



# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

## **TACOMA LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING | SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019**

**Carrie Ricker Middle School**  
573 Richmond Rd. (Rt. 197) | Litchfield, ME 04350

**9:00 AM** | Light Continental Breakfast | Silent Auction | 50/50 Raffle | Guest Speaker

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

[www.tacomalakes.org](http://www.tacomalakes.org) | [www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation)



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## Members and Friends,

Spring is finally here, albeit a very wet one. Your Tacoma Lakes Association had a very successful 2018. Memberships remained solid and your Board of Directors continued our efforts to maintain the fantastic water quality and beauty of our lakes.

Two major areas of work are the Certified Boat Inspection program, and our very active Plant Patrol group. At the Woodbury Pond boat launch last year 1,875 boats were inspected, making up nearly 20% of all the inspections completed in areas overseen by The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed. The Woodbury boat launch is the second busiest of the lakes inspected by the FOCW. Considering the size of some of the competing boat launches these are impressive numbers!

The dedicated group of volunteers who make up the TLA Plant Patrol group had a great summer in 2018. The group spent some beautiful summer days inspecting the eastern shore of Woodbury Pond. And, fortunately, no invasive species were found.

Invasive species such as milfoil, and European Frog Bit, can quickly spread and damage the lakes. Some might note that I write and speak about this topic frequently. And I do! However, invasive species is a problem about which we must remain vigilant. Milfoil exists in several water bodies surrounding the Tacoma Lakes, and I feel, passionately, that we will all benefit by taking the actions needed, including participating in and supporting the programs sponsored by the association, in order to keep our lakes protected.

Our 2019 membership drive is now underway. If you know anyone with lakefront property who is not already a member, please encourage them to join the TLA and support our efforts. A membership form is enclosed with this newsletter and can also be found on our website [www.tacomalakes.org](http://www.tacomalakes.org).

The annual meeting for members is Saturday 6/29 starting at 9:00, and will again be held at the Carrie Ricker School in Litchfield. We hope to see you all there.

Regards,  
**Jim Adams, President**



# TREASURER'S REPORT

TLA experienced a successful financial year in 2018. Donations totaled \$7,172, eclipsing last year's total of \$6,915 by \$257. We received membership dues in the amount of \$3,885. This is a decrease from last year's dues in the amount of \$15, which equates to a net loss of 1 membership. Membership for the year stood at 259 members. We were also able to eliminate or decrease some expenses in 2018, thus helping to increase TLA's cash position.

The club remains strong in financial condition. We have 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). I will also be available at the annual meeting to discuss or answer any financial questions regarding the Association after I present the Treasurer's Report.

Thank you,  
**Curtis Lindamood, Treasurer**

# TACOMA LAKES INVASIVE PLANT PATROL

Our invasive plant patrol IPP will be out on the lakes again this summer. We would like to encourage all of you to join us for a paddle to see what we do. Our first meeting will be held at Diane Clay's house, 6 Easy Street, on Thursday June 13 at 5:30 PM. Any interested members are welcome. Every week there will be a paddle starting this year with Jimmy Pond, but we are also happy to visit your waterfront to look at plants of concern. Our group works closely with Lake Stewards

of Maine. Check out their website to find the latest lake information and dates for training.

Any teenagers in your household? Join us for plant patrol training and monitoring counts as volunteer credits toward graduation.

Any questions? Please call **Diane Clay** at 207-268-3247.

## LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

The Litchfield Food Bank, sponsored by the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church, opened its doors the first week of March at 491 Richmond Road at the west end of Ricky Gowell's former convenience store. Mr. Gowell's supporting generosity provided this space, two freezers, and enough food items so we could demonstrate to Good Shepherd Food Bank, with whom we are now partners, that we were ready and are able to serve Litchfield residents. Now we purchase cases of cereal, pasta, dried beans, cans of fruit and vegetables, and frozen meats at sixteen cents a pound each week from them. We also are periodically able to pick up truckloads of U.S.D.A. items to help fill the shelves.

