

Brett Coryell has been catching pike on Torsey Pond for the last 10 years. His largest was about 46 inches. Many fishermen enjoy catching pike. If you are one of them, please don't put it back in the lake. Pike are not native to Torsey and threaten other native fish, as well as loons (pike eat their chicks), turtles, otters and all the other wildlife that calls Torsey Pond home.

Torsey Pond Association
c/o Holly Rahmlow
118 Thundercastle Road
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Board Members

(p) indicate year term ends

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Also serving TPA:

Holly Rahmlow, Newsletter Editor
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Don Rahmlow, Assistant Damkeeper
207-553-3000, don@tc2.net

Greetings, everyone,

I am writing on a beautiful spring day after a very long and cold winter. The ice went out on April 24, and the loons and fishermen were back on the pond in no time!

Speaking of time, have you ever tried to envision what Torsey Pond and its outlet, commonly called "The Mill Stream," were like in their earliest days, before the white settlers came? Can you imagine that waterway with clusters of industrial centers? And did you know there used to be six summer resorts and kids' camps on Torsey and the Mill Stream; or that one is reputed to be the first camp for boys founded in the state of Maine?

Dale Potter-Clark, local historian and Readfield native, has the answers to these questions and more, and will be our speaker at the annual meeting. Dale's topic is "The History of Torsey Pond and the Mill Stream Waterway," and she will share some of what she has discovered in researching the area. Dale is also co-author of "The Founders and Evolution of Summer Resorts and Kids' Camps on Four Lakes in Central Maine" and will have books for sale and signing after the presentation.

Also at the annual meeting we will learn more about our multipronged approach to preventing milfoil and other aquatic invasives from getting into Torsey (please see the separate Milfoil Prevention Program report elsewhere in this newsletter). Our damkeeper/treasurer, Keith Coulling, will be available to answer any questions that you might have about the dam or our budget.

One big change of note is that you can now pay for your membership and/or make additional donations to the TPA online. Go to www.torseypond.org/membership/ and follow the directions for making a secure online payment.

I am continually amazed by all that gets done by TPA volunteers! From setting the speed and hazard buoys early in the spring, to maintaining the water level through storms and droughts, or updating the TPA website, helping prevent milfoil from entering the pond, producing the annual newsletter, serving on the TPA board of directors, and much, much more — all of this gets done by dedicated volunteers. Thank you if you are one of them! If you'd like to join this group of awesome people, please let us know — there's plenty to do. And if you can't volunteer, please consider making an additional donation to help support the important work of the TPA. We need your support.

I hope you will all be able to join us for the annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 7, at the Readfield Town Office. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join the association and attend the annual meeting, too!

Darcy Whittemore, TPA President

TPA ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

10 a.m. Saturday, July 7, 2018

- The History of Torsey Pond and the Mill Stream Waterway with Dale Potter-Clark
- Last year's meeting minutes approval
- Vote on bylaws changes
- Treasurer's report
- Officer elections
- Q & A

