



SUMMER 2021

Photo by Anne Christoph

TACOMA LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JULY 10, 2021

Litchfield Fairgrounds
44 Plains Rd | Litchfield, ME 04350

9:00 AM

The 2021 TLA Annual meeting will be returning
to the "red barn" at the Litchfield Fairgrounds.

We look forward to seeing a record number of members join us for this meeting!

www.tacomalakes.org | www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members and Friends,

First, I want to thank each of our 237 members who supported the Tacoma Lakes Association in 2020. Despite all of the difficulties associated with the COVID pandemic, you supported our efforts to maintain the high level of water quality in the Tacoma's. Donations, above and beyond the standard membership fee, grew in 2020. The TLA Board of Directors and Officers are extremely grateful for your support.

This summer the Plant Patrol team will again be on the lakes looking for any suspicious plants. They will be using an experimental, modified canoe, to assist in their efforts. See separate article in this newsletter. Fortunately, the Plant Patrol found no invasive species last summer.

The critical boat inspection program is already underway, and is our most important tool in protecting the lakes.

Our goal in 2021 is to increase the membership level to at least 300. This may seem like a substantial jump, but

considering there are between 400 and 500 lakefront property owners, we think this is an attainable goal. The cost of membership remains \$15 per year, making it easily affordable. A friend of mine recently purchased lakefront property in New Hampshire, and stated frankly, "the people on the Tacoma's take the excellent water quality for granted." Imagine all of the negatives associated with an invasive plant species taking root in our lakes, plummeting property values, and greatly reduced recreational activities.

I ask all of you who support our efforts to be vocal, encourage your neighbors old and new to join and help grow our Association and its valuable work.

As always, if you have any questions, or concerns please call me at 268-2070.

Regards,
Jim Adams, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

TLA continued its string of successful financial years in 2020. Donations totaled \$8,640, eclipsing last year's total of \$7,395 by \$1,245. We received membership dues in the amount of \$3,555. This is a decrease from last year's dues in the amount of \$30 which equates to a net loss of 2 memberships. Membership for the year stood at 237 members. Net income for the year 2020 totaled \$9,189. An increase of \$443 over 2019. Total income from all sources increased by \$1,429 while total expenses increased by \$986. We were unable to hold our silent auction at the annual meeting in 2020, as the board decided not to solicit local businesses for donations because of the economic impact of Covid-19. In 2019, the silent auction raised just short of \$1,000.

TLA remains in strong financial condition thanks to its generous members and donations from the community.

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. I will also be available at the annual meeting to discuss or answer any financial questions regarding the association after I present the Treasurers Report.

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. Over the past year, the Committee has completed the following:

1) ConnectMaine Planning Grant - An \$8250 grant request was written by the Committee and awarded to the town. This grant covered 50% of the cost to develop a Planning Report for the mapping of current broadband capabilities in Litchfield. This completed Report includes mapping of served/unserved areas by incumbent service providers Charter Spectrum (cable) and CCI (Consolidated Communications phone DSL).

2) Maine Community Foundation Grant - Another grant request was written by the Committee, and \$7000 was awarded to the town in October 2020. This provided funding for (a) a community hotspot at town hall, (b) upgraded video conferencing equipment for meetings there, and (c) computer literacy equipment and training for the Senior Center Advisory Group.

3) New Wireless Internet Provider to Litchfield - TK Networks, a wireless internet service provider from Auburn met with the Committee in early 2020. With no infrastructure investment costs required by the town, TK Networks has connected over 100 previously unserved or underserved community households with affordable, quality broadband service. This activity was quite timely given the need of many to learn/work from home during the COVID outbreak. If you can see the Channel 10 tower from your place, you can get wireless broadband from this provider.

4) Digital Literacy Initiative at the Senior Center - Laptops, tablet computers, and printers were procured for the Senior Center via the grant awarded by Maine Community Foundation. Some members of the senior advisory group participated in multiple 'Train the Trainer' workshops throughout the winter/spring.

5) Request for Quote (RFQ) - In March, the Broadband Committee sent out RFQs to a dozen internet service providers - including the incumbents Spectrum and CCI. Bidders have been provided a copy of the Planning Report. The purpose of the RFQ is to determine the best partner to support a build-out of the unserved and underserved areas. We need to consider better options that will address our broadband needs for the next 20 years. Many Maine towns are working diligently to accomplish this via fiber to the home (FTTH). Excellent broadband has become and will continue to be a huge factor in property values and economic stability of the town.

The Committee goal is to provide the town with broadband buildout options by mid-2021 to begin the selected plan implementation in the second half of the year with town approval to move forward. Fortunately, significant grant money has recently been made available at both the state and federal level to support broadband infrastructure improvements in rural areas such as Litchfield.



