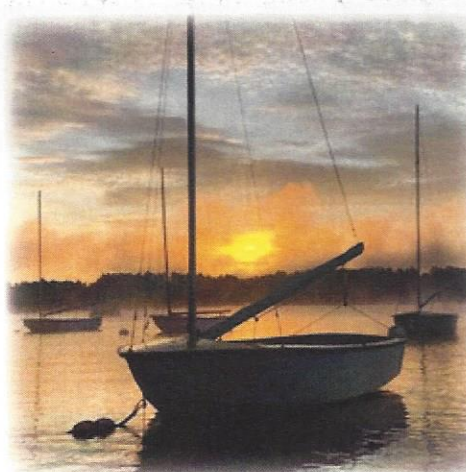
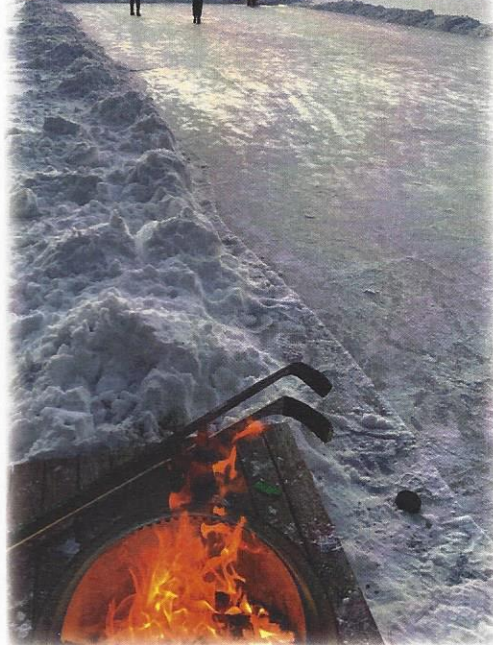
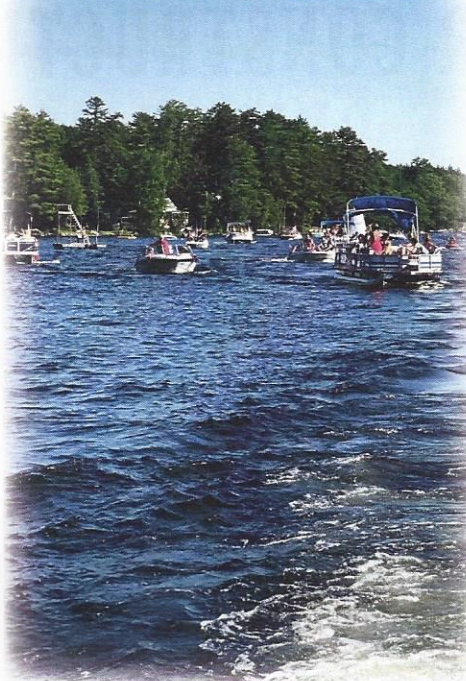
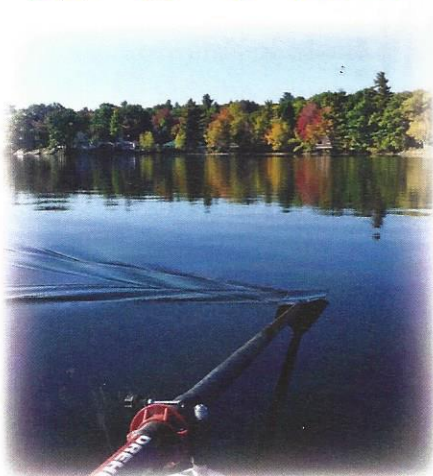


Spring Peeper




Gray Tree Frog

A POND FOR ALL SEASONS



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: TAYLOR BROOK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT



