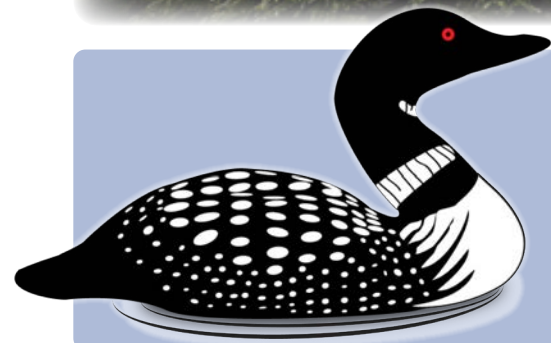


Taylor Pond Association News

SUMMER
2026

www.taylorpond.org

 Taylor Pond Ripples



TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, August 27th | 7 pm
Kristi's Café, 767 Minot Ave., Auburn

Interested in volunteering to help with TPA programs? Please call Dana Little at 207.576.6563
Returns and address corrections to: Edwin Gray, 153 Chicoine Ave., Auburn, ME 04210

TPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors whose terms expire Summer 2026

Mary Ann Ashton
(508-654-6148)
mabashton@gmail.com

Michele Cullen
(781-718-5492)
michelecullen456@gmail.com

Larry Faiman
(782-4648)
bmfaiman@gmail.com

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

Dana Little, President
(576-6563)
danawl@gmail.com

Donna Morin
dmorin77@aol.com

Kristi Norcross
(577-6408)
knorcross@roadrunner.com

Directors whose terms expire Summer 2027

Peter Bingham
(751-4193)
pbingham@townofcumberlandmaine.gov

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

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

Woody Trask
(784-4606)
woodytrask@gmail.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 for a nomination application. Interested members are welcome to self-nominate. We are grateful to all our directors for their commitment and welcome new members of the board.

TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

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.



PHOTO CREDITS

Thank you to the following for contributing newsletter photos this year: Pete Bingham, Jonny Caiani, Coley Coyne, Cathryn Falwell, Dennis Grafflin, Dana Little, Luci Merin, Barbara Mitchell, Kristi Norcross, Jenn Pare, Jan Phillips, Naomi Simon, Dyanne Smith, Paul Smith

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer 2026 is ready for launch—both literally and figuratively! Volunteers worked for the last 3 years to secure safe and reliable boat access for TPA members. This spring, Taylor Pond Yacht Club opened a carefully rehabilitated boat launch and is providing spring and fall access to TPA members with deeded property access to Taylor Pond. The Yacht Club is not just our new boat launch host, but a good neighbor on the pond and a longtime TPA member. Their leadership in this project has been instrumental and we look forward to a lasting partnership. Read more on pages 4-5.



If it seems like we've been talking about "the watershed grant" for even longer than we've been talking about a boat launch, it's because we have! It was 2022 when we started planning a Watershed Survey. By the time the grant funding ends later this year, it will have been nearly 5 years of planning and implementation to address deteriorating shoreline and non-point sources of erosion with the \$82,818 grant. Our implementation partner is the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District. The grant is funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in

partnership with EPA. On pages 6-7, you can see some of the progress made on small projects last summer and read about this summer's big plans.

Two years in a row, Taylor Pond's loons have nested on the platform provided and monitored by the Audubon Society. And two years in a row, the happy union has produced a loon chick in July. Call us sentimental, but we're hoping good things come in threes and that this summer we'll see another loonlet hatch on Taylor Pond. It's a wonderful testament to the efforts of Maine Audubon, the stewardship of resident volunteers, and the ecology of our pond. Keep your eyes open for evidence and please steer clear of the nesting platform when out boating this summer.

Each summer day, especially one that is hot and a little long, is another chance to linger pondside and soak up the great benefit of this ecological treasure. Whether you paddle a kayak, captain a boat, throw in a fishing line, dangle your feet off the dock or dive in for a refreshing swim, I hope you soak up the joy of summer on the pond. We work hard to maintain the ecology of Taylor Pond for wildlife and the greater good, but enjoying it ourselves is a pretty great idea, too! Thank you, pond neighbors, for your time, talent and support of Taylor Pond Association. Have a wonderful summer.

