

NEWSLETTER

SPRING

2017



2017 TLA ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tacoma Lakes Association is pleased to announce our Annual Meeting will be held on **SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2017 AT 9:00 AM**. All members are invited to attend. Once again, we will be meeting at the Carrie Ricker Middle School located at 573 Richmond Rd in Litchfield.

Last winter we surveyed the members on our email list regarding their preferences for the Annual Meeting. Based on the results of this survey we are making some changes to the event this year. We have moved the date to June because many members are very busy in July and the survey indicated that an earlier meeting date might improve attendance.

The second major change is we will not be providing a full breakfast this year. As our meetings have grown so has the amount of work to prepare for the breakfast, cook the food and clean up. Our volunteers have done an incredible job over the years but simply put they are burned out. The survey indicated that most people attended the meeting for the program and did not care if a full breakfast is offered. We will be providing a light continental service with pastry, fruit, coffee and juices. We think this will be a nice

compromise between a full breakfast or no food at all.

Another benefit of not serving breakfast is there will be no charge to attend the event. Donations will be gratefully accepted. We will still conduct our exciting silent auction and 50/50 raffle.

This year's keynote speaker is Nancy Olmstead. Ms. Olmstead is an Invasive Plant Biologist for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Invasive (non -native) plants not only affect lakes and ponds they are an increasing issue on land. Ms. Olmstead will provide an overview of invasive plant ecology and ways to prevent their spread, introduce the new Do-Not-Sell list of invasive plants, and show some of the worst invaders and a couple of new species not yet widespread, which are top priority for control.

Please mark this important date and time on your calendar. Our Annual Meeting is the best way to catch up on matters affecting our beautiful Tacoma Lakes and meet the wonderful people in our community.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members and Friends,

Last year the Tacoma Lakes Association continued to build on our accomplishments. Hundreds of boats were inspected at the public boat launch, helping keep invasive plants out of our lakes. We acquired, and renovated, office space giving us a "home" for the first time in our 75-year history. The diligence of our members and friends keeping a watchful eye on our lakes enabled us to react quickly to damaged fencing at the Woodbury Pond dam. We completed our first year of monitoring the marking buoys on the lakes for the short-handed state Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry. Our all-volunteer plant patrol continues to inspect our waters for invasive plants. Lastly, new road signs have been ordered, and will soon be in place.

Currently approximately 50% of lakefront property owners are members of our organization. With membership dues of only \$15 per year, don't you think more lakefront property owners should be members? Imagine the effect of a milfoil outbreak on our local economy. Tax dollars, and property values would shrink, less people would visit the area, and our way of life would forever be changed. Even if you do not have the time or energy to be an active member of

the board, spread the word about the work we do. Ask your neighbors if they are members. Speak with family members who enjoy our lakes, even folks who do not own lakefront property, but love and care about our lakes. Anyone can join.

The majority of our financial support comes from membership dues and your generous donations, so increasing our membership count is vital to our continued ability to protect the lakes. Last year we actually took a small step backwards as our membership declined for the first time in several years.

Help us reverse this trend and join, or renew your membership. A membership form is included in this newsletter, and you can join online at tacomalakes.org.

As President I am always available to answer questions, deal with concerns, and take any feedback you have to offer. My contact information is listed separately in this newsletter, along with contact information for all officers, and directors.

With your help 2017 can be our best year ever!

Regards,
Jim Adams, President





TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

2016 was another successful financial year for your Association. It is impossible to adequately thank our members and business sponsors for your incredible support. We are equally thankful to the State of Maine and the towns of Litchfield and Monmouth for your grants supporting our lake protection efforts.

Our two primary lake protection programs grew in 2016. Good weather over the summer of 2016 allowed additional Courtesy Boat inspections at the Woodbury Pond boat launch. Weather permitting, we fund inspections each Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday through the summer. While TLA pays for the inspectors the program is managed by The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, for which we are extremely grateful. FOCA manages the program for many lakes in the watershed, saving the individual lake associations the huge task of recruiting, training and managing the inspectors. I really don't know how we would manage this program without FOCW.

Our second major conservation program is our growing plant paddle managed by Diane Clay. Her report is included in this newsletter. This is an entirely volunteer program which has grown in the number of volunteers each year under Diane's leadership. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers!

Last spring the state asked for our help monitoring the marker buoys throughout the Tacoma Lakes. Jim Adams volunteered for this task and spent the summer regularly checking the buoys and notifying the state when there was an issue.

Another major program last fall and into this winter was our new office space at the Academy in Litchfield. We have successfully negotiated space on the second floor. We thank the Trustees of the Academy for allowing us this opportunity. For the first time in our 76-year history TLA has a home. This will make

board meetings, programs and record storage much more convenient. We well spent some money to renovate the space including a new floor, electrical and painting. Volunteers did as much of the work as possible. Furnishings and office equipment were purchased by Bruce Doyle at the state surplus in Augusta for a fraction of the cost to buy them new. The total cost to renovate and equip the space was only about \$1500.00. We will be offering open houses this summer.

