



FALL 2023

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members and Friends,

Your association remains extremely strong and well supported by you, the members, as well as the local community. Membership numbers are stable, and the continuing amount of donations are nothing short of amazing.

This past summer TLA completed three major events in addition to our normal plant patrol inspection, and certified boat inspections at the Woodbury boat launch. First, we held our first annual Boat Regatta, organized by Janis Boyer. Then we held a member event at Doolin's Pub, which was well attended, and every one in attendance enjoyed a wonderful evening. Look for the Regatta, and the member event to get bigger and better every year. Lastly, we held the largest raffle, in terms of the value of the grand prize

that we have undertaken in my 8 years of involvement with TLA. Your Board of Directors thought outside of the box, and worked hard to make these events a success.

Additionally, the town of Litchfield recently hired a team of dam inspectors to do an underwater evaluation of the Woodbury Dam. The Dam Committee will be making recommendations to the town for the Selectmen to review.

We will continue our work to maintain the natural beauty of the Tacoma's, for future generations to enjoy.

We all wish you the best of the Holiday Season and a healthy winter.

**See you in the Spring,
Jim Adams, President**



TREASURER'S REPORT

TLA uses a year end date of December 31 for financial reporting purposes. As of October 30, 2023, memberships have increased by 8 members as compared to this date in 2022. Donations to Tacoma Lakes Association from members decreased by \$2,090.00 through that same period. This decrease can most likely be attributed to the increase in dues from \$15 to \$25. Most members continued to pay the same amount as they had in previous years, thus creating a shift in donation income to dues income. Total dues and donation income has increased \$280 from this same time in 2022. Membership as of October 30, 2023 stood at 228 members.

The board worked hard on several new fundraisers this year. These new fundraisers contributed a significant amount to our cash position. However, with only 9 board members to plan and work the events,

we are limited in our fundraising efforts. We are always looking for ways to get our membership involved in these activities. Your suggestions and comments are certainly welcome and encouraged.

We have again received support from 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 fundraising 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**



GET YOUR GEAR READY

STAYING SAFE ON THE TACOMA LAKES THIS WINTER

Here in Maine, winter tends to last a lot longer than we might like, but ice fishing and other ice sports certainly help to make it a little bit more tolerable! These activities can be a fun way to connect with family and friends in the Tacoma Lakes region, but the ice can also have a dangerous side. In preparation for this winter's activities, let's cover some crucial ice safety tips that can ensure your outdoor activities don't put you in harm's way.

Putting Safety First

Before you even step out onto the ice on one of our area's beautiful lakes, there are a few things you should do. Even if you're well-versed in winter safety, we encourage you to review the following safety tips and share this with friends and family:

Check the Ice Thickness: Always ensure the ice is thick enough to support your weight (and the weight of any vehicles or gear you'll be bringing). Experts recommend a minimum of four inches of clear, solid ice for a single person. However, if you're bringing more than just you, make sure the ice is thick enough to support all of the weight.

Stay Informed: Local weather conditions can impact ice thickness. Pay attention to weather forecasts, and keep an ear out for any advisories or warnings from local authorities.

Use the Buddy System: Fishing with a friend isn't just more fun; it's safer too. In case of an emergency, having someone there to help can, quite literally, be a lifesaver.

Safety Gear: Always wear a life jacket or another flotation device, especially if you're ice fishing on a large body of water. Carry ice picks, which can help you grip the ice if you fall in, and consider a whistle or an emergency beacon (or flare of some kind).

Respect the Signs: Signs and markers placed by authorities are there for a reason. They often indicate hazardous areas or where the ice may be weaker.

Keep Warm: Dressing in layers is essential. You'll want to stay warm and dry, so invest in quality cold-weather gear. Inspect all of your gear before this year's season begins and replace worn-out gear – don't take chances.

Carry Safety Essentials: Your ice fishing tackle box should include ice cleats for traction, a first-aid kit, and a communication device like a cell phone or a two-way radio.

Stay on Alert, Even When You Think It's Safe

Once you've reviewed the safety basics, and you know the ice is safe, it's time to have fun! Don't forget to pack some hot drinks and snacks to keep the chill at bay. Remember though, conditions can change on a dime here in Maine, and it's important to always stay on alert.

Stay Safe, and Have Fun This Winter!

Ice fishing can be an unforgettable winter pastime here on the Tacoma Lakes, but the key to enjoying it safely is preparation and safety. By following these tips, you'll be well-equipped to take in the serene beauty that Maine's Tacoma Lakes region has to offer – and maybe you'll even catch some fish while you're at it!

So, this winter, gear up and venture out onto the ice, but always remember: **safety first!**

