



FALL 2021

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members and Friends,

The Tacoma Lakes Association has enjoyed another banner year.

We added a couple new Directors to the board, Janis Boyer, and Patty Mosher, each of whom brought new ideas and perspectives. Next year, we will be welcoming a former Director, Mike Marchus, back to the board after a brief hiatus. Our Directors and Officers are all volunteers who share a passion for the beauty of the Tacoma's. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers, some who have served for many years.

Our Certified Boat Inspection program at the Woodbury boat launch inspected a record number of craft. Look for that number to continue to grow, as we hope to add another day of inspections to the weekly summer schedule next year. Boat inspections are the first line of defense against the dreaded invasive plant species that unfortunately have gained footing in 7 bodies of water in our immediate area. Your membership fees and donations enable us to continue this program. Despite the increases in the minimum wage, and labor shortages, this program MUST continue to grow.

Our plant patrol team once again enjoyed a fantastic season out on the lakes. This great group of volunteers, led by Diane Clay, spend time on the lakes inspecting the shoreline for invasive species. The good news is, to date, they have not sighted any invasive plants in our lakes.

I urge you all to educate yourselves on what these plants look like, and if you ever have any questions about plant life around your property, let us know immediately and we will look into it. If you have interest in learning more, and perhaps joining the group, please reach out to Diane Clay.

As you will see in the Treasurers Report, we enjoyed another strong year financially. Larry Bell has contributed a letter updating us on the broadband committee's fine work, as well a letter from Joline Bell regarding the possibility of a new social group forming for lovers of the Tacoma's. The Woodbury Dam committee chair, Mark Evans also provided an update to the situation at the Woodbury Dam. Hopefully you all recognize the importance of the dam, and the role it plays in maintaining our lakeside way of life.

Also inside is a great article written by a former Tacoma Lakes property owner (and TLA past-president and Board member) Buddy Potts, reminding us all not to take what we have for granted. Do not take where you live or summer for granted, help us protect these precious lakes.

My door is always open, and I look forward to interacting with members any time. See inside for contact information.

Regards,
Jim Adams, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

TLA continues to remain strong financially. TLA's uses a year end date of December 31 for financial reporting purposes. As of October 25, 2021, memberships had increased by 15 members compared to this date in 2020. Donations to Tacoma Lakes Association from members increased by \$2,197.00 through that same period. Membership as of October 25, 2021 stood at 228 members.

We have again received support from the State of Maine, the Town of Litchfield, and Town of Monmouth. We thank them for their continued support. We also thank our

members and those individuals and businesses in the community that continue to support our fund raising efforts.

Currently, all bills are paid and there are no outstanding invoices. 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.

Thank you,
Curtis Lindamood, Treasurer

LITCHFIELD BROADBAND COMMITTEE UPDATE

The goal of the Town of Litchfield Broadband Committee is to support the Select Board in bringing quality, affordable broadband service to all households and businesses in town.

In September, 2500 paper surveys were mailed to Litchfield households and businesses. Over a three week period, 356 surveys were received back (an excellent response for this type of survey). The survey results have been posted on the town website: <https://www.litchfieldmaine.org/town-government/committees/broadband-committee/>

The survey results were very helpful to understand town wants and needs. Some takeaways: 66% of respondents were Charter Spectrum customers, and 75% of respondents were satisfied with their current service. For those dissatisfied, the biggest issue was cost from 45% of respondents. About 47% of people use the internet to work from home, and 87% cited reliability as the most important element required of their service.

Four options from three providers were evaluated. These options were reviewed at a Public Meeting held on October 19. (The presentation from the Broadband

Committee has been posted on the town site). The Broadband Committee recommended a proposal from Redzone Wireless. Redzone would establish a public/private partnership with the Town of Litchfield. Infrastructure would be installed on four existing cell towers in the area. Broadband coverage would be made available to all locations in Litchfield, with service package speeds starting at 25/3 (download/upload Mbps) and then range in several steps up to 500/100 available for additional cost. Litchfield plans to contribute 30% of the infrastructure costs utilizing federal ARPA funds made available to the town for infrastructure projects such as broadband (no bond required). Contract negotiations are underway, with a rapid project completion expected in 6 - 9 months from contract approval.