MATCHING PAYROLL DONATIONS

Anyone using the Blackbaud Giving Fund/Your Cause to send Tacoma Lakes Association a payroll matching donation, please let us know. Your Cause, or Blackbaud Giving Fund does not reveal who is sending in the donation. So, if you want credit for the donation please let us know. Otherwise it will be recorded as an anonymous donation.





TLA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 07.01.20 - 06.30.21

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GLASS BOTTOM BOAT

Last year at the TLA annual meeting Diane Clay was talking about how the Plant Patrol would like a glass bottom boat. Someone suggested that TLA buy one for the group. I volunteered my old aluminum Grumman canoe for an experiment. For his birthday, Jim Adams sponsored a raise money for a charity thing on Facebook to raise the money for the project. So, with the help of Gary Parker and his truck, the canoe spent the winter at Clearview Auto Glass in Gardiner. Heath cut out part of the bottom of the canoe and inserted lexan. I haven't seen it yet. Hopefully by the time you all read this, the boat will be back on Tacoma Lakes and will not have sunk!



Who knows if it will work, but it is an inexpensive way to figure out if it is worth spending money on the real thing.

DAM UPDATE

As the ice receded from the Tacoma Lakes this April, longtime dam tender Terry Averill noticed in his daily rounds at the Woodbury Pond Dam that there was evidence of a leak. He acted swiftly to alert the dam committee, which has led to a state inspection in April and an engineering assessment in May. Since the Lead Engineer Stephanie Hubbard has family on the Lakes, she comes not only with a top-flight structural and geotechnical team, but the perspective of a Tacoma Lakes, as well.

We now know that there is indeed a leak within the earthen berm, but Stephanie and the engineers from Wright-Pierce tell us that, if the water level at the dam is kept at 7 feet, only six inches under the normal summer level at the dam, then the dam leak can be effectively contained.

The other good news is that the Select Committee and Town Manager of Litchfield have moved quickly to seek options to fund a short-term repair. Meanwhile, the Town of Litchfield and the dam committee are exploring a more comprehensive plan, just as the Select Committee of Monmouth has also taken an active interest in the dam's repair.

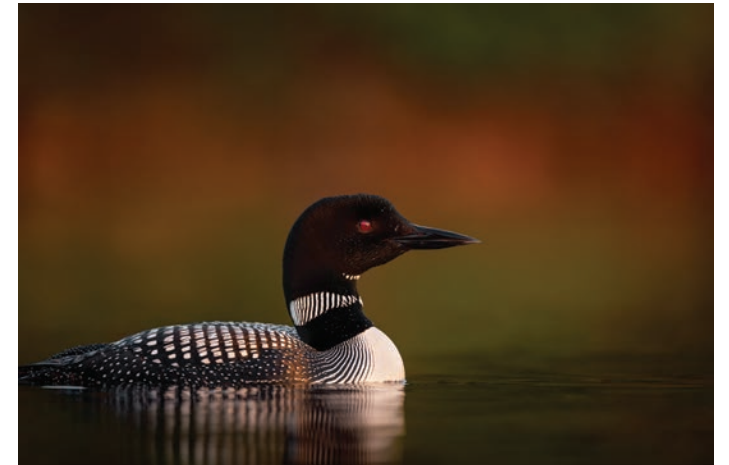
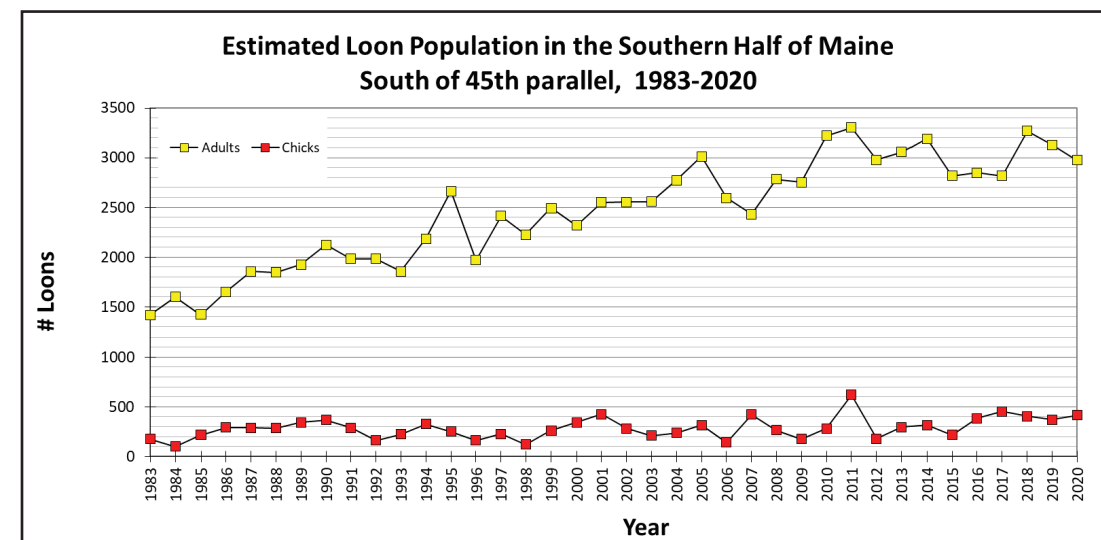
The bottom line for those who love the Tacoma Lakes is that the dam is safe, short-term repair solutions are in process, and a plan to assure a generation's worth of restoration will be developed as needed.

