

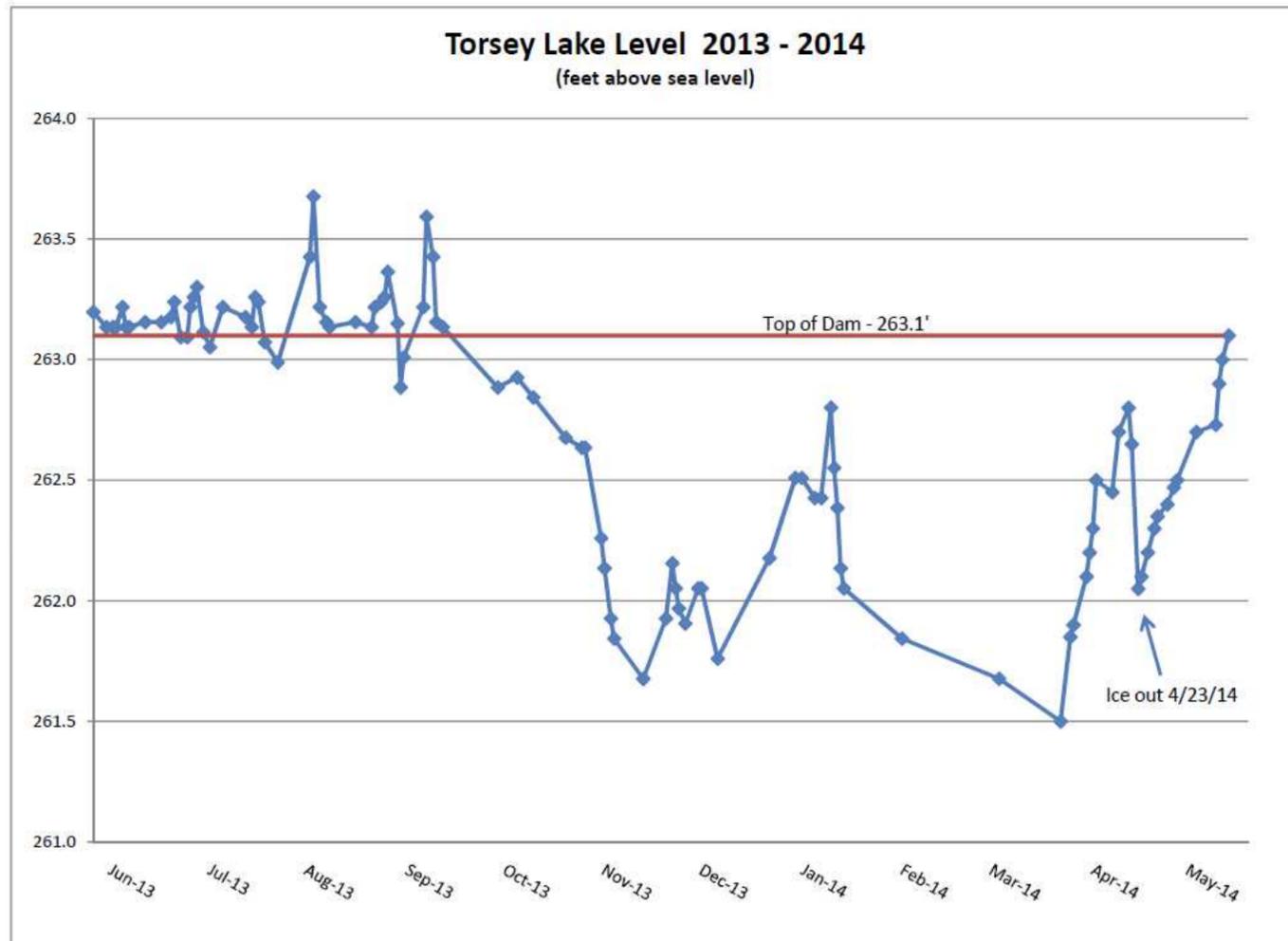
Dam facts

Except for having to use an ice auger and chisel to free up the sluices during the winter in preparation for a rainstorm, it was a quiet year for the dam. Early April rain and a fast snowmelt led me to leave the sluices wide open for a week prior to ice-out, which occurred on the night of April 22.