We continue to develop and improve our website, working closely with our webmaster Lisa Montagna. She lives in Manchester and has done an amazing job for us.

2016 donations from our membership were an incredible \$5598.00 compared to \$6627.00 in 2015. While the donations were down in total this was because of one very large donation in 2015. The number of people who made donations in 2016 was up, which is very encouraging. Thank you everyone!

Demand for the state grants from the milfoil sticker fee continues to increase. Our 2016 grant was reduced to \$1900.00 from \$2000.00. The grant from Litchfield remained unchanged at \$1000.00. Monmouth remained \$500.00. Despite the smaller state grant we increased the number of boat inspections.

Support from our business sponsors increased in 2016. Please be sure to thank our sponsors for their support when you visit their locations.

A complete 2016 financial statement is available at any time to members only. Please send us your request to memberservice@tacomalakes.org or call me at 941-724-9461.

**Thank you,
Buddy Potts, Treasurer**



TLA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 07.01.16 - 06.30.17

PRESIDENT

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<https://smile.amazon.com/>



FIREWORKS

The Board of Directors of the Tacoma Lakes Association respectfully requests that fireworks not be used within the Tacoma Lakes Watershed. Fireworks contain dangerous chemicals which pollute our water and threaten the health of our loons and other wildlife. The noise frightens wildlife, children, veterans and pets. Please help us protect our environment by not using fireworks within our watershed. Thank you!

To see a map of our watershed please visit
<http://tacomalakes.org/watershed-map/>



THANK YOU TO OUR 2016 DONORS!

The Tacoma Lakes Association is pleased to announce that \$5,598 was generously donated to the Association in 2016. The TLA Officers and Board of Directors would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their cash donations this year and supporting the programs of the Tacoma Lakes Association!

Please note that this is NOT a membership list but a list of people who made donations in addition to paying their \$15.00 dues.

Bonnie Adams	Michael & Diane Dennison	Bruce & Sandra Hubbard	Julie Dunlop-Potter
Jim & Jan Adams	Millie Donahue	Alden Hudson & Jade Elliott	Normand & Janice Provencher
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Anonymous	Bruce Doyle	Mark Isaacson & Karen Herold	Paul & Diane Rheame
Jennifer & Randy Anderson	<i>in memorium Joline Arsenault</i>	Steve & Carolyn Jackson	Libby & Peter Ricciardi
Steve & Kathy Aucoin	Rainey Doyle	Richard & Jane Johnson	Bertha Ricker
Carol & Larry Auger	<i>in memorium Joline Arsenault</i>	Lee & Lyn Jordan	Robert Riendeau
Hugh & Marje Awalt	Rosanne Ducey & Michael Murray	Patricia Kierstead	Nancy Rines
Terry Averill	Cheryl & Norris Dwyer	Peter Koehler	Richard Rines Jr
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		Dennis & Gail Pomerleau	Fred & Cheryl Wilcoxon



FISH STOCKING REPORT FOR 2016

Maine’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife maintains a number of fish hatcheries in this state, which it uses to maintain an aggressive stocking program for Maine lakes. That program can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/reports/stocking/index.htm>. This is the state’s recent release of information for 2016, just available in April of 2017, and we would anticipate that this year’s stocking dates and amounts will be very close to last year, so get those rods and reels cleaned and ready to fish!

DATE	3-31-16	10-21-16	11-02-16	4-20-16	6-12-16	10-21-16
WATER	Sand Pond	Sand Pond	Sand Pond	Woodbury Pond	Woodbury Pond	Woodbury Pond
SPECIES	Brook Trout	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Brook Trout	Brook Trout
QUANTITY	600	300	200	400	250	300
SIZE	10”	13”	12”	10”	10”	13”

The Tacoma Lake chain falls under the general law and regulations and the following are the regulations in place for 2017. Daily bag limits in the Tacoma Lakes chain is 5 brook trout (6+ inches), 2 brown trout (18+ inches), and 2 rainbow trout (12+ inches). Bass caught from April 1 to June 30 are limited to 1 by artificial lure only and must be at least 10”. From July 1 to September 30, 3 bass may be kept each day with a minimum of 10” and only 1 over 14”. From October 1 to March 31, regulations only allow 1 bass of at least 10”. In regards to pickerel, one is allowed 10 fish per day with no length limit and an unlimited number of white perch. Please do not hesitate to contact DIFW at 207-287-8000 should you have any questions in regards to these regulations or check the DIFW regulations on-line at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/index.htm>.

2017 BASS TOURNAMENTS ON TACOMA LAKES REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF MAINE AS OF APRIL

The State of Maine requires organized bass tournaments conducted on inland lakes to first obtain a permit from the state Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This does not prohibit individual bass fisherman to gather in small groups and fish local lakes without a permit. The registered tournaments differ in that a weigh-in is usually conducted at the launch site and records are kept of catches.