And where is Terry Averill, the person we can thank for discovering the problem in the first place? Well, he continues to watch the dam, monitoring its safety as he makes his daily rounds at the Woodbury Pond Dam.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MAINE AUDUBON AND THE LOONS?

Maine Audubon keeps track of the loon population through an annual Loon Count. From 7 to 7:30 am of the third Saturday of July each year, over 1,000 volunteers venture onto lakes and ponds across the state to count loons. We are proud to have members of the Tacoma Lakes Association participating in this fun and important event. The observations recorded by our community scientist volunteers provide a "snapshot" of Maine's loon population on lakes throughout the state at the same time each year. From this data, Audubon staff are able to estimate the population and assess trends over time. For more than 37 years, citizen scientists have helped collect invaluable data to chart the status of our loon population.

The 2020 Loon Count took place on Saturday, July 18, 2020. Following the 2020 count, Maine Audubon estimated a population of 2,974 adult Common Loons and 414 chicks for the southern half of Maine. (Each year, our estimate is for Maine south of the 45th parallel — roughly south of a line from Rangeley to Calais — which is the area where we have enough lakes covered by counters to make a reliable estimate.



Diane Clay coordinates the loon count for our area, Tacoma Lakes and others nearby. She recently spoke with Tracy Hart from Maine Audubon who is in charge of the statewide count. Tracy is hoping to get more eyes on loon nests in the future and collect more information than simply the annual data. Diane assured her that we have an enthusiastic group who have stepped up for counting loons, building nesting islands, and scouting nesting sites. We look forward to working with Tracy and the rest of the Audubon staff in the coming years. A big Thank You goes out to our 2020 team: Angela Wheeler, Kristen and Rick St. Peter, Cheri Cooledge, Patti and Toby Lott, Sarah Duffy, Joni Smith, Bonnie Adams, Diane Clay, and Val Mann.

On a different note, Maine Audubon also provides training and information about keeping our yards full of native plants. They have done classes this year on "Bringing Nature Home in Maine" showing how to access native seed and how to raise the plants. They also hold a native plant sale in June. Native plants are not just better because they don't take over the way many invasives do; they also provide better nourishment for native wildlife, especially birds. You can go to maineaudubon.org to get information on all the events and projects that they provide. For more on the loon count call Diane Clay: 207-754-9502 - C1L2A3Y4@gmail.com.





TLA recently lost two members of our extended family. We thank them for their support and efforts over the years. They are both missed.

NORMAND PROVENCHER

Normand Provencher former Director and Treasurer of the Tacoma Lakes Association passed away on February 18, 2020 after a 2-year battle with Leukemia. Norm was a graduate of Lewiston High School, Husson College and obtained his Masters Degree from Plymouth State College.

Norm lived in Sabattus and worked for St. Joseph's Credit Union and CUNA Mutual Insurance Company. In 1981 he and his family moved to Pembroke, New Hampshire where he was employed by the New Hampshire Credit Union League, followed by various positions with New Hampshire Credit Unions. He then went on to work for Pembroke Water Works in Pembroke, New Hampshire as business manager for 17 years until his retirement. After his retirement he and his wife Janice moved back to Maine where he worked seasonally at Longfellow's Greenhouses in Manchester for several years. He also loved volunteering at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

Norm was also very active in various organizations including the Town of Pembroke, New Hampshire Planning Board, serving as the chairman for many years; a member of the Board of Directors of Consumer Credit Counseling Services of NH and VT, a member of the Monmouth Board of Appeals, and member of the Knights of Columbus Council 13181, 4th Degree, where he served as Deputy Grand Knight until his illness. He also enjoyed volunteering as a youth hockey coach and as a water ski spotter for his granddaughters. During his retirement he enjoyed gardening, kayaking and cross country skiing. Norm truly enjoyed living on Woodbury Pond in Monmouth!

Norm is survived by his wife of 51 years, Janice Provencher of Monmouth, his daughter Cynthia Provencher and wife Claire McCarvill of Woburn, Massachusetts, his son Kevin Provencher and wife Stacy Provencher of Framingham, Massachusetts, and his two granddaughters, Katherine (Kate) Provencher and Sydney Provencher of Framingham.

