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Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society Newsletter
June, 2011

Welcome to our spring 2011 Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society Newsletter! It was a long hard winter in Maine this year and an even longer wet spring so we can only hope for a warm pleasant summer!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society will be holding its annual meeting and breakfast on Saturday, July 9th 2011 at 8:30 AM, at the Sportsman's Club in Litchfield. The breakfast will start at 8:30 AM and end at 9:30 AM. The breakfast will consist of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee all cooked and served by your Society's directors and spouses. The breakfast will be followed by a brief business meeting which will consist of a recap of the society's activities over the past year and voting for members of the society's board of directors for 2011. All residents are encouraged to attend the breakfast but only paid society members in good standing will be allowed to attend the meeting and vote. You can pay your dues before the meeting if you wish. Following the business meeting we are fortunate to have Keith J. Smith, LakeSmart FIREWISE Contractor with the Maine Forest Service speaking about things you can do to protect your home from the threat of fire.

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

We have e-mail addresses for about 50% of our members so far. These members were the first to know about the milfoil infestation in Purgatory Stream as well as receiving other updates on the Society's activities. By using e-mail we can keep our members informed of issues facing our lakes quickly and at no cost to the Society. If you have not been receiving our e-mail, please send your e-mail address to us at: memberservice@tacomalakes.org. Please also be sure to notify us at the same address if you change your e-mail address. Thank you!

All correspondence should be mailed to:

**Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society
P O Box 293
Litchfield, ME 04350**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The year 2011 continues to be a very busy for the society as your volunteer directors and officers continue to deal with significant issues effecting not only members but others citizens of the local area. The bylaw changes made last fall by members are being addressed by your directors and will enable the board to function even more effectively than in the past. The board can be proud of what it accomplished in the past year, which includes revamping current bylaws, updating the badly mailing list, coordinating needed dam work with local officials, moving our financial records to a software driven program, and shifting the weekend milfoil inspection program to the Friends of Cobbossee watershed, although your society provides much of the funding for these inspectors.

The society is aggressively pursuing a number of new goals for 2011, which include:

1. Hosting an IPP training session for individuals interested in becoming part of an invasive plant patrol program to enable early detection of invasive species if and when they enter the Tacoma lake chain.
2. Coordinating with the town's Woodbury Dam Committee continued needed enhancements to the dam as a result of the state's 2010 inspection.
3. Continuing to monitor the progress on the Milfoil infestation in Purgatory stream.
4. Monitoring lake front development to ensure that proper permitting has occurred and that damage to the lake chain is mitigated as much as possible.
5. Monitoring the ongoing taxation issues in Litchfield and Monmouth, particularly in regards to the taxation of lake front property compared to non waterfront property.

Your board dedicates untold hours of unpaid volunteer service to help maintain the Tacoma Lakes Chain of lakes as a valuable resource to be enjoyed by both members and non-members!

Not a member? Why not? Our annual dues are only \$15.00. As you will see throughout the newsletter, the Society is very active on your behalf. Your financial support is critical as expand our mission. We need every lakefront owner to be a member of your Society. **Please join today!**

I encourage you to continue to support your Society both financially and as a volunteer. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us at any time either by phone or e-mail.

Bruce G. Doyle
President

Thank you to Litchfield voters for approving a \$1,000 grant to the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society at this year's annual meeting. This money will be used to support the inspectors at the Woodbury Pond boat ramp.

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

**Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society
Officers and Directors**

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

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VOLUNTEER INSPECTOR and TRAINER

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Woodbury Dam

By Bruce Doyle

This spring saw the installation of five new gates at the Woodbury Dam. These fine gates were constructed out of Douglas fir from Canada and build by the joint efforts of Jean Pratte of Chestnut Hill furniture in Monmouth and Marquis Welding of South Monmouth. Thanks to additional hard work by Terry Averill, Dam Keeper, the gates have been tweaked to perfection and appear to be working perfectly. The old gates will be kept as spares should any of the new gates suffer any unexpected damage.