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

Dam Facts

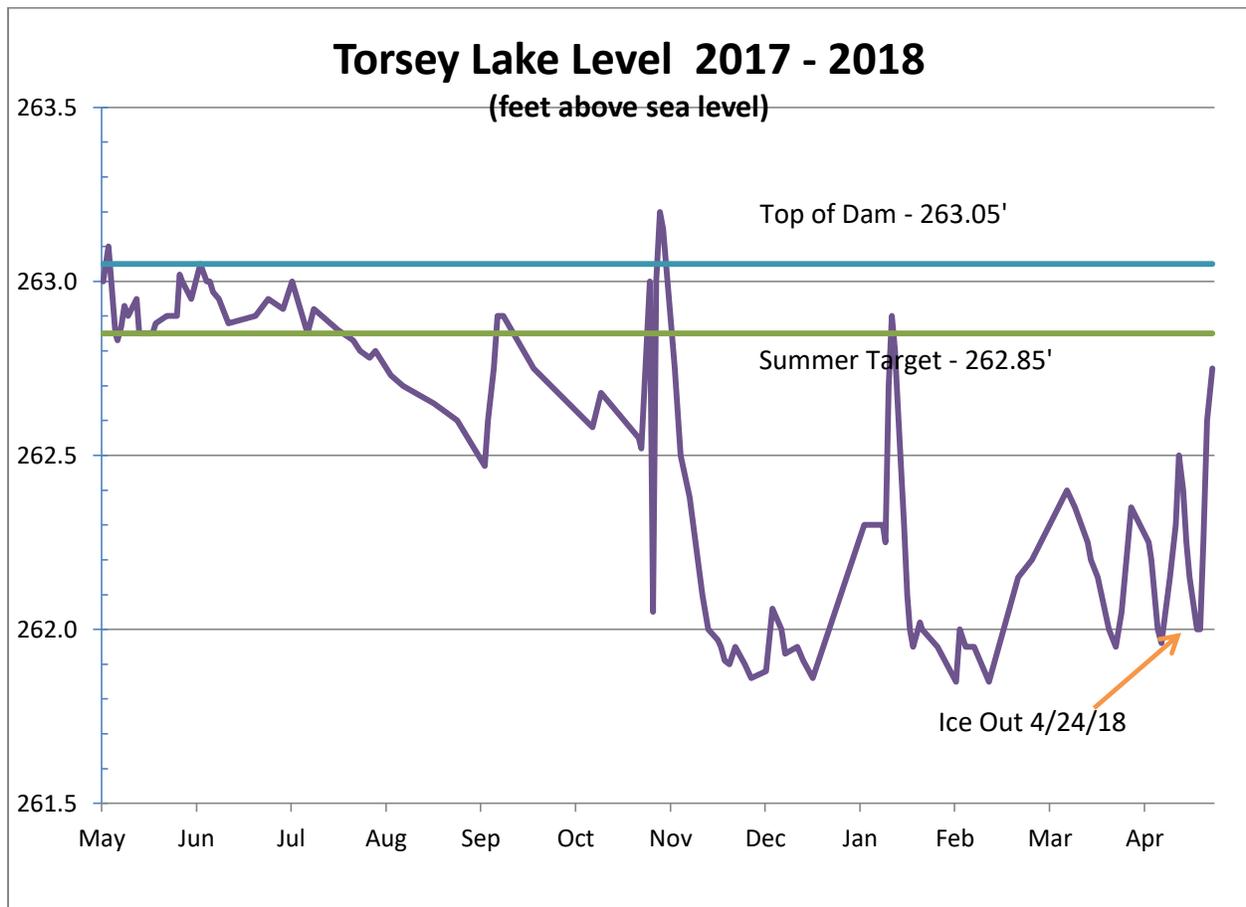
The past year was uneventful. Water levels were stable with the typical late summer water levels going down with the lack of rain. Winter drawdown started Oct. 28. The ice went out on April 24, upon which time we allowed the lake to fill back to summer levels.

Operation of the dam continues well. We are working with the town of Readfield on getting repairs to the cracks that are in the concrete sidewalls of the dam and bridge. These cracks are not considered serious, but it is advisable to repair them for the longevity of the structure. Readfield will be requesting additional quotes from different vendors. We hope this work happens later this summer.

We are also monitoring the concrete area behind the metal sluice plate. Concrete is starting to break away from that area. I am taking pictures every year now to allow us to track the rate of degradation. This will be a much more expensive fix, so we have started a dam fund so that we can put money aside each year. Presently, the target fund amount is \$30,000. I will be trying to get estimates of what the repair will cost as vendors quote on the above crack issue.

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

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper



Milfoil Prevention Program

Five water bodies within the Cobbossee Watershed have invasive milfoil, so it is of the utmost importance that, together, we remain vigilant in our efforts to keep it out of Torsey Pond. Given this importance, last August the TPA board of directors voted to incorporate the Milfoil Prevention Program as a program of TPA starting in 2018. This means that the TPA will be responsible for securing funding for the program. In addition to support and resources from the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW), we get funding through a state grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a donation from the town of Readfield (must be voted on annually), and generous donations from individuals who want to keep invasive milfoil out of Torsey.

The Torsey Milfoil Prevention Program works on two fronts to keep invasive milfoil from infesting the pond: the first line of defense is prevention through the courtesy boat inspections that take place at the boat launch every weekend from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Last year, 499 boats were checked for invasive aquatic plants by CBIs; no invasives, coming in or going out, were found.

The second is early detection by trained volunteer plant patrollers and annual plant surveys done by the FOCW. Last year nine volunteers were trained to survey for invasive milfoil and became part of the Torsey Plant Patrol. Plant Patrol work will continue on the pond this summer, and we'd welcome more volunteers. The annual plant survey done by FOCW found no invasive milfoil, though healthy native milfoil was seen in some of the shallower parts of the pond. (You can read the survey report on our website.) Hopefully these proactive efforts will make it so that we never have to go to the third very expensive and time consuming task of plant control and infestation management.

