



**NEWSLETTER**  
**FALL**  
**2018**

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## Members and Friends,

Help us help you!

Are you aware of the invasive plant problem in Litchfield, Monmouth, and Wales? There are seven bodies of water in our towns that have verified invasive plants. Annabessacook Lake, Cobbossee Lake, Cobbossee Stream, Purgatory Stream, Wilson Stream, Horseshoe Pond, and Pleasant Pond all have varying levels of infestation.

To date, all of us who enjoy the Tacoma Lakes have dodged a bullet. Everyone who enjoys our lakes, whether a camp owner, boater, fisherman, or swimmer has an ownership stake in our lakes. Everyone also has a stake in the continued success of keeping milfoil, and other invasive plants out of our lakes. Other towns who have experienced severe infestations, have watched as their lakefront properties values dwindle, decreasing tax revenues, and causing the property taxes of non-lakefront residents to increase. An infestation also lessens the desirability of the lakes to summer visitors, impacting the local economy.

What can you do?? Educate yourself as to what these plants look like, and where they tend to take root. If you have the time, volunteer to join our plant patrol team, and monitor our lakes. If you are unable to volunteer for the plant patrol, keep your eyes open when out on the lakes.

Urge friends, neighbors and relatives to become members of TLA and help us in our efforts. Membership is only \$15.00 per year, and enables us to complete hundreds of boat inspections at the Woodbury Pond boat launch, and keeps our plant patrol active. If you have been a member in the past, but have forgotten to renew, please do so. Our website [tacomalakes.org](http://tacomalakes.org), allows you to renew online, or print and mail the form.

We need your support now more than ever!

Reach out to any of the TLA Officers and Directors; our contact information is available on the website and in this newsletter. If you have questions, or are interested in becoming a Director, or plant patroller, please contact me anytime at 268-2070, or [jfadams13@gmail.com](mailto:jfadams13@gmail.com).

Regards,  
**Jim Adams, President**

# TREASURER'S REPORT

TLA is again experiencing a very successful financial year in 2018. 2018 donations have totaled \$6,427 as of September 27, 2018, only slightly below last year's total of \$6,590 at this time last year. We have received membership dues in the amount of \$3,120. This is a decrease from last year's dues in the amount of \$570, which equates to a net loss of 38 memberships. Membership as of September 27, 2018 is 208.

again received support from the State of Maine, the Town of Litchfield, and the Town of Monmouth. We thank them for their help and support.

Currently, all bills are paid with no invoices outstanding. I am happy to answer any questions that the membership may have regarding TLA finances. You may contact me by email at [curtislindamoodcpa@yahoo.com](mailto:curtislindamoodcpa@yahoo.com).

Thank you,  
**Curtis Lindamood, Treasurer**

Despite the decrease in donations and memberships, the Association is still in strong financial standing. We have

The team shares some knowledge with this inquisitive, intelligent young lady – a next generation plant patroller.



# TACOMA LAKES INVASIVE PLANT PATROL

The plant patrol has been busy this summer. We've had great weather for being on the water; and luckily, we've had no success! That is, we found no invasive plants. The target area for 2018 was the east shore of Woodbury Pond and we completed that area, checked with a couple of members regarding plants of concern on their waterfronts, and finished up with the boat launch as we do every year. A call from a local resident with a farm pond even led us to examine some plants and algae that were new to us, a great learning experience.

We would encourage all members to pay close attention to what is growing in the water around your neighborhood and to give us a call with any concerns. As you may know, an invasive milfoil and European Frogbit have been found in Cobbossee Lake. Many boaters go between Tacoma Lakes and Cobbossee. Our association is looking into ways that we can help with removal, step up inspections, and keep our members informed.

For next summer we are targeting Jimmy Pond and possibly another look at Purgatory Pond. Anyone wishing to suggest an area of concern, please let us know.

As the designated head of the plant patrol, I would like

to recognize all of the members without whom there would be no eyes on the water. Buffy DeMatteis has been a member and the organizer of our reporting since the beginning. She keeps us focused and on track. Patti and Toby Lott take pictures, and Patti has been posting plants to identify on our Facebook page. Susie Wilding-Hartford, Cheri Cooledge, Michael Murray, Dian White, De Ricker, Lindsay Nelsen, and Millie Donahue participate, take plant ID courses, and are at various stages of plant expertise. A big "Thank You!" to all of them.

The plant patrol would also like to offer our thanks to the families who generously let us use their docks and waterfront to launch our kayaks and canoes close to our target areas. The Provencher, Castonguay, Potts, Gustin, and Bosse families made our job much easier. Next summer we will put out a sign up list at the annual meeting so that anyone who is willing to provide us a starting point can leave a name and number.

If you are curious, come join us next year. We work hard, but we have fun!

**Diane Clay** – [c1l2a3y4@gmail.com](mailto:c1l2a3y4@gmail.com) or 207-268-3247





# Shore Line Preservation

Last spring's TLA Newsletter included an article by Tamara Whitmore, Executive Director of The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed



(FOCW) about "Slow the Flow", an incredible service FOCW provides to lakefront property owners. The program benefits all of us by reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into our lakes from soil erosion while preserving our shorelines. Seeing that our shore was showing significant signs of erosion, we decided to investigate our options. Following is a brief narrative of our experience.