Numerous volunteers helped empty out the two storage rooms and renovate the empty space that now provides shelves, much like a regular store, where clients can select what they need. In addition, meat for two meals per person along with, when available, milk, eggs, and cheese are distributed. Other volunteers continue to help in making the weekly truck deliveries from GSF in Auburn or unloading and readying the 500 to 1500 pounds of food and related items at our location. These loads include our ordered items and free fresh produce made available to us through a grant to GSF. For two years Litchfield had not had a food bank and



though Litchfield residents were welcomed at the Sabattus Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, many could not or chose not to go there. Now our Wednesday night from 5 to 6 p.m. and Thursday morning from 10 to 12 hours are serving an increasing range of residents from single, elderly individuals to young, growing families. Any Litchfield resident experiencing food insecurity may participate.

Participation by many is at the heart of the food bank. The post office collection of bagged items on May 11 solidly filled out the shelves for that week. Donations of an additional freezer and yet another, fourth refrigerator enable us to hold the perishable and refrigerated foods until distribution. Donations are welcomed and appreciated. They may be made by writing a check to L.P.B.C. (Litchfield Plains Baptist Church) with food bank in the bottom notation line. The address for the church is P.O. Box 306, Litchfield, ME 04350.



## TLA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

07.01.18 - 06.30.19

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# TRANSFER STATION

More and more transfer stations are reverting back to separating their recycling items because the cost of single source recycling is rising. And it appears that Vietnam and Korea are no longer interested in our recycling items. Litchfield, too, has reverted back to separating our recycling items. On the bright side of this equation is the fact that our transfer station can revert back to separating recyclables at no additional cost. The roll off containers needed some updating and the ability to compact plastic still exists. Litchfield is also ahead of many communities because it did not enter into a recycling contract that cost communities up to \$30,000.

The size of the openings on the Paper roll off container and the Tin roll off container have been increased from 4 inches to 18 inches. This change has allowed much easier deposits into these. The next improvement will be building a small insulated room in the Oil Building that can be heated in order to have the ability to transfer used oil from fifty-five gallon drums to fifty five gallon drums. The electric oil transfer pump has been upgraded from one half horse power to a two-horse power pump. This upgrade will allow much faster transferring of the used oil.

A small room will be built in the Hazmat Building allowing for the securing of hazardous material and still leaving room to store other material in that building. The building will be rewired, increasing the number of outlets. The electrical breaker box in this building will be brought up to code allowing for running electrical wire from this building to the Hazmat Trailer where there is currently no electricity.

Recyclables are still being put in the wrong containers. The roll off containers are clearly marked with large signs! It costs tax payers more to dispose of contaminated loads cost. If you have questions the attendants can help you determine which items go where and which can't be accepted.

Security cameras have been installed due to people abusing the protocols of the facility. Proper disposal of prohibited liquids cost tax payers hundreds of dollars each year.

The Transfer Station will be open Sundays again this summer until Labor Day. The Swap Shop will not be open on Sundays, but you can work with Bryan and Dana if you need to drop off items for the Swap Shop when it is closed.



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 DONORS!

Thank you to all of our 2018 donors! \$6,915 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.

Bonnie Adams	Norris & Cheryl Dwyer	Roger & Maureen Lachapelle	Normand & Janice Provencher
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	Allan Labos		



This article has been reprinted with permission from the Maine Lakes Society

# in • sid • i • ous

By Maggie Shannon

/in'sidēəs/

adjective

proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects

synonyms: stealthy, sneaking, indirect, treacherous

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS), the leading cause of lake impairment, is insidious. By definition, NPS is diffuse, minute and gradual in its encroachment on water quality. Public naiveté and the sequestration of gathering impacts in deep lake waters may obscure the drastic outcome from observers until the ultimate drop in dissolved oxygen beneath the thermocline kills fish or yields a bloom like that pictured here. Make no mistake, though not inevitable, this unimaginable future is possible for any lake in a developing watershed, however clear its water may appear today.

In 1998, the head of Lake Assessment at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection informed my lake association we had maybe 20 years to avert serious damage to water quality in Great Pond. Although it hasn't bloomed yet, its area of anoxia at depth is 35 times greater than it was in 1983, and professionally guided research suggests we haven't long to wait. Two upstream lakes in our chain of ponds bloom and a third is flirting with it at fall overturn. One of these three was treated with aluminum phosphate in 2018 and had a summerful of clear water for the first time in 30 years. It cost the community \$2,000,000 and in the words of the primary fundraiser, "It was worth every penny." This is no doubt true, but the fix is time-limited and may need to be repeated around 2040.