**Dana Little,
President**

PS: In order to seat more people comfortably, this year's annual meeting is again located at **KRISTI'S CAFÉ, 767 Minot Ave., in Auburn on THURSDAY, AUGUST 27th at 7 PM.** Thank you to board member Kristi Norcross for her generous hospitality.

READY...SET

Taylor Pond Association is pleased to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding with Taylor Pond Yacht Club has been signed to allow TPA members to use the recently rehabilitated TPYC boat launch in 2026 to launch boats in the spring and take them out in the fall. The agreement comes after two years of conversations and meetings between the organizations to provide safe, reliable boat access to the pond for residents and yacht club members.

In 2023, the Taylor Pond Association Board established a committee to explore options for boat access to Taylor Pond when the longtime boat launch on Sunrise Lane announced that it would close at the end of the 2024 season. The

committee researched alternatives and concluded that the best possible option was an old boat launch at the yacht club that had not been used for years and had fallen into disrepair. At the same time, the yacht club had become increasingly concerned about their members launching boats from its swimming beach. Yacht club leaders explored the possibility of resurrecting the old launch, performed a feasibility study which included approval from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and then invested significant resources to rebuild the launch.

The new launch was primarily built to serve the needs of TPYC members. Casual access by nonmembers was a concern for TPYC, which



...LAUNCH!

is responsible for the property's security and maintenance. As a thoughtful compromise and as a good neighbor on the pond, TPYC agreed to allow monitored access for 2-3 days in the spring and 2-3 days in the fall for TPA members with deeded access to Taylor Pond.

On two days this spring, 48 TPA members launched their watercraft at the TPYC boat ramp. Users prescheduled launch times online and paid the \$50 launch fee to TPYC at the boat launch. Volunteers verified TPA membership, directed traffic and helped each day run smoothly. Everyone launching their boat was appreciative and respectful of the process and property. Fall dates will be announced to TPA members on Facebook

and by email. After this inaugural season, both organizations will meet again to review the year and establish future arrangements.

Thank you to the Taylor Pond Yacht Club leadership for their stewardship of our natural resources and generous arrangements for the benefit of Taylor Pond Association boaters. We'll see you on the water!

Peter C. Bingham
Kristi Norcross
Co-Chairs, 2025
Boat Launch Initiative



FEDERAL WATERSHED

2026 is the second and final year of an \$82,818 federal grant to address non-point source pollution (primarily erosion) in the Taylor Pond watershed. Taylor Pond Association (TPA), working with Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD), was awarded the highly competitive grant based on a 2023 watershed survey that identified 83 sites for improvement. Funding for this project, in part, was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA.

Work commenced on large and small projects in 2025 and will be completed later this year. As of June 8, volunteers have contributed over 365 hours of work, more than 20 site visits have been completed, TPA has given out \$1,000 in local grants and AVSWCD has awarded \$2,470 in federal grant money to homeowners for completed work on two projects. Three additional projects have been completed and are awaiting reimbursement. One additional residential project is set to be completed in the next month. There is still funding for one or two more projects, and the amount of funding that each project can receive has been increased to \$1,500. Be on the lookout for signs around the watershed (either along roads or the shoreline) highlighting completed projects.

This summer, work on larger projects on West Shore, Taywood and Waterview Roads will be completed. These private road projects include upgrading culverts, installing or improving upon ditching, creating a monopitch of the road, and other practices that will reduce runoff that leads to the pond. We are working with the towns of Auburn and Minot on projects; Minot has already

completed a \$15,000 project on Marston Hill Road, upgrading the culverts on the stream that feeds into Lapham Brook. Auburn has made improvements on the catch basins near Terrace and Sand Beach Roads. AVSWCD has presented two educational workshops—one on improving buffers to reduce shoreline erosion and one on gravel road maintenance. A third informative presentation will be held this summer.

At this time, there is still funding available to address large and small projects this year. Matching funds are available to fund erosion control measures on your property or road. If you would like to participate, please email Dana Little at danawl585@gmail.com or Emma Lorusso at projectdirector@androscogginswcd.org. The Taylor Pond watershed will be eligible for this funding for the next 8 years, if Taylor Pond Association chooses to move forward with another grant application in 2027 or 2028. After 2034, TPA would have to conduct another watershed survey before becoming eligible again. Right now, we are not considering reapplication in 2027, but if you have a big project that you would like to be considered, please reach out.