Redzone brings internet competition to Litchfield. Those that are happy with their current provider do not need to make a change with Redzone coming to town. However, as with any situation, the added competition should bring the town more competitive pricing, quality, and service. We are all very excited to welcome Redzone to our town, and we encourage everyone to compare their service plans against other provider offerings.

INVASIVE PLANT PATROL

The plant patrol had another "unsuccessful" season in the hunt for aquatic invaders. We completed the southern half of Woodbury Pond as well as our yearly survey of the boat launch. Our activities were done in two small groups, each working on one side of the lake. So far the only milfoil that we've seen on the Tacoma Lakes is native milfoil, an acceptable species but one that needs continued monitoring over time to be sure there are no changes.

We go out from 2-3 hours every week and enjoy the lakes and the company. Some of us are very experienced, we even have a botanist on our team, some of us know only what types of plants look suspicious, and some of us don't survey we just paddle to allow someone else to focus. Some days we get distracted identifying newly discovered species simply for fun, and some days we pause only to gather information on those we need to check. It's always a great learning experience. We encourage any of you who would like to join please contact us. Even if you only want to try it out a few times.

The TLA IPP - as we are known to Lakes Stewards of Maine - would like to thank a number of property owners who offered to let us use their shorefront to launch our boats and in some cases even let us borrow theirs. In an effort not to misspell or leave someone out I'm not naming them here, but please know that you made our work so much easier and we consider you our plant patrol support team. We'll be starting next year at the north end of Woodbury Pond, so we'll be looking for places to launch convenient to that end in case you are interested in helping.

Lastly our thanks go out to a lovely lady on Woodbury Pond who brought us yummy chocolate chip cookies to give us the energy we needed to keep paddling; and to Selectman Gary Parker who graciously offered to help store and repair the clear-bottom boat that we hope will make our surveys easier in the future. Every small effort in whatever form counts toward keeping our lakes clean.

-Diane Clay

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**THE TACOMA LAKES:
JUST A CHAIN OF PONDS IN
CENTRAL MAINE, RIGHT?**

By Buddy + Annie Potts

It seems like yesterday when we bought our camp on Woodbury Pond after years of renting on another Maine lake. Actually, it was the summer of 1998. We were all worried about Y2K and we were innocent before 9/11.

Our camp was built right on the ground and moved year-round. After we closed the deal, we could not open the front door. It was jammed tight by the house shifting. We had to boost our teenage son through a window to get in. Kind of an inauspicious start!

From that inauspicious start we renovated the camp, bought the camp next door and renovated it as well, hosted friends and family and welcomed our children and grandchildren. Countless hours were spent swimming and boating in the clear water. Water quality so good it is without peer in Central Maine. Fish were caught and memories built. Every weekend for 22 years we made a 4 hour drive each way from Western Massachusetts to Litchfield. People asked how we did it. I always said the same thing. We just did it. We didn't think about the long drive or the traffic. Once we arrived in Litchfield all those memories faded away when the loons greeted us. Sometimes it was cold. Sometimes it was hot. Most of the time it was just right. Summer after summer our lives were made better because of the blessing of our camp on these beautiful ponds. It wasn't just the ponds. We were part of a wonderful community. We were welcomed as family.

When we first arrived, our neighbors gave us a copy of the lake association newsletter. We joined TLA immediately. We attended annual meetings when only 15 people attended. Eventually we offered to help the association and with other wonderful people we were able to bring new life and new excitement to lakefront residents. Today TLA is one of the most active lake associations in Maine.

