

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2009

NO. 1 OF 2009

ANNUAL LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING TO BE HELD ON JULY 11, 2009

The Tacoma Lakes Association will be having their annual meeting on July 11, 2009 at 9:30 AM at the Sportsman Club in Litchfield. There will be a breakfast starting at 8:00 A.M. until 9:30 A.M.

The price for breakfast will be \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 12 and under. The meal will be pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice, coffee, and milk. There will also be prizes to win after the meeting. Mark your calendars now!!!

We need to have **ALL PROPERTY OWNERS** support the Association if you want to keep your own Dam Keeper, so we can create loon-friendly water levels, which also are good for boating activities and other interests.

The water level has property value implications as well. Without your support of the Association we cannot send you newsletters keeping you current what is going on in town regarding property value, milfoil, and development around the lake that might cause future problems and invasive plants.

We also need help to inspect boats at the boat ramp on weekends and holidays from the beginning of May through October, in order to be sure the lake is protected from unwanted infiltration. You will receive a one-page letter and questionnaire that you will hopefully fill-out and return with your dues for 2008-2009. Please still fill out the questionnaire and return it to: Judy Bourget, 95 Grant Road, Litchfield, ME 04350. If you have any questions, please call Judy Bourget at 268-4341.

RAFFLE TICKETS for the Red Sox and Patriots Games will be available for the first time at the Annual Meeting. Tickets will be available on our web site and locations around Tacoma Lakes after the Annual Meeting.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF TACOMA LAKES IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: Harold "Buddy" Potts; 2 Ross Way; Windsor Locks, CT 06096; TEL (H) ~~860~~ - 668-4272 (CAMP) 268-3053 ⁸⁶⁰

VICE-PRESIDENT: Charles Manchester; PO Box 99; Litchfield, Me 04350; Tel: 268-4087-

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Judy Bourget; 95 Grant Rd; Litchfield, ME 04350; Tel: 268-4341

DAM-KEEPER: Terry Averill; 183 Neck Rd; Litchfield, ME 04350; Tel: 724-3733

If you have any suggestions that you would like to see the Lake Association doing or any problems regarding folks bothering the loons, please let one of us know so we can try to help.

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MERCURY
VOLVO PENTA
MERCUISER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to wish a happy spring to the members and friends of the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society. The long winter is now behind us and I hope everyone is looking forward to summer as much as I am.

Your board of directors is already back at work after our winter break. Our first board meeting was

held on April 13. We have lots on our agenda for 2009.

We got some great news as we start 2009. July reports membership has increased significantly compared to last year. Our current membership is 177, compared to 112 last year. I welcome aboard our new members and thank our returning members. I hope this increase reflects both an appreciation for the work of the Society as well as the importance of our work. Thank you everyone!

Our primary responsibility over the winter belongs to dam keeper Terry Averill. He told us that it was generally an uneventful winter, with the one exception of a very heavy rain storm that caused a rapid rise in the water level. The lakes are now being set to the summer level, now that the ice is out. We should be in good shape for this summer.

We thank the Town of Litchfield for the work done on the dam last fall. This included hot patch to stabilize the ends of the dam, and painting the dam to seal and protect the concrete. Terry feels the dam is in generally good condition, but there are some areas of concern that the Society will address to the town. We are incredibly fortunate to have Terry taking care of our dam.

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society needs your help! Litchfield residents please attend the Litchfield Town Meeting on June 13. We have asked the Town to approve a payment of \$1000 to the Society to assist with the cost of the boat inspections this summer. Until this year the Society and a small state grant have paid the entire cost of the inspectors. We realize this is a difficult budget year for every level of government. Ultimately this investment by the town will help to protect lake front valuations which provide a large part of Litchfield's tax base. Should our lakes become infested with exotic weeds, lakefront valuations will fall resulting in additional taxes for those not living on the lakes. Please come to the Town Meeting and support our request for support from the town for the critically important boat inspection program!