TLIS members should note these days on their calendars since launching and retrieving of members boats at the Purgatory launch will be difficult those days and parking will be at a minimum. Organized clubs, such as these, are required to have their own invasive species inspectors examining each boat at launch and retrieval and are required to submit proof of such inspection to the state. TLIS has encouraged inspectors with the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed to attend this events and lend support to inspection duties.

DATE	CLUB NAME	REPRESENTATIVE	PHONE	TOURNAMENT TYPE
06-17-17	Mainely Bass	Rob Williamson	207-523-1403	Club/Weigh In
08-26-17	New England Bass-Kayak Series	Sam Cushing	207-239-6240	Mesure/Release
09-20-17	Saco Valley Cast Masterss	Stephen Philbrick	207-730-3998	Club/Weigh In
10-15-17	Mainely Boaters	Stephen Nagy	207-212-6564	Club/Weigh In
10-29-17	Southern Maine Anglers	Kenneth Tuttle, Sr.	207-212-2035	Club/Weigh In



TACOMA LAKES INVASIVE PLANT PATROL TEAM

The Plant Patrol will be gearing up again for the summer of 2017.

Our first goal is to pick an area of the Tacoma Lakes and go out weekly to scan a section at a time.

Our second, and equally important, goal is to train as many folks as possible to be on the lookout for suspicious plants.

Third, we are hoping to host a “Plant and Paddle” event to get some young people out on paddle boards with knowledge of what to look for and what to do with it.

In the past few years while meeting our goals, we have made new friends and enjoyed our morning outings in

kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, and even on Charlie Manchester’s pontoon boat.

To be part of the team you don’t have to be available for every paddle day or memorize every plant. Most of our members take a workshop at Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP - see website: mainevlmp.org) though it’s not required, and we learn as we go.

We will be posting pictures, information, and progress on Facebook - a link to the TLA page or go directly to: Diane Plant. If you would like to join us or make a suggestion as to an area of concern please contact:

Diane Clay: 207-268-3247 | c112a3y4@gmail.com

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TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention says reported cases of Lyme disease reached an all-time high in the state last year. Cases had been below the five year averages through July of 2016. The agency says the total of 1,464 in 2016 cases surpassed the previous high of 1,410 in 2014. The Portland Press Herald reports Lyme cases surged in the fall after a dry summer caused ticks to take on a hibernation-like state.

Lyme disease symptoms include fatigue, dizziness and joint and nerve pain.

Lyme can be treated with antibiotics. Some people get a "bullseye" rash indicating the disease, but not everyone who contracts Lyme disease will have the rash. Lyme disease is named after the town of Old Lyme, Connecticut, where it was first discovered in 1975. Cats rarely get Lyme disease but dogs are very likely to get the disease and may actually get the disease more than once if exposed to the same lifestyle when it got the previous case of the disease.

It's Lyme Time!

Protect Yourself Against Lyme Disease*
in Spring, Summer, and Fall

- 1 Walk in the middle of trails, away from tall grass and bushes.
- 2 Wear a long-sleeved shirt.
- 3 Wear white or light-colored clothing to make it easier to see ticks.
- 4 Wear a hat.
- 5 Spray tick repellent on clothes and shoes before entering woods.
- 6 Wear long pants tucked into high socks.
- 7 Wear shoes—no bare feet or sandals.

*Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disorder in the U.S., can affect the skin, joints, nervous system, heart, and eyes.
Lyme disease is transmitted by a tiny tick the size of the period at the end of this sentence.

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Gradually the massive bird shrinks into himself,
Laying his head on his chest.
Floating as if on a raft
Lacking attention to the fish below
He rests.

Before long,
While life on shore goes on
He'll succumb
All too soon
The lead has won.

ANNUAL MEETING | SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

Carrie Ricker Middle School

573 Richmond Rd. (Rt. 197)

Litchfield, ME 04350

9:00 AM | light continental service with pastry, fruit, coffee and juices

KEYNOT SPEAKER

Nancy Olmstead, Invasive Plant Biologist for the
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

We look forward to catching up with you!



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**TACOMA LAKES ASSOCIATION
2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$15.00**

Thank you for your membership in the Association. Your membership dues are essential to support our many activities. Together all of us can help to keep Tacoma Lakes beautiful and healthy. Please print any data legibly so we can make sure we receive the information correctly! Thanks!

NAME: _____

STREET: _____ (Your Year Round Mailing Address)

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ (Will only be used if we have questions about your application)

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E-Mail address is not a membership requirement. Your e-mail address allows us to provide you with regular updates regarding TLA activities. We will keep your e-mail private and will not share it with any other organization.

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DONATION: _____ DUES: _____

Please consider the bottom part of this application as your receipt not only for your 2016 dues, but as evidence of any charitable donations made to TLA. Please cut off the top part of this application and submit it along with payments to the address below.

Tacoma Lakes Association
P O Box 293
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