Life has a way of sneaking up on all of us. Our retirement approached. Years of stress running a family business were going to end after 48 years. Our family grew as more grandchildren arrived. We got older and all the driving was taking a toll. Covid came and Maine was shut down to people "from away". We knew it was time to reevaluate our lives. That included life on the Tacoma Lakes.

Last summer we sold our property in Maine. We retired to Florida. Summer is spent in another New England state. We are much closer to family which has allowed us to spend more time with them. We are happy with our choices. As Mr. Spock would say, it is perfectly logical.

(continued on the next page)

Yet, it isn't the same. One morning last May I walked down to the water's edge at our new lake. It was pea green. I knew what it was, and it was something we never saw in Maine. It was tested by the state and confirmed to be cyanobacteria, also known as blue green algae. It is a dangerous bacteria caused by excess phosphorous loads in the lake. It occurs in Maine, but it doesn't occur in the Tacoma Lakes. It cleared up in a few days and has not occurred again but we are ever watching. People and pets cannot go in the water where there are cyanobacteria. This is what happens when lakefront owners are not diligent to reduce phosphorous entering the lake. Slow the flow works!

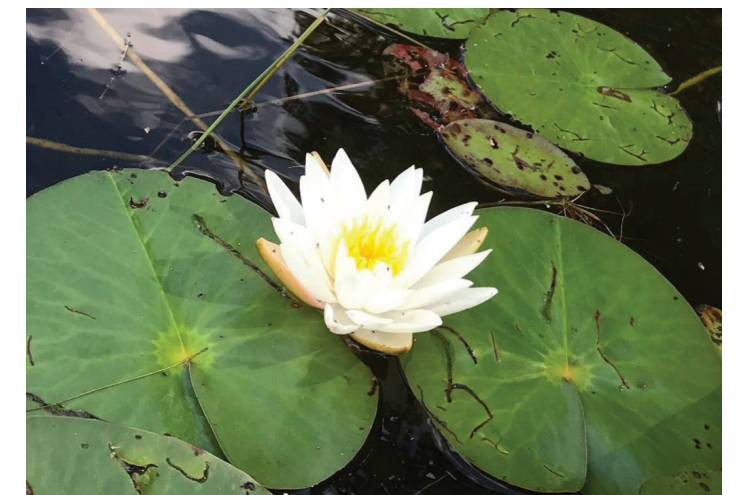
I cannot help but think about the apathy we encountered while we helped with TLA. Nothing to worry about was what we heard so often. Lakes as close as Sabattus Pond have cyanobacteria blooms but no worries, we will be fine. Milfoil? What, me worry? It is as close as the Tacoma outflow. Why join the lake association, what do they do for me? Ask the boat inspectors who work so hard every weekend to keep out invasive plants and animals what the lake association does for you. Only a dam keeper as experienced as Terry Averill would have seen the dam leak last spring. TLA paid his salary for decades. Now TLA is working with the dam committee and the town to ensure the dam will last another generation.

Recently we made our first trip back to Maine since we sold our camps. We came to visit family. We had lots to do and people to visit but we made sure to make time to see our former neighbors. Turning down the road was intense. We were full of emotion. 22 years of memories came flooding back. Just looking at the water

was difficult. What had been logical was now emotional. We had taken for granted our life on the Tacoma Lakes. My guess is many of you do too. Our new life is fine. It isn't the same and it never will be. We not only lost a beautiful place we lost an even better community. That reality came crashing down on us during our visit. Our neighbors miss us, and we miss them. Please don't take the Tacoma Lakes for granted. You may have lived here all your life or you may be new. Please look out over that water and appreciate what you have. Please appreciate the community around you. The Tacoma Lakes are special and you are all blessed to be here.

What did Joni Mitchell say?

*Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone.*



FRIENDS OF THE LAKES

A new social group is being formed to meet our neighbors around the 5 Tacoma Lakes. We anticipate doing social events that help us to connect, raise awareness of what is happening around the lakes and also utilize some of the great offerings in the area.