Enough of the politics, now on to the fun stuff. 2009 will be an exciting year for your Society. We've got some really cool stuff planned. Here's some of what will be happening:

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday July 11th. We're planning a breakfast meeting this year to allow you the rest of the day and evening free for summer activities. Bring your appetites and

join us for a fun event. Details of the breakfast and the program will be announced on our web-site and in our first Newsletter.

One great thing about all of New England is the passion for our sports teams. The Red Sox had two recent World Championships and most of us in this area love being part of Red Sox nation. Is there anything better than watching them defeat the Yankees? How about the new rivalry with the current American League Champion Tampa Bay Rays?

Would you have any interest in attending a Saturday game against the Yankees or the Rays? How about front row seats at Fenway Park directly behind the Red Sox dugout, just a few feet from the players? Get out your lucky rabbit foot, because you will have a chance to win 2 of these seats! Thanks to the generous donation from the E.J. Wells Insurance Agency in Westford, MA we have acquired two front row seats for the Saturday August 22 game versus the New York Yankees. We also have the same 2 seats for the Saturday September 12 game versus the Tampa Bay Rays. Pictures taken from these seats can be seen on our website!

So you prefer Patriots football? Well, we've got that covered too. Thanks to the generous donation from Bay State Elevator Company in Agawam, MA we have 4 seats together in Gillette Stadium for the December 13 games vs. the Carolina Panthers. The seats are located in the upper deck, and offer great views of the entire field.

We will be holding a raffle where you can purchase chances to win one of these games. You can try for all 3 games or just one, as you prefer. The first opportunity to purchase raffle tickets will be at the Annual Meeting. Winners will be picked on August 8th. Full details and contest rules will be posted on our website. Only one winner per family, please!

The money raised from this raffle will be used to support the activities of the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society. Thank you to both donors for your generosity and caring for our lakes!

That's enough for now. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and on the lakes this summer. Please don't hesitate to drop me a note if you have any questions or even better would like to volunteer. My e-mail address is:

buddy@tacomalakes.org

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RETURNABLE BOTTLES

You can help support the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society by donating your returnable bottles at the Litchfield Transfer Station. The money will help us pay for protecting the lakes we enjoy. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

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E-mail: gunnyjim@hotmail.com

LOCATIONS OF KNOWN INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS NEAREST LITCHFIELD

Cobboossee Stream including Horseshoe Pond,
Kennebec County

Lake Auburn, Androscoggin County

Little Androscoggin River, Androscoggin County

Messalonskee Lake & Belgrade Stream, Kennebec
County

Messalonskee Stream, Kennebec County

Middle Range Pond, Androscoggin County

Pleasant Pond, Gardiner – Kennebec County

Salmon Lake, Belgrade, Kennebec County

To date, four species have been documented in
Maine waters, and by adding Salmon Lakes in 2008
brings the total water bodies in Maine 30 with
invasive plants.

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BOOKLETS THAT CAN HELP ALL OF US

- **CAMP ROAD MAINTENANCE
MANUAL**
- **THE LAKE BOOK**
- **WATERSHED – A Guide to improving
Maine Water**
- **THE BUFFER HANDBOOK**
- **THE BUFFER HANDBOOK PLANT
LIST**

You can call Maine DEP (287-7688),
Kennebec County Soil & Water
Conservation District (622-7847), Cobboossee
Watershed District (377-7109), Friends of
Cobboossee Watershed (621-4100), or Town of
Litchfield Code Enforcement Office (268-
4721). I am sure they will either get you these
books or will help you locate them.

FRIENDS OF COBBOSSEE WATERSHED

We want to thank BOB MOORE and his staff for
working on repairing shorelines, helping with
Milfoil Inspections, and educating property owners
on proper vegetated buffer strips. Their
educational programs now reach over 1,500
children each year, during the school year, winter
and spring vacation camps and popular summer
programs like "Tadpole Patrol". FMI on all of
their programs and services, visit their web site at:
www.watershedfriends.com

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HELP KEEP MAINE WATERS FREE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

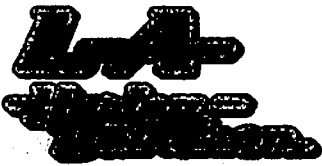
Clean your boat before you float. Invasive plants
choke lakes and streams. It is ILLEGAL
to transport any aquatic plant on a boat trailer or
other equipment. REMOVE ALL PLANT
MATERIALS. PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ALL
PLANT MATERIAL, AVOID WEEDY
WATERS, LEND-A-HAND AND DON'T
FORGET YOUR STICKER.