It's official--the start date for construction of the Taylor Brook Bridge Replacement on Hotel Road is July 7, 2021! The \$1.2 million project was awarded to Maine-based contractor Wyman & Simpson, Inc. of Richmond, in business for nearly 90 years and an experienced bridge contractor. Construction vehicles and materials started appearing on the side of Hotel Road in late May in anticipation of the July project start. Work will continue through the summer, with completion expected this fall. Maine DOT reports that this section of Hotel Road (between Chicoine Ave and Sandy Beach Road) will be closed for the duration of the project, starting around July 12, and potentially lasting up to 100 days. Detour signs will be posted at major intersections diverting traffic to Park Ave and a temporary traffic light will be installed at the Park Ave/Summer St Intersection to handle

increased traffic flow. Residents will maintain access from either Minot Ave or Youngs Corner Road.

This project is a great example of Taylor Pond Association's role as an advocate. In 2017, TPA commissioned an engineering study of water levels and flooding issues on Taylor Pond. The study concluded that 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. In 2019 Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) accepted stewardship of the project. A slow process that has seen more than one delay is finally getting underway to reduce the chance of flooding. The new bridge will allow water to pass freely down and fish to swim upriver, an environmental win, win.

50 YEARS FOR LAKE STEWARDS OF MAINE

Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM) started up fifty years ago with an ambitious and innovative idea that was also remarkably simple and practical. The goal was to help interested citizens become directly involved in the critical process of monitoring Maine lakes. Accessible, educational and scientifically rigorous, this initiative vastly expanded the scientific data collection related to Maine lakes. This data is used to develop and implement effective conservation laws, policies, and practices. This grassroots network of knowledgeable citizens has grown into a strong and widespread foundation for Maine lake stewardship. Happy Anniversary, Lake Stewards of Maine, and many thanks to citizen scientists for Taylor Pond and statewide!

We can all be citizen scientists by staying informed, observing our surroundings, and maintaining responsible practices as lakeside residents. Volunteers for the Lake Monitoring Program are always welcome and are offered excellent support and training. Becoming a volunteer or donor helps support this group's important work. And, you are invited to help LSM celebrate this milestone anniversary with a 1-minute selfie video sharing your view of monitoring lake life on Taylor Pond. More details are on lakestewardsofmaine.org

Following the popularity of last year's pandemic pivot to webinars, Lake Stewards of Maine/Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is again hosting weekly Friday webinars. The live, one-hour webinars take place at 4 pm on Friday afternoons through August. Pre-registration is required for all who plan to attend the live webinars, but all sessions will be recorded and available at lakestewardsofmaine.org. Webinar

topics include The Maine Loon Project, Monitoring Algae Blooms, and A Smartphone App for Identifying Lake Flora and Fauna. Lake Stewards of Maine's Annual Conference will be held July 24, 2021, and is themed "Celebrating 50 Years of Keeping an Eye on Maine Lakes through Community Science."



Maine Lakes Society has changed its name and is now known as simply Maine Lakes. The organization that spearheads the LakeSmart program also maintained their virtual educational programs for 2021. The 51st Annual Maine Lakes Conference speakers were featured in Wednesday webinars held February through June. All are posted at mainelakesociety.org. Questions? Call (207) 495-2301 or email info@mainelakesociety.org.

Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

Balance through 12/31/2019				\$30,129.95
2020 Income				
	Dues & Contributions	\$5,005.00		
	Interest Income	\$ 31.19		
	Income Total	\$5,036.19		
2020 Expenses				
	Federal Filing		\$ 39.95	
	State fees		\$ 35.00	
	MLS Dues		\$ 200.00	
	MVLMP Contribution		\$ 500.00	
	Lake Smart Payments		\$1,000.00	
	Newsletter Printing & Mailing		\$1,394.51	
	Website Renewal		\$ 741.71	
	Water Testing Expense & Lab Fees		\$ 272.65	
	Expense Total		\$4,183.82	
Net Gain, (Loss)				\$ 852.37
Balance through 12/31/2020				\$30,982.32

In 2020, TPA received 107 dues-payments at various amounts, a decrease of 32 members from 2019. The Association is very appreciative of the generosity of all its members and looks forward to reestablishing memberships of those who were unable to join last year. As of 06/13/2021, 81 members have renewed for 2021, and the Taylor Pond Association checking account has a balance of \$33,573.33. If you received a membership notice in this newsletter, it means we had not received your renewal as of 6/13/2021.