The first step in the process was to call Cameron Dufour, Slow the Flow Program Director at (207) 446-5574 and request a visit. At no cost to us, Cameron came to our property, explained the program in detail, and evaluated our shoreline. The area of concern included approximately 66 feet of shore frontage suffering from wave and ice action.

Soon after his visit, Cameron sent us a project plan. The document described the scope of work, included a sketch showing how our shoreline would be reinforced, and detailed out what our responsibilities would be. We were told that 12 yards of rip rap would be needed for the project. Ordering, purchasing and having the stone delivered was our responsibility. In addition, we would send FOCW a \$75 check made out to the State of Maine to cover the permit and a \$75 check made out to the FOCW to complete and submit the application to the state.

Our project was scheduled for July 12th, 2018, and we were told that it would be completed on the same day. We had the rip rap delivered a week prior to the scheduled start date and dumped in a location that was approximately 150 feet from the shoreline. The project was to be completed by FOCW Youth Conservation Corps.

As promised the workers arrived in the morning and completed the project by the afternoon! Wheelbarrows were brought to transport the stone down our hill to the shore. The FOCW Youth Corps workers were super polite, hard working and meticulous to avoid harming our property when transporting the stone. The result of the project, both aesthetically and functionally, exceeded our expectations in every way.

Please use this link (<https://youtu.be/lcq8XW5kBD8>) to see video filmed during the project. - *The Lotts*



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS!

Thank you to all of our 2018 donors! \$6,427.00 was generously donated to the TLA. Our Officers and Board of Directors thank the following individuals for cash donations this year. Thank you for supporting the programs of the TLA!

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

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# COMMON LOON FACT SHEET

## University of Maine Extension Service

Loons are found on freshwater lakes throughout Canada and parts of the northern US during the summer breeding season. Unmated loons as well as juveniles (which are too young to breed) can be found on salt water during this same season. As winter approaches, loons migrate to Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Maine loons have short migratory routes, spending winters along the Maine coast, while loons that breed in the central US migrate to the Gulf of Mexico.

Most people in Maine are very familiar with the wail of the Common Loon from across a lake. The loon is a beloved symbol of the natural beauty and wildlife of Maine, and it even appears on one of our license plates. After reaching record low numbers in the 1970s, organizations such as Maine Audubon, and volunteers across the state have worked to monitor the loon population and advocate for their protection against threats such as human disturbance of nesting sites, degraded water quality, boat traffic, and lead poisoning from discarded lead-based fishing tackle. Recent data indicates that adult populations in Maine have been increasing since the early 1990s. Signs of the Seasons observers are contributing phenology data to monitor for possible changes in the timing of loons' annual life cycle events in response to climate change.

### APPEARANCE

An adult loon can be up to 28 inches long, with a wing span of 50 inches, and can weigh up to 14 pounds. A breeding adult has a distinctive black and white pattern on its back and wings, a band of white, a shiny black head and bill, and a red eye. In the winter, adult loons have a duller appearance, with a dark gray back and a white throat and chest. The Common Loon is a true water bird. With solid bones and large muscles, they are



Photos by C. Eves-Thomas

talented swimmers and divers, but are not very efficient at flying or walking on land. Their diet consists primarily of small fish, which they catch and swallow while on underwater dives. An adult may consume two pounds of fish per day. They also consume crayfish, insects, crabs and snails.

### LIFE HISTORY

The Common Loon chooses large, clear lakes with rocky shorelines for nesting. Awkward on land, they come ashore only for mating and nesting. Nests are usually very close to the shore. The female usually lays two eggs in May or June, and both parents incubate them for about four weeks until they hatch. Chicks leave the nest after just one day, but parents continue to take care of them for about three months. Loon chicks can swim almost immediately and dive about a week after birth, but they often take rides on the backs of their parents. Newly-hatched loons are fed by their parents for about six weeks. By 11 or 12 weeks they can fish and fly on their own. At the end of summer, loon parents leave their offspring and fly separately to different coastal areas to overwinter, reuniting as a pair in the spring. Juveniles also migrate to coastal locations, where they remain for several years until they are ready to return to a lake environment for breeding.