JUDITH LOUISE BOURGET

The Tacoma Lakes Association would like to acknowledge with regret the passing of Judith Louise Bourget, 81, of Grant Road, Litchfield, who passed away Tuesday, March 23, 2021, after a seven-year battle with dementia.

Judy was born in Gardiner on April 15, 1939, the daughter of Jacob Harriman and Irene (Thornton) Harriman. She attended schools in Gardiner and graduated from Gardiner High School in 1957. Judy married Romeo Jay Bourget on August 27, 1960.

Judy was a loving wife and mother, and dedicated grandmother to her beloved two granddaughters and two grandsons.

Judy was a hard worker and dedicated to providing for her family. She worked for the State of Maine until she retired with 34 years of service, and rarely missed a day of work in all those years. Her work ethic and loyalty extended to

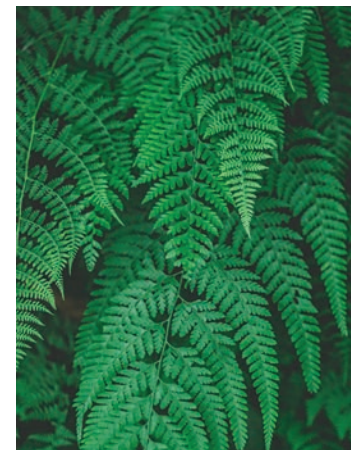
her volunteer activities, which included Eastern Star, and Daughter of the Nile as well as supporting her husband's service to the Masons, Scottish Rite and Shriners Kora Temple. She held high offices in these organization such as multiple Worthy Matron and was well-known and loved by all whose paths she crossed over the years. She was also long time secretary of the Tacoma Lakes Association and many long time members will remember her fondly.

Judy is survived by her son, Lawrence N. Bourget of Raleigh, N.C.; and four grandchildren, Sebastian E. and Xavier F. Bourget, also of Raleigh, N.C., Gabrielle M. Bourget, of Astoria, N.Y., and Jacqueline F. Bourget of Portland.

She was predeceased by her husband, Romeo J. Bourget in February 2005; and her son, Mitchell J. Bourget in November 2015.

THE DELICATE BALANCE OF YOUR LANDSCAPE CHOICES

Spring is here! With spring comes warmer weather, sunshine and longer days. Time is spent outside, with winter cleanup, planning and planting of gardens both for sustainable food sources or just beautiful garden landscapes for pleasure. All of this just readying us for summer fun on the Tacoma Lakes with family and friends. Did you know that your choice of plants in your garden or landscape can adversely affect the wildlife, birds and insects native to Maine? Delicate ecosystems that provide habitats and food sources for native wildlife are changed when non-native perennials, non-native shrubs and trees are planted. These ecosystems are necessary for propagation and restoration of their life cycles. Supporting Maine's native wildlife, birds and insects helps to maintain the ecologically critical balance of our environment.



The Maine Audubon Society and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension are great resources available to us to help better understand this delicate balance. This knowledge can help to restore the wildlife habitats and food sources. They provide education, research and guidance on invasive species, native plants and shrubs, suitability of plants for specific regions of Maine, growing native plants from seeds, maintenance of gardens, endangered native wildlife and native plants that have become threatened or considered regionally extinct. Mainenativeplants.org lists over 80 plant species native to Maine. A few of the plants listed include ferns, milk weeds, bee balm and asters. There are also shrubs, oak trees, maple trees and dogwood trees. The plants are considered easy to grow and maintain. If you are interested in learning more about Maine native plant choices for your gardens, more information can be obtained from listed websites and addresses*.

Gilsland Farm Audubon Center
20 Gilsland Farm Road
Falmouth, Maine 04105
Tel: 207-781-2330
info@maineaudubon.org

Maine Audubon Plant Finder
website:
mainenativeplants.org

University of Maine Cooperative Extension
5741 Libby Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5741
Tel: 207-581-3188 or
800-287-0274 in Maine
extensive@maine.edu

Article Sources:

<https://maineaudubon.org/projects/plants/>
<https://extension.umaine.edu/>

*Tacoma Lakes Association is hoping to have plants available for purchase at the Annual Meeting.





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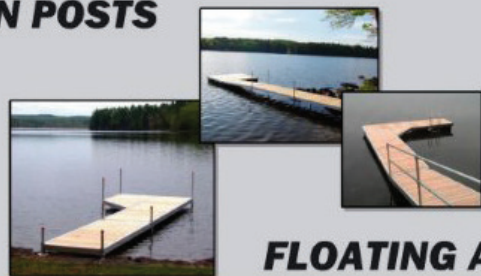
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MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$15.00

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: _____
(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:** _____

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.

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