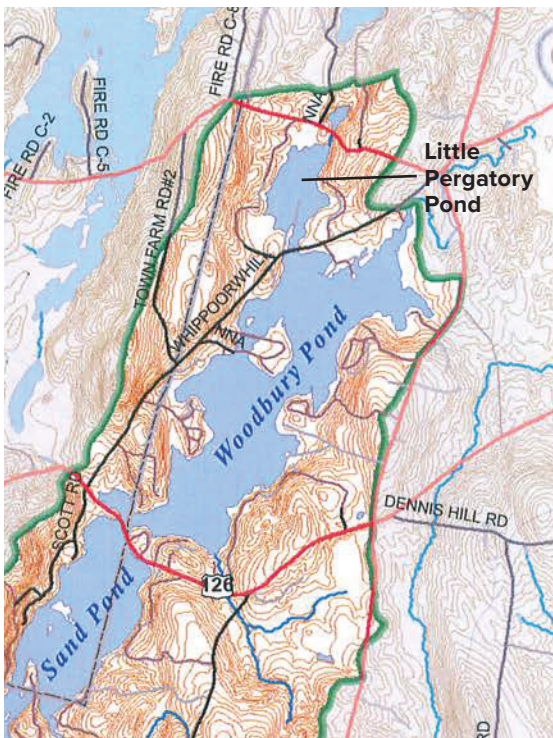
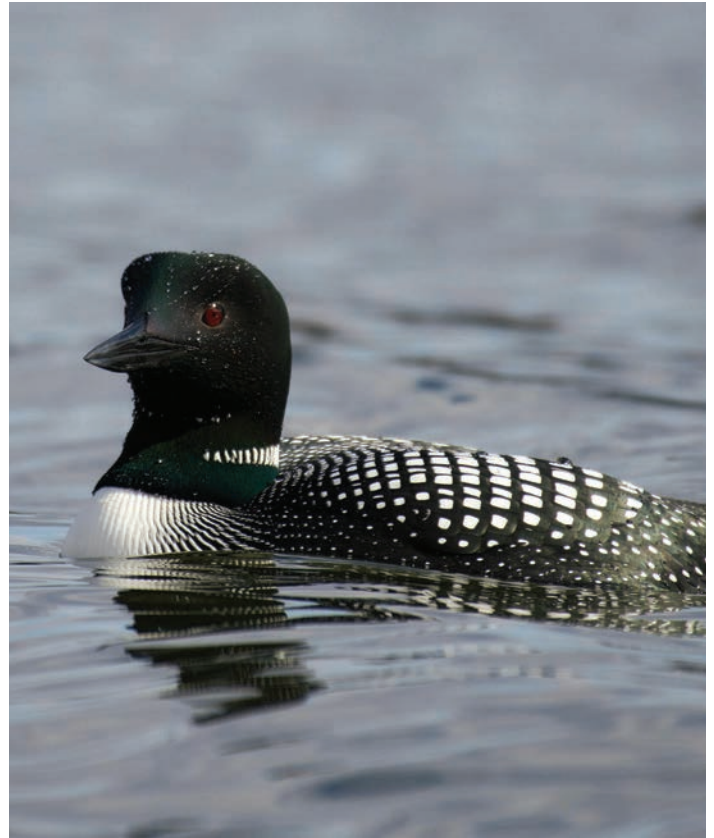




LOON RESTORATION PROJECT

By now we've all heard of the loon restoration project through Maine Audubon. On Tacoma Lakes we have someone monitoring each of our five bodies of water. Woodbury has two very active loon watchers who have built and kept watch over a new nesting raft as well as a couple of older ones. The folks on the other four ponds have filled out reports and watched the loon populations in each area. The purpose is to find places where loons are successful at having chicks and where their nests are too vulnerable to continue.

This project can use more eyes on the water observing our loon population, but would also benefit from changes in fishing practices. For years many of us have believed that the presence of these fishing birds reduces the fish population. However, research has shown that on the best lakes for fishing there is a healthy group of loons. We are also learning that lead fishing gear can cause additional threats to the lakes and other creatures. Next year the law will change regarding the use of lead equipment, so Maine Audubon will continue hosting lead exchanges to help those of us who fish get new gear without the added expense.



TACOMA LAKES PLANT PATROL WE CELEBRATE WHEN WE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL!

The Tacoma Lakes Invasive Plant Patrol was out again this summer, this time tackling Little Purgatory Pond. The good news is that we again found no invasive aquatic plants. The downside this year was that we didn't get out as often as we usually do because of an unusually rainy season and the absence of several of our members. Three new folks joined us this summer, and we want to express our thanks to them. Some of us are getting old, and we can use some young eyes and paddlers.

For information to join us or to ask questions about something at your waterfront contact Tacoma Lakes Association or Diane Clay at 207-754-9502.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTER PERCY'S HARDWARE

Owner Percy Gowell is named after his great grandfather. In 1976 his grandfather and father opened a small hardware store in Litchfield, so they didn't have to drive far for hardware supplies.

Percy's carries the basics of what people need from a hardware store and is always trying to find space to squeeze in more. The store is packed with all kinds of items to help homeowners and businesses with their projects from electrical supplies and plumbing parts to gardening supplies, grain and feed. He is

always helping people with their hardware problems and considers himself a pretty proficient assembler of plumbing parts! Everyone is welcome to test his knowledge of hardware stuff.

Percy's is an authorized UPS access point where customers can both drop off and pick up UPS packages. They are also an authorized U-Haul Dealer and have a propane refill station.

Percy's is open 7 days a week except for Thanksgiving and Christmas, opening 7:30 am weekdays and 8:00 am weekends.

Percy has been an ardent supporter of the TLA for many years. This year Percy played a key role in the TLA raffle providing the Kamado Joe charcoal grill. Percy also supports the TLA as a sponsor of our newsletters. So, stop in and say hi to Percy and his 2 dogs, Sabre and Chisel. His wife, Patty might even be there if she isn't working at Gowell's Shop 'n Save!



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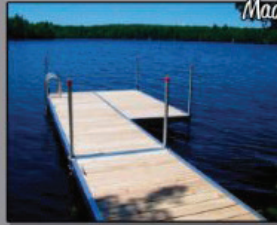
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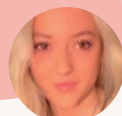
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