This dam, which was originally built in 1885, is currently classified as a low hazard dam by the state. Additional work is scheduled for 2011, which will include raising the non-overflow embankments, placing additional riprap on both the upstream and downstream faces of the embankments, beefing up the spillway toe area, and ensuring that the original mechanical gate is functioning properly.

WOODBURY POND PARK

Open Weekends May 28 to June 19. Open 7 days a week June 20 – Labor Day. Hours: 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Fees \$2.00 per person (under 5 and over 65 free), \$ 8.00 carload. Resident pass: \$30.00, Nonresident: \$50.00. Activities: Swimming (no lifeguards), fishing, picnic tables & grills, horseshoes, etc.

THANK YOU DONORS!

Please note that membership dues only provide about 1/3 of our annual expenses. Our dues do not even cover our largest expense, the inspectors at the boat launch. Their work is essential to help protect our lakes from an infestation of invasive weeds. Your board of directors would like to thank the members who have made donations in addition to your dues. These donations are an essential part of our ability to protect our lakes. All donors are acknowledged on our website.

BOAT INSPECTORS NEEDED

We staff the Woodbury Pond boat launch with paid inspectors on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Their job is to check boats and trailers entering and leaving the Tacoma Lakes to be sure no invasive plants are introduced to the lakes. They also educate boaters as to the importance of check and thoroughly clean their boats after every use. Transferring plants from one water body to another by boat or trailer is a common way milfoil and other invasive plants get introduced to new areas. We try to create a culture where every boater checks for plant fragments before leaving a lake or river.

We are seeking volunteers to inspect boats and trailers on those days when we do not provide paid inspectors. These days are usually not busy, which makes the job a little easier. We provide training at no cost to our volunteers. Training is quick and easy and usually lasts about an hour. Job requirements include good eyesight, the ability to bend and see below boats and trailers, and the ability to talk kindly to boaters. The boat launch is a beautiful spot and is a great place to spend a few hours a week with a thermos of coffee and a good book. Teens through senior citizens are welcome to help with this important volunteer work. Please contact Buffy DeMatteis for more information. Her phone number is 352-422-3929 or drop her a note at buffythelobsterslayer@yahoo.com. Thank you!

TACOMA LAKES BASS TOURNAMENTS

Date	Club	Representative	Phone
5/14/2011	BronzeBack Mainiacs	Ray Boies	207-897-2772
7/10/2011	Pine Tree Bass Casters	Luke Gagnon	207-651-6935
7/30/2011	Rocky Hill Bass Anglers	Todd Settlemire	207-837-8911
8/12/2011	Nite Bite Bassers	Roger Laflamme	207-229-7110
8/14/2011	York County Bass Casters	Bob Porter	207-499-1029
10/9/2011	Maine Country Bassers	Brian Mooney	207-577-1837

This tournament list may not be all inclusive and only represent those that have registered with the state to hold a tournament. Many informal clubs exist which also hold tournaments. Please note that your Society has no authority over these tournaments. This information is provided for your general information only.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Your Society had a successful year in 2010 with a surplus of revenue over expenses of \$1309.24. We are off to a good start in 2011 as we have been approved for a \$2,000 state grant towards the milfoil inspectors. 2011 will be a more challenging financial year as we were not able to obtain the Red Sox and Patriots tickets for fund raising. We also expect expenses to increase. Your membership and donations are more important than ever. A full update will be given at the annual meeting. Thank you for your support!

PURGATORY STREAM MILFOIL UPDATE

The Department of Environmental Protection intends to further study and measure the milfoil infestation that is located above the small dam that can be seen from the Hallowell Litchfield Road when entering Purgatory village. A tentative date has been set for June 24th to conduct this survey.

Once the measurement is finalized then an action plan will take place to either remove the milfoil or tarp the milfoil in an attempt to kill it. Currently, the DEP does not feel it is a serious threat to the Tacoma Lake chain and that a bigger threat is an unknowing boater bringing an invasive species into the lake via the boat launch.

DASH

The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed completed construction this year of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) to battle the infestation of variable leaf milfoil in Pleasant Pond, as well as in other bodies of water in our watershed that have become contaminated. Local communities supported the construction of this unit and the FCW is not requesting that each town provide an estimated \$5,000 towards the anticipated \$37,500 annual operating cost. Litchfield selectman placed that amount in this year's budget, which was approved at the Litchfield town meeting on June 11, 2011.

