



www.tacomalakes.org

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society Newsletter
October, 2011

Welcome to our autumn 2011 Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society Newsletter! We hope everyone enjoyed the summer and are ready for autumn and the winter months ahead.

AUTUMN DRAWDOWN

Please be advised that the annual drawdown of the Tacoma Lakes will begin on October 15. Members are advised to remove their boats in advance of the drawdown. A reminder of the drawdown date was sent to all members on our e-mail list.

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

We have e-mail addresses for about 65% of our members so far. These members receive regular updates on Society activities and notice of important events such as lowering the lakes in advance of Tropical Storm Irene and the annual autumn drawdown. 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**

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY! THE FALL NEWSLETTER AND THE E-MAIL ALERTS ARE MEMBER ONLY SERVICES. ANYONE WHO HAS NOT PAID THEIR 2011 DUES BY NOVEMBER 1, 2011 WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE E-MAIL LIST. PLEASE DON'T LOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES, RENEW TODAY!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The leaves are changing, the boats and docks are pulled, and the firewood is stacked as the year 2011 wanes. The year 2011 was and continues to be a very busy for the Society as we continue to strive to do more with limited resources, but a dedicated membership.

The well attended and successful July breakfast and annual meeting resulted in the re-election of current officers and directors and initiated a busy summer season.

It is important to note that a few days prior to that meeting we regrettably were informed that both Vice President Charlie Manchester and his wife had some serious medical problems. I am very pleased to report that both are in the recovery stage and appreciate your continued support.

Accomplishments and highlights of TLIS during 2011:

1. As a result of overwhelming support for the state's LakeSmart Firewise program at the annual meeting, your officers contacted the Maine Fire Service's coordinator to initiate participation in that program. With the assistance of your directors, Maine Forest Rangers have inspected a number of both seasonal and year round residences along the Tacoma Lakes chain and the work continues as this newsletter is being prepared. The results of this survey will be provided to TLIS next spring.
2. TLIS, in coordination with the Friends of Cobbossee, pulled an entire truck load of milfoil from Purgatory stream. In addition, thirty five benthic barriers were laid in the stream to kill some of the remaining milfoil. Those barriers will be removed in October and the entire process repeated again next year. The hope is that by the end of next season, enough of the milfoil will have been destroyed to enable yearly hand pulling to keep the milfoil under control. Special thanks go to members Buffy DeMatteis, Fred Desjardins, Pam Gartley, Susie Wilding Hartford, Bruce Ouellette, Diane Clay, Rainey Doyle, and Glen & Debbie Sparks for their outstanding efforts to help remove this invasive species.
3. Thanks to the hard work of Director Buffy DeMatteis and others, a successful Invasive Plant Patrol workshop was held in Litchfield with 23 attendees. The session was extremely information and resulted in new commitments from attendees to assist in patrolling our lakes for invasive species. It is hoped that this program will continue to grow in the future.
4. TLIS officers continue to work with local town officials to have any work needed to keep the dam in good functioning condition and to keep backup gates on hand should any damage occur to the existing gates. Brand new gates were installed during 2011 and are continuing to be tweaked to perfection by dedicated dam keeper Terry Averill. There is remaining ground work funded by the town that still remains to be completed.
5. All of our financial record keeping has been put on QuickBooks accounting software to produce both timely and accurate records to include a monthly balance sheet and profit and loss statement. Financial records were reviewed by an audit committee of the board and found to be entirely satisfactory.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

6. Responsibilities for managing the boat launch milfoil inspection program have been transferred entirely to the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. TLIS is proud to say that our inspectors at the Woodbury Pond boat landing log more inspection hours per season than almost any other boat launch in the watershed. With your support and town and state support, TLIS will continue to fund the inspectors at the Woodbury Pond Boat Landing.
7. The TLIS website at www.tacomalakes.org is receiving much more attention as a conduit for information to both members and others wishing to learn more about the Tacoma Lakes watershed. Secretary/Treasurer Buddy Potts is to be congratulated on the fine work he has done on this site.
8. Board members at the most recent TLIS board meeting voted to make a \$250 donation to the Litchfield Community Food Bank campaign to raise a total of \$10,000 for a new propane generator to handle any unforeseen power outages that could potentially ruin significant amounts of food. The Food Bank provides an average of 105 pantry boxes a month to local families. Directors felt that this contribution, although not directly connected with the purpose of the society, was an opportunity to give back to those less fortunate in our community. Donations have been and will continue to be a rare occurrence since TLIS funds will always be predominately for the purposes elaborated on in our Bylaws.
9. Your bottle donations at the town landfill continue to be a significant funding source for the society. Your president greatly appreciates those of you who make sure your bottles and cans are bagged!

