



Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society

# NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2007

NO. 1 for 2007-288

## NOTICE!!!!

The Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society will be having their annual meeting on July 7, 2007 at 7 PM at the Masonic Hall in Litchfield. Roberta Hill will be bringing live fresh water plants so all can identify those we do not want in our lake. This is the only weekend when Roberta can come and we feel this is very important. If you see any in the lake that look suspicious you can call either Charles Manchester, 268-4087 or 268-3999 or Judy Bourget 268-4341 or people inspecting boats at the boat ramp.

### ANOTHER SUMMER OF BOATING, SWIMMING ACTIVITIES ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN

**HELP!!!!** We are not getting enough volunteers at the boat launch to keep our lake safe. All we need is one boat from a lake like Pleasant Pond with milfoil on it and no one at the site to catch it and our lake will lose its value and your investment in your property will go down. So please volunteer a couple of hours a week to help keep your lake clean? If we get the bad milfoil it will spoil swimming, boating, and fishing.

We hope all had a good winter and that the rain will stop so we can enjoy Maine's short summer weather.

**WE NEED TO HAVE ALL PROPERTY OWNERS** supporting the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society Association if we are to employ a Dam Keeper. Create a loon-friendly water level, and keep the water level at the legal levels.

The water level has property value implications as well. Without your support to the Association we cannot send you newsletters about what is going on in town regarding property value, milfoil, and development around the lake.

### Notice - Boat Ramp Work

The work at the boat ramp will be completed this year in June. A possible boat wash (Bob Moore, Friends of Cobbossee Watershed) is working on and will be incorporated into this project.

Hopefully this will slow down erosion into the Lake and boaters who have been in a lake with bad milfoil will be able to wash their boats and not bring the plant into our beautiful lake!

### DIRECTORS ALWAYS NEEDED

If you would like to help the Association as a Director, we are looking for volunteers for directors for 2007-2008. We need one from Jimmy Pond; one from Little Purgatory; and one from Sand Pond. Also, Charles will need a Vice President. Please call Charles, 268-4087 or 268-3999, or Judy, 268-4341, if you are interested. It is always handy to have an ongoing list we can call on to be directors.

## LOON INFORMATION

Diane Clay and her Loon Committee worked on the loon nests, included roofs this year. They should have them put back in the lakes again this year. They say it sometimes takes 3-4 years before the loons will use them. Loons are back in the cove near Waterman's and already in the nest. Two loons hatched there last year but one was lost. Loons on Woodbury Pond were seen taking some of the straw off the nest but still went back to their rock.

We had placed one Loon Nesting Island on Buker Pond (If the one loon nesting is not put on Buker, it will be placed on Sand Pond this year) and one on Woodbury Pond will be placed in a different location.

Anyone interested in watching and reporting on loons, please call Diane Clay, 268-3247 or Email her at C112A3Y4@prexar.com

Please boaters and all interested loon lovers do not go close to scare or bother these loons. It is against the law. Let us keep enjoying new baby loons each year.

## SECCHI DISK WATER CLARITY

### Buker Pond

Year	Avg. SDT, Meters	Min. SDT, m
2000	5.2	4.4
2001	6.0	5.0
2002	5.4	4.1
2003	6.0	5.1
2004	5.5	3.9
2005	5.2	3.3
2006	4.6	2.9

### Little Purgatory Pond

2000	4.5	3.4
2001	5.0	3.5
2002	4.7	3.2
2003	4.8	3.9
2004	4.8	3.9
2005	4.7	3.7
2006	4.2	3.6

### Jimmy Pond

2000	4.7	4.3
2001	5.0	3.4
2002	4.7	4.2
2003	4.8	2.9
2004	4.3	2.5
2005	4.8	2.7
2006	3.7	3.1

### Sand Pond

2000	6.8	6.1
2001	7.7	6.8
2002	7.6	6.0
2003	7.7	5.8
2004	7.3	5.7
2005	7.0	5.9
2006	6.2	4.0

### Woodbury Pond

2000	6.1	5.0
2001	7.0	5.8
2002	6.8	4.6
2003	6.9	5.8
2004	7.0	5.6
2005	6.5	4.8
2006	6.0	4.8

Note from the Secchi Disk readings the water clarity of your lakes are compared to different years.

This information is furnished by the Cobbossee Watershed District from volunteer lake monitors.

## FRIENDS OF THE COBBOSSEE WATERSHED

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Welcome You! Membership is Free! For information call: 207-626-3188 at 51 Sewall Street, P. O. Box 5003, Augusta, ME, 04332-5003.