We are presently collecting names and emails to see how much interest there is. We will schedule a get together meeting to discuss ideas from all that are interested in January. You can email your name, address, lake you are on, phone and whether you are full time or summer residents and to friendsofthelakes@gmail.com. Feel free to include ideas you would like to see us organize. We look forward to hearing from you! **All are welcome.**

DAM UPDATE

by Mark Evans of the Woodbury Pond Dam Committee

Many of your neighbors are in motion to ensure that the Woodbury Pond Dam remains safe as the Lakes community, along with the citizens of Litchfield and Monmouth, plan for 2022's comprehensive repair and upgrade to the dam that should secure its effectiveness for decades to come. Among them is dam tender Terry Averill, who has moved to lower the dam's water level from the 7-foot level recommended by the engineers of Wright-Pierce for this Summer, to its Winter level of 6 feet as soon as October 27. This target date is important because the Public Works Department led by Larry Nadeau emplaced on October 25 plastic linings and large sand bags on the lakeside of the dam where this past Winter's leak was detected. This barrier will prevent any further erosion of the earthen berm on the eastern side of the dam through the Winter and Spring ice melt.

Other neighbors, including the Select Committees of Litchfield and Monmouth, will be seeking critically important public comment, reviewing final engineering plans and overseeing the completion of a budget for a rolled steel wall that will complete repair of the dam in Fall, 2022. Leader Engineer Stephanie Hubbard of Wright-Pierce believes that the least disruptive time to lower the water level for the final repairs would be either in Spring or Fall, but Dam Tender Terry Averill has noted that, with melting ice and Spring rains, the Fall will provide more predictability and control for managing the water levels during the construction of the steel abutment to augment the earthen berm.

The status of these plans was reviewed with the Litchfield Town Select Committee on October 25, and Committee Member Rayna Leibowitz plans to summarize the situation for the Select Committee in neighboring Monmouth during its upcoming meeting on November 3. Dam committee Member Kate Goodspeed will also be joining the meeting by Zoom from her winter home in southern Mexico in order to answer questions regarding the dam situation.

Meanwhile, Litchfield Town Manager Kelly Weissenfels will supervise the work of the Dam Committee to apply for a loan through the Maine Dam Repair and Reconstruction Fund to spread some of the funds needed to complete the repairs across the fund's five-year repayment period. Other neighbors in the

Tacoma Lakes community have supported a donation drive that have further added to our resources through direct donations to the Litchfield Woodbury Pond Dam Fund and through a GoFundMe page for the dam's repair.

As of now, we do not know exactly what the final cost of the repairs will be or the date next Fall when they will be completed, but the initial phase of work towards that goal and that day have been completed -- thanks first to the eagle eye of Tender Terry Averill, who detected the leak, then later hard work by Dam Committee committees to seek engineering and state inspection guidance for the way forward, and to the many members of the Tacoma Lakes Association, who stepped up to raise money and awareness.

We can all do our part to ensure the continued value and enjoyment of the Tacoma Lakes for homeowners, boaters, and our many summer visitors by following and participating in the upcoming discussions by the Select Committees of Litchfield and Monmouth, contributing to the repair funds available through the Litchfield Town. And we can also show our support by fully enjoying the Tacoma Lakes during the summer of 2022 to come, since that is why so many neighbors have been so hard at work.

To donate to the dam's repair fund, please contact the Litchfield town staff at: (207) 268-4721. To contribute through through [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com), go to the page for the Woodbury Pond Dam and follow the prompts. Thank you!



THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 MEMBERS!

- | | | | |
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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: _____

FIRST NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
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MAILING ADDRESS CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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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 remember to update your email address to make sure you're getting the latest TLA news, meeting notices and action alerts!

Anytime you change your email address please send your new address to **memberservice@tacomalakes.org**. We are happy to update our list so you can always receive the latest information from your Association!

TLA respects the privacy of its members and does not share contact information, including email addresses, with anyone.

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