In addition to these federal grant funds, TPA participates in LakeSmart, an ongoing education and outreach program that rewards lakefront homeowners who manage their land to protect water quality. The program is free, non-regulatory, and voluntary. Participating homeowners receive individualized suggestions for keeping stormwater pollutants out of lake water. Properties participating in this program qualify for up to \$500 in matching funds provided and directly administered by Taylor Pond Association. I will evaluate your property and make recommendations that will

GRANT PROJECTS UNDERWAY

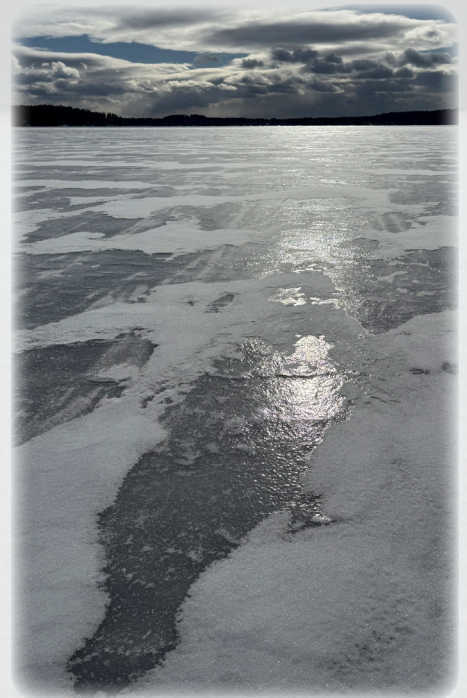


help protect water quality. Homeowners are not required to follow any of the recommendations, but if they do, a TPA grant may pay up to \$500 of the implementation cost. I can also refer you to the federal grant program if indicated.

The pond remains healthy due to the great care so many of you provide by participating in programs like these and everyday lake-friendly practices.

Dana Little

ICE IS NICE: WINTER



ON TAYLOR POND



Join us at the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade on Taylor Pond!
Deck out your boat in Red, White & Blue. Meet in front of
Crescent Beach at 4 pm on the 4th when we will circle the pond
and wave to neighbors on shore!

Fourth of July Boat Parade



PLEASE CELEBRATE SAFELY!

There are **NO FIREWORKS** allowed
in the City of Auburn. Any consumer
firework use or sale in the City of Auburn in
a **VIOLATION OF CITY ORDINANCE**

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



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 watercraft (including kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards) must be equipped with an appropriate PFD for each person aboard and proper light if operating at night.
- Water skiing 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.
- Maine law requires boat operators born after 1/1/99 to complete a recreational boating safety education course. Course information is at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html>
- Jetski operators must be at least 16 years old and operators of boats greater than 25 horsepower must be 12 years of age or older.

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: MILFOIL

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.



CYCLOPS ABUNDANT IN TAYLOR POND

Who knew that Cyclops thrive in our pond in the billions? You need not fear these one-eyed creatures; you could fit a dozen in a drop of water. In the spring, when the water turns over it brings up many nutrients causing their population to boom. If you peer off your dock at the right time, you may see thousands of tiny bodies (about 2mm long) flitting about in short jerky movements. They have one large red eye (hence the name cyclops) and the females drag a pair of egg sacs behind them. They serve as an important source of food for all creatures larger than they are, especially young fish. They are only found in freshwater lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams. They are part of the abundant life found in our pond called plankton, which are tiny creatures that float in the water.



*Female with eggs and male Cyclops.
(Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2144033>)*

Cyclops can carry a disease in tropical areas called Dracunculosis, caused by drinking water that contains cyclops infected with a parasitic worm. Fortunately, this does not occur in the United States. Cyclops can however be an intermediate host for tapeworms. People do not develop tapeworms from drinking the water, instead, fish eat the cyclops, the tapeworm develops in the fish and then people who eat raw or undercooked fish acquire the tapeworm.

The invasive Spiny Water Flea and Zebra Mussels represent the biggest threat to the abundance of Cyclops and all freshwater plankton. Both invasive species can be transferred from infected lakes to uninfected lakes in boats, bait fish pails, and aquariums. Once in a lake they rapidly multiply and cause severe declines in plankton populations. When these invasives have been introduced in lakes, severe declines in fish populations are recorded. Currently, neither invasive species is present in Maine. To prevent invasive species in our pond, cleaning boats that have been in other ponds before entering Taylor Pond is critical. You never want to introduce any water or a plant from another pond into Taylor Pond.