Friends of the CWS will be having 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders again on Woodbury Pond Boat Launch on July 12 & 13; August 2 and 3. Registration Price is \$8 per child and includes T-shirt and grab bag. Hours 9 a.m. to Noon CONTACT: Tamara Whitmore 621-4100 if you have a child who is interested.

Group Uses Ice Cream to Educate: Ice cream and outreach – an unbeatable combination. The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed have discovered that a floating ice cream boat also serves as a great way to reach out and educate the lake-loving public about ways to protect water quality. During the summers, the Friends' 22-foot pontoon boat is a welcome sight on many of the 28 lakes within the Cobbossee Watershed. People easily pick out the OTTER II by hearing the music playing or catching sight of the colorful banners fluttering in the summer breezes.

Free Grant \$ Available! Annabessacook, Tacoma's, Pleasant Pond & Cobbossee to Benefit from DEP "319" Grants. Four area lakes will benefit from funds awarded to the Kennebec

County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) and Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) through grants associated with the EPA Federal 319 Clean Water Act. The grants provide funds for the repair/rebuild of poorly maintained camp roads, one of the largest contributors of NPS pollution. The grants also provide support for the Friends *LakeSmartStart!* And *Slow-the-Flow* programs. *Lake-Smart-Start!* is a free site visit and provides you with a sketch of your property with recommendations that can be implemented all-at-once or over time that both beautifies your property while benefiting the lake at the same time. *Slow-the-Flow* consists of the Friends *Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)*, staffed by local high school and college youth, who work during the summer providing free design and build services for erosion control and shoreline stabilization projects including rip-rap placement, shrub plantings and mulch installation. To schedule a free site visit for your property, contact our office at 621-4100 or by email at [mail@watershedfriends.com](mailto:mail@watershedfriends.com)

Want some FREE landscaping advice and be a "Friend" to the Watershed, Contact the Friends at 621-4100. A representative will meet you on your site. Lake smart is a program that helps reduce the amount of pollution entering the Watershed.

**For The Sake of Maine Lakes; MAINE CONGRESS OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (Winter 2005) Roads to Ruin? By Maggie Shannon**

Driving through fields and woods to the lake, don't we all keep an eye cocked for glimpses of light between the trees, searching the flash of blue that signals journey's end? We may, in fact, be so focuses on our destination we notice the road beneath our wheels only enough to remain on it and avoid wildlife and the occasional puddle.

Whoa! It's time for all of us to stop and examine these familiar routes. Mild mannered as they may seem, camp roads are *Maine's Lake Enemy #1*. Experts estimate camp roads contribute between 60% and 85% of all nutrients loading in our watersheds! Nutrient loading is technical talk for too much soil getting into our water, enriching them and fast-forwarding lakes into decline.

At the lowest portion of the landscape, lakes are catch basins for water funneled from their watersheds. Roads cut across and into the landscape, disturbing gentle, natural drainage patterns.

Poorly built and maintained roads channel rainwater, increasing its speed and ability to lift and hold onto soil particles as it flushes lakeward.

The end results are loss of desirable shoreline, obnoxious algal blooms, lowered levels of dissolved oxygen, and diminished lake and property values. The insidious and relentless process delivers Death by 1,000 Cuts to our lakes – day by day, year by year, and storm by storm.

Most camp roads are primitive. Many in use today were laid out in the 30's, 40's and 50's with aid of little more than crosscut saw, pick axe and dump truck. Few have been rebuilt since then. Meanwhile, our use of them has changed and escalated. We drive more miles in bigger vehicles today, and there are many more of us, owning more cars per family unit, and using camp roads for extended periods, if not year round.

There are a lot of these roads, too. A surprising 65%, or about 44,500 miles of all Maine roads are private. (Numbers based on a Maine Roads GIS Dataset last updated in April, 2002.) Not all private roads run down to lakes, but many do. They are such a huge threat to surface waters that Norm Marcotte of Maine's Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) wonders how we'll beat "the tremendous-continuing challenge Maine faces trying to prevent our "car habitat" from degrading our "aquatic habitat".

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**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!**

**IF YOU JOIN US NOW, YOU SHOULD RECEIVE INFORMATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON LAKE PERMITS, ROAD ASSOCIATIONS, ITEMS FROM FRIENDS OF COBBOSSEE WATERSHED AND COBBOSSEE WATERSHED, INFORMATION IN TOWN THAT WILL EFFECT ALL LAKE OWNERS, ETC.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING OF INTEREST YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN A NEWSLETTER, PLEASE BE SURE TO GET IT TO JUDY BOURGET, 95 GRANT ROAD, LITCHFIELD, ME 04350.**