LOON INFORMATION

The loons are back for the summer and if you find out where they are nesting, please do not go to near to disturb them, last year we lost one loon who has not come back to the rock this year and another pair who had to leave their nest when bothered by private individuals but they lucky found another place and still had a baby. If they are out on the lake, please do not drive your boat too close to them to upset them. Thanks for your help with this issue.

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We have been very lucky the last couples of years to have two very faithful inspectors that cover inspections, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Holidays from 8 AM to dark from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day and beyond.

KEEPING INVASIVES OUT MILFOIL PROGRAM

Breakdown of Number of Boats that have been Inspected on Woodbury Pond are as follows:
2004 - 721 Boats; 2005 - 1,107; 2006 - 1,434;
2007 - 1,639 and 2008 even with gas high still Inspected 1,476.

There is only one other lake out of 9 other sites staffed in the Cobbossee Watershed that had more inspections than Tacoma Lakes and that is Cobbossee Lake that has two boat launches. They had 2,143 boats in 2008.

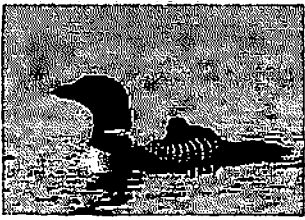
**PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
YOU'RE LAKE ASSOCIATION. WE HAVE
WORKED HARD FOR YOUR BENEFIT FOR
MANY YEARS AND HOPE TO CONTINUE
FOR MANY MORE YEARS EVEN THOUGH
WE DO NOT OWN THE DAM!**

NELLY'S TRACTOR WORKS

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**TACOMA LAKES IMPOVEMENT SOCIETY
5 GRANT RD
LITCHFIELD, ME 04350**

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TACOMA LAKES IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JULY 2009-JUNE 2010 ARE \$15.00. YOUR SUPPORT IS NEED TO KEEP OUR OWN DAMKEEPER, SO YOU CAN RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS ON MILFOIL, TAXES, EDUCATION, BOAT INSPECTORS, AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT WILL EFFECT ALL LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS. WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT YOU MAY END UP WITH NO WATER TO ENJOY. WE NEED TO KEEP OUR LAKES CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL FOR ALL TO ENJOY NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF POND PROPERTY IS ON _____

PLEASE SEND THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH \$15.00 TO:
TACOMA LAKES IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY
C/O JUDY BOURGET, SECRETARY
95 GRANT ROAD, LITCHFIELD, ME 04350

*****WE'D APPRECIATE YOUR HELP*****

If you have sold your property, please send the information of the new property owner's name and address. If you have a change in your address for receipt of the newsletter, please send the information to the above address.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM OR E-MAIL INFORMATION TO JUDY BOURGET 95 GRANT RD; LITCHFIELD, ME 04350 OR JUDYBOURGET@GMAIL.COM IF YOU CAN VOLUNTTER A COUPLE OF HOURS A WEEK OR EVERY OTHER WEEK TO COVER THE BOAT LAUNCH FOR MILFOIL.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS DURING THE WEEK, SOME EARLY MORNINGS ON WEEKENDS, WHEN REGULAR MILFOIL INSPECTORS NEED TO BE AWAY OR AT WORK, DURING BASS TOURNAMENTS, FIREWORKS, ETC.

“I AM WILLING TO VOLUNTEER SOME OF THE TIMES ABOVE OR MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY WHEN BOATING SEASON IS REAL BUSY. “

DAY/OR DAYS AVAILABLE _____

TIMES _____

WEEKLY OR BI-WEEKLY OR MOST CONVENIENT