These are just a few of the projects being undertaken by your Board of Directors, who dedicated untold hours of unpaid volunteer service maintain the Tacoma Lakes Chain of lakes as a valuable resource to be enjoyed by both members and non-members!

I encourage you to continue to support your Society both financially and with any volunteer efforts you would like to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us at any time either by phone or email. The year 2011 was a record year for donations and I personally want to thank every individual who send in monies in excess of the regular dues. Your directors cannot thank you enough for the financial assistance you have provided during these tough times!

Bruce G. Doyle

President

Please help us use our website to the fullest. We are seeking photos of all the seasons, as well as historical photos. If you can contribute please contact Buddy Potts at memberservice@tacomalakes.org or 860-614-6321. Thank you!

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society
Officers and Directors

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

PRESIDENT

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buffythelobsterslayer@yahoo.com

Many waterfront homes and camps in Maine are in areas susceptible to seasonal wildland fires. **FIREWISE** is a national program that offers recommendations that homeowners can implement to make their homes better able to withstand a wildland fire. Becoming **FIREWISE** does not mean having to sacrifice your shoreland stability, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Oftentimes the greatest wildland fire protection you can offer your home is by removing “the little things” that can ignite, such as leaves and pine needles that accumulate on your roof, in your rain gutters, next to your foundation, or under your deck. The places where this fallen debris gathers are the same places where flying embers will gather during a wildfire, increasing the chance for property loss.

The Maine Forest Service—working with your local fire department and lake association—will conduct risk assessments of lake associations electing to participate in this program and develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with recommendations for homeowners and associations to reduce their risk from wildfire. Communities participating in this program are also eligible to participate in the Maine Forest Service’s “**Defensible Space Chipping Program**” designed to assist homeowners and communities with the disposal of excess hazardous fuels *at no cost*.

TLIS cares about our members and our lakes. We expect the FIREWISE report next spring. We will keep our members informed.

THANK YOU DONORS!

The officers, directors and members of the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society would like to thank the following for their generous donations in support of the Society in 2011. We have never seen this number or this amount of donations! This list is current as of September 24, 2011. For the latest list please see our website.

Anonymous	Robert & Mary Fitzmaurice
Beth Ashcroft	Dan & Martha Fortin
Terry Averill	Nelly Gamage
Lawrence & Carol Auger	Tim & Laurie Garrity
Kevin & Colleen Benedix	William & Pamela Gartley
Norm & Lucy Carr	Roland & Anita Girouard
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Chuck & Gloria Earley	Doris Lahey
David & Kathy Ledew	Nancy Rines
Rowena Long	Tom & Nancy Robustelli
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Maurice & Diana Nadeau	Pat Soboleski
George Odenchantz	Michele Stowe
Bruce & Karen Ouellette	Lorraine Szykiewicz
Jim Partridge	Helen Thorne
Raymond & Pauline Pelletier	Barbara Tillson
Buddy & Annie Potts	Don & Evelyn Waterman
Normand & Janice Provencher	Dian White
Erlon & Betty Ricker	James & Theresa White
Robert & Linda Riendeau	

Total donations: \$1711.00

Thank you everyone!

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."
-Winston Churchill-

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Your Society has enjoyed a successful financial year in 2011 with a surplus of revenue over expenses to date. We have applied for and received grants from the State of Maine and the Towns of Litchfield and Monmouth. Expenses have been carefully managed. We are entirely dependent on volunteers for all our activities. Our largest expense is the boat inspectors. We have also supported the invasive plan training and the removal of the milfoil from Purgatory Stream. A full update will be given in the spring newsletter and at next year's annual meeting. Thank you for your support!

BOTTLE DONATIONS

TLIS is continuing to welcome your bottle donations that are being left in the blue barrels at the town recycling center. 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!!



Photo courtesy Buddy Potts.

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Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed



BE A MIL-FOILER

Thank you Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed for all your assistance to The Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society!

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!