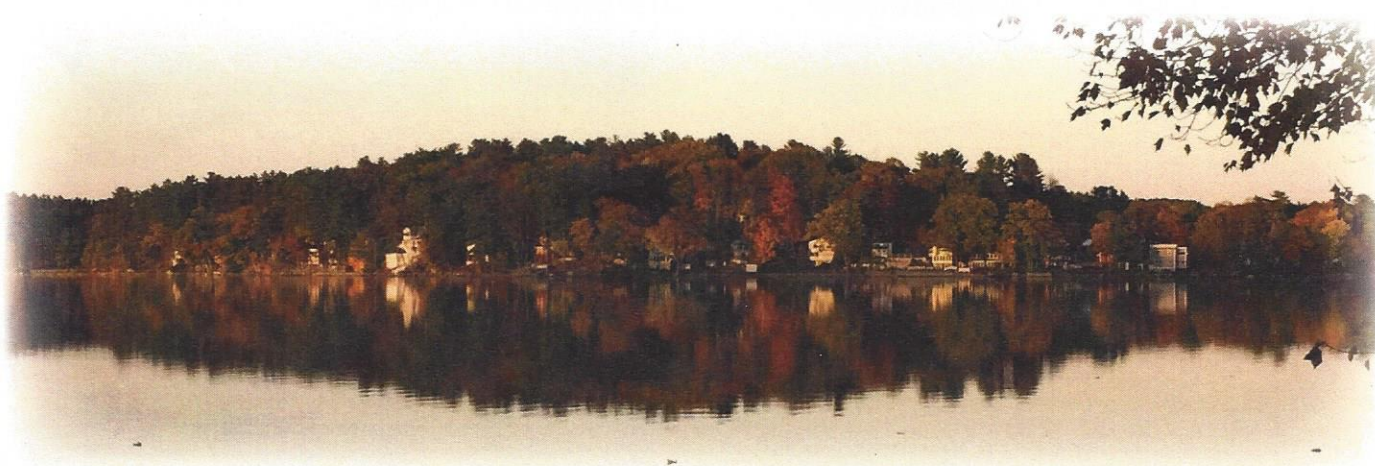
As an important part of TPA education efforts, this annual newsletter is mailed to all property owners in the Taylor Pond shore land zone, as well as local and environmental leaders. To be included in future mailings, please contact Ed Gray, 153 Chicoine Ave, Auburn, ME 04210 or email edwin_gray@hotmail.com

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

The City of Auburn Assessing Division has applied a 10% market adjustment to Taylor Pond property values for the upcoming tax year. Following a multi-year appraisal process that included an analysis of sales and property inspections, this adjustment was applied to bring Taylor Pond property assessments to a level equal to other single-family properties in the city based on 2018-2020 average sales ratios. This overall market adjustment follows edits to selective property values in 2020 based on inspections made in 2019-20. At a June 1, 2021 public meeting, City officials detailed the process for residents, as well as their ongoing commitment to establish assessments that reflect both changes in the real estate market and fairness across the city.



Map: Taylor Pond 1858



ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Taylor Pond Association members support the mission of maintaining the water quality of Taylor Pond in order to preserve wildlife habitat, protect property values and safeguard recreational opportunities. An active membership remains essential to the overall well-being of our organization. If you have never been a member or are a former member who has not yet renewed, please join us. If you are an active member, thank you for your ongoing support.

Basic Annual Dues are \$25, payable to TPA, and can be sent to treasurer, Ed Gray, 153 Chicoine Ave, Auburn, ME 04210. Please include both mailing and Taylor Pond addresses, as well as a current email address. Donations to TPA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