We must stress, however, that the danger is very real. This year the state of Maine, using statistical data, assigned a risk factor based on vulnerability to an infestation for each water body in their database. Risk factor ratings were from 0 (low vulnerability) to a maximum score of 90 (high vulnerability). Torsey was given a risk factor of 74, which put it in the high-risk category (rating of 50 to 90).

We are so fortunate to have had Andy Zuorski manage the program for the past 10 years. Thank you, Andy! Andy will still coordinate volunteer courtesy boat inspectors, and he remains an energetic advocate for keeping Torsey free of invasive milfoil. If you would like to volunteer for our CBI program, please email Andy at azuorski@septemberpartners.com.

LakeSmart Program

The LakeSmart program advises owners of waterfront properties how they can minimize runoff into the lake and protect the water quality. You can learn more about the program and how it works at mainelakesociety.org/lakesmart.

We recommend all waterfront properties participate in this program. Contact David Roberts at davidxcskier@gmail.com to schedule a survey.

TPA Is Online!

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 (such as an emergency or upcoming meeting).

We also have a Facebook page

Thanks to Alyson Ricketts, who built and is managing the page, you can connect with other residents on Facebook, so check it out!

Minutes from 2017 Meeting

The TPA 30th annual meeting was held July 8, 2017, at the Readfield Town Office. Darcy Whittemore called the meeting to order at 10:10 and introduced the Board of Directors: Andy Zuorski, Vice President, Keith Coulling, Treasurer, Sandra Gorry, Clerk.

Watershed Survey: She turned the meeting over to Bill Monagle of the Cobbesee Watershed District, who presented the final results of the watershed survey.

Bill described the six sectors within the district that were surveyed with the express purpose of isolating areas where phosphorus runoff might threaten the water quality of the pond. Six sites were identified as “High Priority” and should be addressed as soon as possible. Bill will submit a Watershed Protection Plan to the DEP and EPA early next year, and once the plan is approved Bill will apply for a grant to correct the most egregious problems. If the grant is approved, it is expected that the DEP will contribute 60% of the total cost, the remainder being the responsibility of the homeowner.

Friends of the Cobbesee Watershed District: Tamara Whitmore of the Friends of the Cobbesee Watershed described the organization’s programs: 1. The Lakesmart Program that certifies lakefront properties as ecologically sound. 2. Support for the effort to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic plants into the district’s lakes and ponds, early detection should these plants be found, and control of the plants. 3. Education, specifically of young people, to raise awareness of the local environment. She also mentioned that the Friends offer free labor resources to help lakeshore owners install riprap.

Clerk’s Minutes: It was motioned that the Clerk’s Minutes from the 2016 TPA annual meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Keith presented the Treasurer’s Report. TPA has \$4,836 in the General Fund, \$2,500 in the Dam Maintenance Fund and \$2835 in the Stanis Coryell Scholarship Fund. Expected expenses in the following year total \$1,500 for the General Fund that includes a final payment of \$1,200 for the watershed survey, \$4,000 for repairs to the dam foundation, and \$1,000 for two scholarships. It was motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report; the motion was seconded and approved.

Discussion: The charter of the TPA is to maintain the dam and preserve the water quality of Torsey Pond. It is essential that the organization maintain sufficient reserves to fulfill its charter. Andy Zuroski pointed out that if invasive plants were introduced into the pond, we do not have enough money in the treasury to combat the infestation. It was noted that of the total 170 front- and back-lot owners on Torsey Pond only 58 joined the TPA in 2017. It is crucial that we increase membership in the organization. Judy Beck asked if a study had been conducted that analyzes property values both before and after the introduction of invasive plants. Tamara Whitmore answered that a study had been conducted of property values on Arrowhead Lake in Limerick.

Dam Report: Keith Coulling showed pictures of the dam to illustrate the cracks in the foundation that will be repaired next year. Based on ownership percentages, the town of Readfield has agreed to earmark \$5,000 this year and \$5,000 next year for the repairs, and TPA will be responsible for the remainder, which is estimated to be \$4,000. Keith noted that large chunks seem to be breaking away from the foundation, but was advised to monitor the changes on an annual basis. If it becomes necessary to reface the front of the dam, it will be a very expensive repair.

Bylaws: It was moved that the bylaws be amended to reflect modern methods of disseminating information. The motioned was seconded and approved.