SENIOR CENTER HERE TO HELP

Something to consider for anyone who is a summer resident on the Tacoma Lakes and would like to be able to check their email or access the internet. The Litchfield Senior Center, located on Academy Road in the old Litchfield Academy building (next to the Libby Tozier Elementary School) has computers available during the days they are open. The times are 8:30 to 4, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Stop by for a cup of coffee and check out the other activities going on as well. Activities include exercise, line dancing, cards, games, etc.

BOTTLE DONATIONS

TLIS is continuing to welcome your bottle donations that are being left in the blue barrels at the town recycling center. The signs were torn off the barrels by individuals unknown but will be replaced soon. Last year's contributions amounted to a significant amount of money (in excess of \$500). If you could bag the bottles in plastic bags prior to putting them in the barrels it would be greatly appreciated otherwise it can be somewhat of a messy job fishing them out and bagging them. Thank you!!

LOCAL BUSINESSES PLEASE HELP!

Many local businesses benefit from our summer residents. Please consider how you can help the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society to protect the quality of our lakes and keep the community informed. Here are some ways businesses can help:

- 1) Advertise in our newsletter and web site.
- 2) Provide donations of goods and services for our annual meeting raffle.
- 3) Cash donations.

For additional information please contact Bruce Doyle at 207-312-3698. Thank you!

GEESE

If you're seeing a lot more of those pesky geese around your camp or house this year there is a very good reason! The number of white geese has increased dramatically during the past several decades. The term "white geese" includes the greater snow goose, lesser snow goose, and Ross' goose. White geese nest in the arctic and sub-arctic regions of Canada, with small numbers in Alaska. Substantial numbers of white geese winter in all four Flyways, and increasing numbers winter in Mexico each year. Ross' geese have increased from about 30,000 in 1965 to over 400,000 today. Greater snow geese numbered about 30,000 in 1965 and today exceed 600,000. Lesser snow geese have increased from about 1 to 3 million during the same 30-year interval. For the most part, white geese nest in loose colonies, and the rates of population increase may vary among different nesting areas.

The rapidly increasing size of many of the nesting colonies is causing severe problems analogous to overgrazing on range lands. Evidence suggests that the large numbers of geese are destroying feeding areas needed to successfully raise their young. During fall and winter, they also are damaging their migration and wintering habitats. Along the East Coast, salt-marsh "eat-outs" have destroyed important wetland habitat in coastal marshes, resulting in long-term loss of food resources.

Management agencies have attempted to control the growth of these populations by liberalizing hunting seasons. Despite liberalizing harvest regulations, the total harvest of white geese in the United States today is less than it was 25 years ago. Presently, some Flyways have a 107-day hunting season (the maximum season length allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty) and a 10-bird daily bag limit, yet the number of white geese harvested has not grown. Managers are examining various alternatives to solve the white-geese overpopulation problem; however, no easy answers are presently apparent.

LAWNS GREEN, LAKES CLEAN

We all want clean lakes. Unfortunately, over 50 lakes in Maine have been turning GREEN and phosphorus is the culprit. You can help prevent your lake from turning green by replacing your regular lawn fertilizer with a phosphorus-free fertilizer.

Why? Phosphorus is in living things and soil, but when too much enters a lake or river, it disrupts the balance of life. Phosphorus is like "junk food" for algae (microscopic plants). ***Just one pound of phosphorus can produce 10,000 pounds of wet weeds and algae!*** When additional phosphorus gets washed into lakes and rivers, the algae grow out of control (algal bloom) reducing the visibility or clarity of the water. The lake turns green, leaving unsightly scum, foul odors and bad tasting water. In some lakes, repeated algal blooms can result in fish kills or loss of the cold water fishery (salmon, trout, etc.).