The point is, NPS is a Stealth Enemy, and it's important for all lake associations to arm themselves against its approach. Because it's counter-intuitive for uninformed lake dwellers to think hardly noticeable stormwater runoff could affect something as large as a lake, effective communication and site-specific remedies are wanted. LakeSmart's unique delivery system, a friendly visit from friends and neighbors, is the surprisingly powerful answer. Leading edge research confirms that person-to-person conversation within a community is the best way to bring about change in behavior; snazzy brochures, advertising, and even expert advice can't move the average person to change day-to-day acts. Think about it: lake associations are perfectly positioned to answer the need, and they (I mean you!) possess the passion, the influence, and people power to get the job done. Act now. Sign up for LakeSmart before more harm comes your lake's way. We provide instruction, all materials, ongoing counsel and technical support without cost to our anti-NPS partners.



## 2019 LakeSmart Training Schedule

**20 Minute Webinar: You Can Save Loons and Lakes with LakeSmart!**

May 3 at noon. Repeats on June 12 and July 9 at noon

**Become a Lake Ambassador! Introduction to Loon Smart and LakeSmart**

July 26, 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Nickerson School, 18 Town House Road, Swanville

Refreshments and all materials provided. Bring a friend and meet other loon lovers and lake enthusiasts!

**LakeSmart Trainings for New and Returning LakeSmart Evaluators and Coordinators**

LakeSmart Trainings run from 8:30am to 2:30pm. All materials and continental breakfast provided. Participants should dress for the weather, bring a brown bag lunch and expect to have fun. *Training is free, but registration is required!*

**Central: June 8** Maine Lakes Resource Center, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

**South: June 14** Sebago Lake Protection Office, Portland Water District, 1 White Rock Road, Standish

**Midcoast: June 15** Midcoast Conservancy, 270 US-1, Edgecomb

**Downeast: June 29** Eliasberg Camp on Georges Pond, 138 Cousins Road, Franklin

**North: Early August** Piscataquis SWCD, Place TBD

**Central: August 10** Unity College, 90 Quaker Hill Road, Unity

**Register for all trainings at [mainelakessociety.org/events](http://mainelakessociety.org/events)**



# COULD THIS HAPPEN HERE?

The photo you see here is from a lake in Whitefield, Maine. There was a dispute over ownership and the dam was neglected for years. Ultimately, the dam failed and many property owners were left with depleted shorefronts – little or no water.

The TLA has worked with the towns in our watershed to ensure necessary repairs have been made and to sealcoat both the horizontal, and vertical surfaces of our dam. We now have a dam in great repair enabling us all to enjoy our properties, with water levels maintained year-round.

Terry Averill is the dam keeper, and is out there in all types of weather maintaining the water level. A big tip of the hat, and thank you to Terry.



Robert Rubin and Cheryl Ayer sit on the dock at their Clary Lake property in Whitefield in August 2015, when the level in Clary Lake was more than 5 feet below the top of the Clary Lake dam. Photo courtesy of George Fergusson. Originally appeared in the Kennebec Journal.

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This article originally appeared in the Kennebec Journal on May 1, 2019

## What's at stake if milfoil spreads in central Maine? Declining property values, recreation opportunities

### Boaters are temporarily restricted from areas of Annabessacook Lake in Monmouth and Great Pond, including Great Meadow Stream, in Rome.



No boats are allowed in parts of Annabessacook Lake in Monmouth and Great Pond — including Great Meadow Stream — in Rome, at least for the time being.

The Maine departments of Environmental Protection and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have issued a temporary ban on watercrafts in portions of those bodies of water to suppress the growth of variable-leaf milfoil.

The area of surface use restriction on Annabessacook Lake is around the Waugan Road boat launch on the southwest portion of the lake in Monmouth. It restricts all watercraft

from using the area, including paddle crafts like kayaks and paddleboards.

The renewed Great Pond and Great Meadow Stream surface use restriction limits only motorized watercrafts. The restricted area includes a portion of North Bay where Great Meadow Stream flows into Great Pond. The restriction is also for Great Meadow Stream.

“The purpose of the restrictions is to reduce fragmentation by closing it off to boats,” said Maine DEP biologist John McPhedran, who is heading the invasive aquatic species program. “We really want to get a big dent in suppressing the infestations and get them back to a level where they can be controlled.”