I am still trying to meet with a company to get an estimate for filling the cracks in the concrete dam abutment with epoxy. This is important to maintain the longevity of our dam.

Feel free to contact me at keithc@fairpoint.net with any questions/concerns about the dam.

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper



If anyone needs a reminder of the long winter, this photo by David Gross of cross-country skiing in April should do it! Hopefully the days will be sunny and dry by the time the TPA meets at the Town Office at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 12.

Torsey Pond Association
c/o Holly Rahmlow
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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(parentheses indicate year member's term ends)

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Hi, everyone,

After a long cold winter on Torsey Pond, spring has finally arrived! I hope everyone will be able spend a great deal of time on the lake and enjoy another warm summer.

At last year's general meeting we had a presentation from Maggie Shannon about LakeSmart. Formerly, the LakeSmart program was run by the state, but now the Maine Lakes Society runs it. This program is completely voluntary. Successful participants get awarded a LakeSmart sign and the knowledge that they are minimizing their yard's impact on the lake's water quality.

Dave Roberts will be the Torsey Pond LakeSmart coordinator. He will get trained in mid-June and hopefully will be able to start surveys for those interested in July. We will give further updates at this year's general meeting.

This past fall Fran Zambella and I attended a seminar on Watershed Surveys by the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and Maine Department of Environmental Protection. This seminar discussed the issue of nonpoint source pollution and effects on lake water quality. Examples of this are the drainage areas besides driveways and roads that feed into streams and lakes. Have you ever seen the muddy water entering the lake after a large rainstorm? This brings large amounts of phosphorus into the lake, which encourages algae growth.

Fran and I believe this is an important issue for Torsey. We will be discussing the undertaking of a watershed survey on Torsey at a future director's meeting and at our general meeting in July. A watershed survey is a large undertaking involving trained volunteers and the hiring of a technical expert to train the volunteers and help with the survey.

A wildlife biologist will talk with us at the general meeting about non-migratory geese issues. He will discuss the dos and don'ts with the geese that have become more prevalent on our lake. There have been a lot of questions from people on how to discourage them from making such a mess of our yards. Other wildlife questions could also be answered at the meeting.

I hope to see all of you at this year's meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 12, at the Readfield Town Office. I also encourage nonmembers to join the association and participate to make our lake better.

Keith Coulling, TPA President

Milfoil Prevention Program

Courtesy boat inspectors (CBIs) will be at the Torsey Pond boat launch every weekend from the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Wearing bright yellow T-shirts, they will be inspecting boats for hitchhiking invasive aquatic plants and educating boaters on the devastating impact milfoil and other invasives could have on Torsey. Most of the resources will be provided by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, but we also have a great group of volunteers who donate their time to do two-hour shifts on many weekends.

CBI coverage will be expanded this year to provide inspectors from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Part of the reason for expanded coverage is the discovery of milfoil in Annabessacook Lake in Winthrop. There are now eleven confirmed infestations within close proximity to Torsey. Expanded surveys of Torsey will also be performed to look for invasives.

Progress was made toward the fight against milfoil and other invasives in the past legislative session in Maine. LD 1626 was unanimously passed by the Maine Legislature. This bill provides increased funding for the containment and removal of invasive plants from Maine lakes and ponds. Prior to the passage of this bill, the majority of the cost burden for containment and removal fell to lake associations, property owners and concerned citizens.

Everyone can help protect Torsey from invasive plants. Before you launch your boat, please inspect it (hull, trailer, prop, fishing tackle, live wells, anchors, water skis, tubes, etc.) and remove any plant fragments. If you would like to volunteer for our CBI program or would like more information about our milfoil prevention program, please send an email to azuorski@septemberpartners.com.

— *Andy Zuorski*

Please visit our website at www.torseypond.org!

If you would like to be added to an email distribution list for the association, please email your newsletter editor at holly@thundercastle.com. She promises not to spam you! You will be notified only about issues affecting Torsey Pond directly.

Don't miss the Torsey Pond Association Annual Meeting! Join your neighbors in preserving our lake at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 12, at the Readfield Town Office.

If you can't attend, please still send in your dues and proxy.