Runoff from our yards

It is not only the shorefront owners that contribute to the problem. 50% of Maine drains to our lakes. The other 50% drains to a river or bay. This means when it rains storm water runs over lawns, woods and roads, off into streams and ditches carrying pollutants including phosphorus. The area that drains to a lake, river or ocean is called a watershed. Research conducted in Maine showed that in watersheds that are converted from their natural, forested condition to residential, commercial and agricultural uses, the amount of phosphorus runoff increases by a magnitude of 5 to 10 times. Once there is an overabundance of phosphorus in the lake, it is NOT feasible to remove it from a lake. A few lakes with high phosphorus were been treated with alum, a very expensive and not always successful procedure. The only solution is to control the run off of phosphorus into lakes.

LAWNS GREEN, LAKES CLEAN (Continued)

Most soils in Maine have enough phosphorus to keep a lawn healthy. An application of lime will make even more phosphorus available to your lawn. A new lawn may need a small amount of phosphorus to help root development. To see if your lawn needs phosphorus, CONDUCT A SOIL TEST BEFORE YOU ADD FERTILIZER. Get your soil test kit at University of Maine Cooperative Extension Offices, by calling 581-3591, or by replying on the web <http://anlab.umesci.maine.edu>. Consumers should check on the bag of fertilizer for a string of three numbers. The middle number represents phosphorus and consumers should purchase fertilizers with a middle number of zero to avoid adding phosphorus to our lakes and ponds.

Now is the time for people who use fertilizer to switch to phosphorus-free fertilizer to help protect our lakes. For more information, please call or email Barb Welch, Lakes Education Coordinator, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 207-287-3901.

WEB PAGE

Our web page continues to grow and attract attention. It is loaded with the latest information about your Society and our lakes. We welcome your input and are always seeking photographs to add to our collection. Please drop us a note anytime at memberservice@tacomalakes.org. Thank you!



Photo courtesy Buddy Potts

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TACOMA LAKES IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$15.00.

Thank you for your membership in the Society. Your membership dues are essential to support our many activities. Together all of us can help to keep Tacoma Lakes beautiful and healthy.

NAME: _____

STREET: _____ (Mailing Address)

TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ OK TO E-MAIL? _____

We would appreciate your permission to send you e-mail. We will keep your e-mail private and will not share it with any other organization. Thanks!

POND PROPERTY IS LOCATED ON: _____

DUES: _____ DONATION: _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Thank you for considering a donation to help us continue our important work.

Please mail this completed application along with your check payable to Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society to:

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society
P O Box 293
Litchfield, ME 04350

Can you help? We are seeking volunteer boat inspectors. Free training is provided. If you are interested, please indicate your interest below and we will contact you:

Please contact me, I'm interested: _____

WE APPRECIATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Impact of Camp Roads (aka Dirt Roads) on Water Quality

Many camp roads were either not properly constructed, or not properly maintained, or both. Because of this, rain and melting snow runoff can cause material from the road to erode into a nearby stream or lake.

How Do Camp Roads Impact Water Quality?

Camp roads frequently change natural storm water drainage patterns. These changes can increase the potential for soil erosion by:

- reducing the ability of water to soak into the ground by stripping away the protective vegetative cover
- creating highly erodible pathways of exposed soils
- collecting drainage on the road and in ditches, increasing the overall flow, speed and volume of the runoff

What's the Problem with Soil Erosion?

The suspended sediment can:

- irritate the gills of fish, making them prone to disease
- smother fish spawning and feeding grounds
- gradually fill in near shore, resulting in the loss of desirable shoreline (due to encroaching weeds, for instance)
- cause algal blooms, resulting from the attached phosphorus
- reduce levels of dissolved oxygen, resulting in fewer cold-water fish (i.e., salmon and trout)
- diminish recreational and aesthetic values of the lake

What Does Phosphorus Have to Do with Sediments?

Phosphorus, a nutrient that is attached to camp road sediments, is a primary food for all plants, including algae. In natural conditions, the scarcity of phosphorus in a lake limits algal growth. However, when a lake receives extra phosphorus in the form of camp road sediment algal growth increases dramatically. Sometimes this growth causes choking algal blooms, but more often it results in small, negative changes in water quality that, over time, damage the health and aesthetics of the lake.

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society

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