The 7 Lakes Alliance is working to control the invasion in Great Pond. The DEP has awarded the group a \$28,572 grant this year for plant removal work.

A \$21,371 grant was also awarded to the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, Cobbossee Watershed District and Annabessacook Lake Association, which are overseeing the suppression efforts at Annabessacook Lake.

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Monmouth selectmen closed the Annabessacook Lake boat launch on Waugan Road in 2018 when approached by the organizations, but this is the first year the DEP and IFW have issued a temporary ban.

Augusta West Kampground in Winthrop is letting the public use its boat ramp to access Annabessacook Lake. A second public boat launch will eventually be built on the lake, according to Monmouth Town Manager Curtis Lunt.

Toni Pied of Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed said that invasion is worrisome because Annabessacook Lake feeds into Cobbosseecontee Lake via Jug Stream. Two other non-native aquatic plants have been discovered in Cobbosseecontee Lake.

“This lights a fire under people to get the (variable-leaf milfoil) spread under control,” Pied said.

Last year, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed hired New England Milfoil to treat the infestation for six weeks. The company has scuba divers go into the water using a machine that suctions the plant out of the water. The collected plants are either composted or incinerated. This year, the company has been hired for 10 weeks.

It’s too early to tell yet whether last year’s milfoil suppression effort was successful in either waterbody because the lakes are not warm enough for aquatic plants to grow.

Discovering milfoil is a little easier than disposing of it.


Annabessacook Lake Association Director Sue Neal said that volunteers floating in kayaks, canoes and other small watercraft use homemade scopes to peer into the water and see the plants. The scopes are made from buckets with see-through bottoms. It prevents glare, making plant life easier to see. The plant grows where there is adequate sunlight in more shallow water.

“If you can see the ground, you can see if there is milfoil,” Neal said.

This species of milfoil, however, is one of several in Maine and is native to the southeastern U.S. How variable-leaf milfoil spread into the Annabessacook, Great Pond and Great Meadow Stream isn’t known, but it likely came from boaters who had used their craft in an infected lake.

Boaters visiting these and any Maine lake can control the spread of invasive species. McPhedran stressed that not only is it important to clean a boat after taking it into any water body but to let it dry.

## 2019 SURFACE USE RESTRICTIONS for preventing the spread of milfoil



**BEFORE MOVING BOATS BETWEEN BODIES OF WATER:**

**CLEAN** off any mud, plants and animals from boat, trailer, motor and other equipment. Discard removed material in a trash receptacle or on high, dry ground where there is no danger of them washing into any water body.

**DRAIN** all water from boat, boat engine and other equipment away from the water.

**DRY** anything that comes into contact with the water. Drying boat, trailer and equipment in the sun for at least five days is recommended if rinsing your boat, trailer parts and other equipment with hot, high pressure water is not an option.

Source: Maine.gov

Variable-leaf milfoil spreads quickly and aggressively by autofragmentation, Pied said, when pieces of the plant break off and new plants form. This is why motorboat use is prevented in these sites, McPhedran said, because motor propellers can break up the plants.

It’s not certain how long variable-leaf milfoil remain viable, but one plant was lodged in a boat trailer that had last been in a Wisconsin Lake.

“Could it have grown?” McPhedran asked. He didn’t know but said that “it was in good enough condition that the species could be identified.”

Pied said that dense outbreaks of milfoil are hard to paddle a kayak through, they can increase water temperature and they can suffocate other plants and limits biodiversity in that ecosystem.

“That’s a good place to grow mosquitoes,” Pied said.

This reduction in recreational value eventually can cause an impact on the housing market. Both Pied and Neal said infestations eventually caused a decrease in shoreline property value on Lake Arrowhead in Limerick and Waterboro.

“People are watching,” said Neal. “People on the lake are very concerned.”



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"Over our 20 year history with Fontaine Team, all interactions were prompt, professional and clearly communicated. You can always expect superior service!"  
-Hunter & Kathleen, Harpswell



**TACOMA LAKES ASSOCIATION**  
**www.tacomalakes.org**  
**www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation**

**2019 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!)**

**LAST NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Your Year Round Mailing Address):**

**MAILING ADDRESS CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(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:** \_\_\_\_\_