So, swim peacefully in Taylor Pond, knowing that you bathe with an abundance of Cyclops that indicate we have a healthy pond.

TAYLOR POND WATER QUALITY – 2025

Water quality monitoring was conducted monthly from June through September as part of the State of Maine Lake Stewards Volunteer Monitoring Program.

The condition that made 2025 stand out was the exceptionally low water level caused by the extreme drought conditions experienced in central Maine. Some properties had beaches where there had never been one. A major benefit of there being little rainfall was a reduction in the concentration of algae feeding phosphorus being carried into the pond. No algae blooms were reported, and a survey of the pond did not find any invasive species of plant growth.

The clarity of the water was better than the historical average, possibly because of the dry conditions and consequently

less runoff from rain coming into the pond. The average water temperature was 74.4 degrees which is 2 degrees cooler than 2024's average. June was the warmest month at 77.5 degrees.

The "ice in" date was December 7, 2025, 17 days earlier than the average which has been recorded since 2014. The "ice out" date was April 8, 2026, 5 days earlier than the average of all the dates recorded since 1969. The average of the first ten years recorded is April 23rd so it is clear that "ice out" is occurring earlier over time. This is significant since ice cover acts as a protective blanket for the pond. This seasonal dormancy gives the ecosystem a biological "reset" button for the spring.

Woody Trask

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



TAYLOR POND ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, August 27, 7:00 pm

Kristi's Cafe

767 Minot Avenue, Auburn

We look forward to this annual opportunity to gather together at summer's end for a little business, a little education, a little refreshment, and a lot of goodwill. Thank you to board member Kristi Norcross for hosting again.

Look Out For Loons!



Help keep this lake safe for wildlife. Enjoy loons at a distance.

- Stay Away From Loons on the Water
- Avoid Nesting Areas
- Retrieve All Fishing Line and Tackle
- Use Lead-Free Sinkers and Jigs

Loons are protected under state and federal law.

If you see anyone disturbing loons,
please call the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
at 207-287-8000.

MAINE 
AUDUBON

For more information call or write:
The Maine Loon Project
Maine Audubon
20 Gilsland Farm Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105
207-781-2330
maineaudubon.org



Treasurer's Report on Finances and Membership

Balance through 12/31/2024				\$ 33,592.09
2025 Income				
	Dues & Contributions*	\$8,625.00		
	Interest Income	\$ 35.14		
	Income Total	\$8,660.14		\$ 8,660.14
2025 Expenses				
	State Filing Fee		\$ 35.00	
	Federal 990N Filing		\$ 54.99	
	MLS Dues		\$ 200.00	
	Lake Stewards of Maine		\$ 500.00	
	Newsletter Expenses		\$ 1,641.01	
	Website Renewal		\$ 865.76	
	Fidelity Investment		\$ 30,000.00**	
	Annual Meeting Expenses		\$ 0.00	
	Water Testing & Lab Fees		\$ 523.00	
	Office Supplies		\$ 313.09	
	Lake Smart Payments		\$ 1,000.00	
	Director's & Officer's Insurance		\$ 701.00	
	Expense Total		(\$ 35,833.85)	(\$35,833.85)
Net Gain / (Decrease)				(\$27,173.71)
Balance through 12/31/2025				\$ 6,418.38



*In 2025, 162 memberships were recorded. As of 05/31/2026, 125 memberships for 2026 have been received and the checking account balance is \$10,718.21. TPA is grateful for the broad financial support we receive from our members and their dedication to our mission.

**In December 2025 the TPA board approved the transfer of \$30,000.00 to a Money Market Account to earn a higher rate of return. It is shown here as an expense to the checking balance, but remains an asset. As of May 31, 2026, the money market account is valued at \$30,440.52

All Taylor Pond property owners, as well as City Councilors, members of the Planning and Zoning Boards, and organizations dedicated to pond preservation, receive this newsletter. If a membership invoice is enclosed, we have not yet received your dues for 2026 and would welcome your support.

Edwin Gray, Treasurer

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.

Donations to TPA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

While the majority of our members are Taylor Pond residents and property owners, membership is open to anyone who would like to stay informed about our activities and support our mission.

Thank you!