Officer Elections: Three directors were up for reelection: Fran Zambella, Darcy Whittemore and Mark Dershwitz. Linda Lally requested that she resign from the Board, and the request was granted. Linda’s length and quality of service have been invaluable, and she will be sorely missed. Alan Howie was nominated to replace Linda. Andy Zuorski’s term as vice president is completed, and Andrea Falaguerra was nominated to replace him. These changes to the Board of Directors were seconded and approved.

Milfoil Report: Andy Zuorski noted that the Friends of Cobbesee will provide inspectors at the boat launch from Memorial Day to Labor Day with full coverage during the week of the Fourth of July. He reiterated his request for volunteers to help reduce the cost. To raise awareness of the threat of invasive plants the Friends of Cobbesee and TPA will sponsor a Plant Paddle on July 15. He noted that the more eyes on the pond the greater the protection.

Stanis Coryell Scholarship: On behalf of the community, Bob Peterson thanked the TPA for its sponsorship of the Stanis Coryell Scholarship awarded annually to any Readfield or Mt. Vernon student who will pursue a degree in environmental studies or a related field.

The Newsletter: Holly Rahmlow, the editor of the newsletter suggested that, instead of a photo, the newsletter include a statement of the TPA Charter that might encourage more of the 250 recipients of the newsletter to join the organization.

At 11:40 it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed.

Boating Safety

You can make your summer water fun on Torsey Pond safer by following a few rules:

If your boat has more than 10 horsepower, children under the age of 12 cannot operate it unless they are under the supervision of someone at least 16 years old.

Children 10 or under are required to wear a lifejacket in all watercraft. The lifejacket must be a type I, II or III Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD).

All canoes, kayaks and paddleboards as well as watercraft less than 16 feet long must carry at least one wearable-type I, II or III PFD. Watercraft 16 feet or longer must carry the above as well as a type IV throwable device.

Watercraft must display lights between sunset and sunrise.

Watercraft must be limited to headway speed (the slowest speed at which you can still steer) within 200 feet of the shore or an island unless they are dropping off or picking up a waterskier.

On Torsey please mind the buoys that indicate headway speed at either end of the pond and through the narrows."

The noise a watercraft emits is also limited. If stationary, 90 decibels is the limit or while operating 75 decibels.

A little courtesy to others or wildlife goes a long way. Here's to a fun, safe summer!

The Torsey Pond Nature Preserve

On the rare day when the weather isn't conducive to activities on the water, residents might want to check out the Torsey Pond Nature Preserve, which features a wooded and marshy shoreline and boggy islets. The preserve provides excellent habitat for waterfowl as well as other flora and fauna.

Several trails crisscross the 92 acres, with the green trail following a small perennial stream to a bird blind. A 19th century cattle lane on the northwest boundary is a reminder of a time when pastures dominated what are now mostly woodlands.

The Torsey Pond Nature Preserve is owned and managed by the town of Readfield. The Kennebec Land Trust holds the conservation easement. A recently obtained grant will soon be providing upgrades to the preserve.

There is parking available at the head of the trail, which is on the right about a mile north on Route 41 from where it intersects with Route 17.

Learn more at www.tkl.org/torsey/.

Readfield Trails

Readfield also has a number of trails suitable for hiking and biking around town. The town's Trails Committee is actively improving and adding to the number of trails, some of which are even suitable for wheelchairs or strollers.

To learn more, visit www.readfieldmaine.org/recreation/pages/walking-trails. The 2015 map (soon to be updated) is on the website or you can pick up a copy at the town office.

The Kennebec Land Trust also has several preserves with trails in Readfield. You can locate those trails at www.tkl.org/propertymap/

Torsey Pond Association Annual Dues for 2018

Annual dues \$25 _____
Additional donation for Torsey Pond Association _____
Additional donation for Stanis Coryell Scholarship Fund _____
Total: _____

*Please make check payable to Torsey Pond Association.
All dues and donations are tax deductible! We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

NEW! Now you can pay your membership dues and make an additional donation online at our website: www.torseypond.org/membership/

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

_____ I am willing to be nominated for the board of directors.

Any comments?

Meeting Proxy

I, _____, a member of the Torsey Pond Association, hereby appoint _____ or the Association Clerk (please circle) as my proxy, to vote on my behalf on all matters to come before the annual meeting of the Torsey Pond Association on Saturday, July 7, 2018. The person appointed as your proxy, if you choose someone other than the clerk, must be a current member of the association.

Signature (*required — not valid without signature*) Date

Please return this form to Keith Coulling no later than July 6, 2018.

Keith Coulling, Treasurer, TPA
8 Columbine Lane
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