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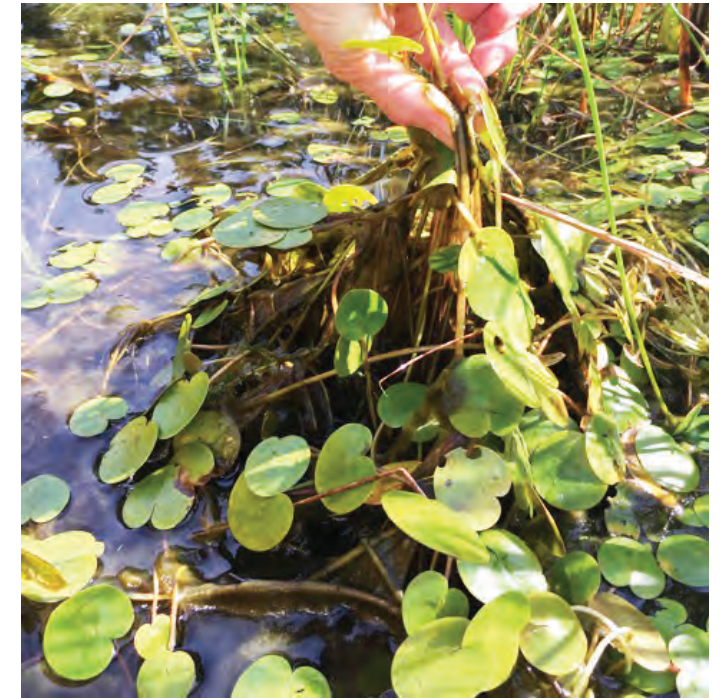
# TLA Plant Patrol Members Assist With Frogbit Cleanup Efforts on Cobbosseecontee Lake



On September 7, three members of the TLA Volunteer Invasive Plant Patrol Team participated in the European Frogbit cleanup effort on Cobbossee Lake. This invasive plant infestation was found in August, shortly after it was discovered that Cobbossee also has an infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil. Although we spent just a morning working with the team, their cleanup efforts will be ongoing for quite some time.

An invasive aquatic species is defined as one that is aggressive, adaptable to varying water habitats, and non-indigenous (from away). Although it is not known where this Frogbit came from, we know that it is native to Europe and Northern Asia, and is used in home aquariums. It is thought that either a boat brought it into Cobbossee from an infested waterbody elsewhere, or it was introduced by someone emptying their home aquarium into the lake. And, it's believed that it may have been there spreading for several years.

This particular plant floats on the surface of the water, and spreads by sending shoots across the surface, each of which sprouts another plant. Seed pods that fall into the lake in the fall float to the surface in the spring, germinate and make new plants. The tangled mess of plants that results is devastating, and the risks associated with invasive species are many. They grow aggressively, choke out other healthy native species, and pose harmful threats to everything associated with the natural ecosystem. In addition, infestations can result in so much matted plant growth on the surface that it becomes difficult or impossible to enjoy water recreation such as swimming and boating. Needless to say, property values on lakes with invasive plant infestations are jeopardized.



We are all so fortunate to enjoy the beautiful Tacoma Lakes unaffected by these issues. We must remain diligent in our efforts to protect this privilege. Your volunteer team is on the water every week of the summer looking at the plant life to be sure everything in the water belongs here. Your association dues help to finance the cost of boat inspections at the public launch on Woodbury every weekend and holiday throughout the summer.

## Here are some things you can do:

### Before moving boats between water bodies:

- **Clean** off any mud, plants and animals from boats, trailers, motors and other equipment. Discard removed material in a trash receptacle or on high, dry ground where there is no danger of it washing into any water body.
- **Drain** all water from boats, boat engines, and other equipment away from the water.
- **Dry** anything that comes into contact with the water. Drying boats, trailers, and equipment in the sun for at least five days is recommended.

**Get involved.** Your plant patrol team is always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining, contact our team leader, *Diane Clay* – [c1l2a3y4@gmail.com](mailto:c1l2a3y4@gmail.com) or 207-268-3247.

### Observe the plant life at and around your property.

Ask for help if you see something suspicious. Contact the TLA and we will send trained volunteers to identify the plants. **Call 207-956-9031 or email at [memberservice@tacomalakes.org](mailto:memberservice@tacomalakes.org).**

**Support the Tacoma Lakes Association.** If you are not a member, please join. Dues are \$15 annually and the benefits are worth so much more. Visit [www.tacomalakes.org](http://www.tacomalakes.org) where you can join online or print the membership form to join by mail.

**Follow our activities on Facebook.** After plant patrol team outings, we post information on the Tacoma Lakes Association Facebook page including where we've been, what we've seen and useful information about native plants that inhabit our lakes. <https://www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation/>

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**TACOMA LAKES ASSOCIATION**  
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**2018 MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$15.00**

**Thank you for your membership in the Tacoma Lakes Association. Your dues are essential to support our many activities. Together we can all help to preserve the health of these beautiful lakes we love.**

**(Please print legibly so we can make sure we receive the information correctly. Thanks!)**

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(Will only be used if we have questions about your application)

**If you would like to receive email updates regarding TLA activities, please provide up to two (2) email addresses below. This is not a membership requirement. Your email addresses will be kept private and will not be shared with any other organization.**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you own property on the Tacoma Lakes, please complete the following:**

**On which pond is your property located? (please circle):**

**Jimmy      Buker      Sand      Woodbury      Little Purgatory**

**Physical street address of your Tacoma Lakes property:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town (please circle):      Monmouth      Litchfield**

**Thank you for considering a DONATION to help us continue our important work. TLA is a fully charitable organization under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). This means that all donations (monetary or otherwise) may be deductible for tax purposes.**

**DUES:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed form together with payment to:  
Tacoma Lakes Association  
PO Box 293  
Litchfield, ME 04350-0293**