

Dam Facts

Day-to-day operation of the dam continues well. Winter drawdown started Oct 22. The ice finally covered the main bay on Dec. 6, 2018. The ice went out on April 23, 2019

As reported last year, I have noticed more and more degradation of the concrete behind the dam. The picture at right shows the concrete behind the east sluice.



We have decided to postpone the crack repair until we can go in and do a major repair of the concrete abutments around the dam. We have partnered with the town of Readfield, which owns the concrete abutment further downstream, four feet from the dam, along with the bridge.

We have both had an engineering firm (Kleinschmidt) do an inspection of our respective areas, along with recommendations. The plan is to remove and replace the eroded concrete. We are trying to get quotes by mid-June so that we can present costs at the annual meeting.

I have been estimating the cost at approximately \$30,000 but have had people tell me that it could go much higher.

Please ask your neighbors to participate in our fundraising activities this summer, and please come to the annual meeting to find out more.

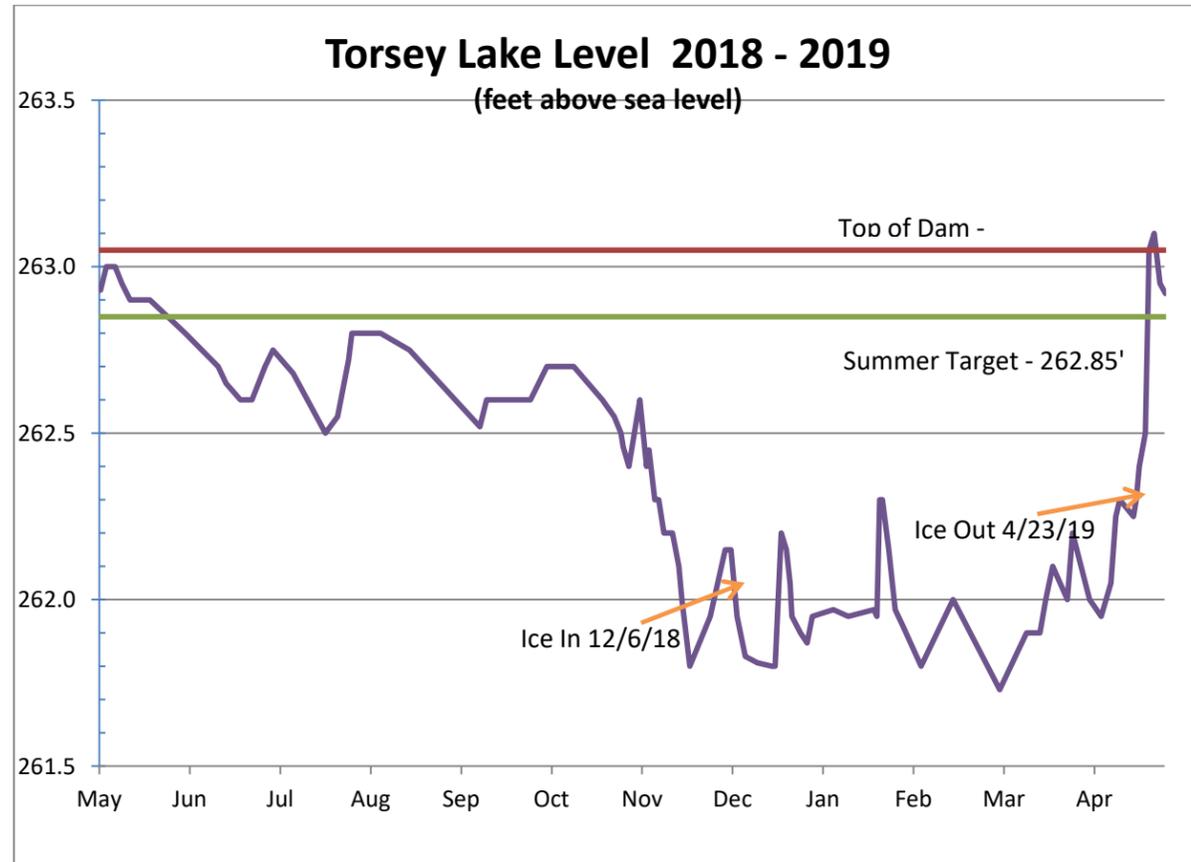
I would like to stress that the dam is not in danger of failing but, more than likely, will start leaking more. This could make it hard to maintain the summer and winter water levels.

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

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper



Torsey Pond Association Directors Keith Coulling, who also serves as damkeeper, and Fran Zambella inspect the dam, which is in need of expensive repairs. Read more about the dam in the newsletter. Ice can be seen in the background. Winter lingered, with ice out on April 23.



Torsey Pond Association
c/o Holly Rahmlow
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Board Members

(p) indicate year term ends
Darcy Whittemore, President (2020)
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Andrea Falaguerra, Vice President
(2019), 917-209-0727
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Keith Coulling, Treasurer (2021)
and Damkeeper, 207-838-5023
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Sandra Gorry, Clerk (2021)
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Also serving TPA:

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Don Rahmlow, Assistant Damkeeper
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Visit TPA
at www.torseypond.org
or on Facebook

Greetings, everyone,

The Torsey Pond Association, with your support and the help of many volunteers, continues to “preserve Torsey Pond and its shores and dam for all property owners around the lake, and for the towns of Readfield and Mt. Vernon.” Last year we had 107 members contributing funds. In order to keep up with the costs of protecting the pond from invasive species, maintaining the dam, monitoring and maintaining the water quality and communicating with the membership, the TPA board of directors voted last year to increase the membership fee to \$50, effective in 2019. You will see this increase on the membership renewal form and on our online form on the website. Please talk to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to support TPA’s work with a membership and/or donation.

The past winter seemed especially long, given that the snow started falling in November and continued into April! But, inevitably, the snow melts into water and makes its way into the Cobbossee Watershed. Which brings me to the subject of water and how we maintain the water level in Torsey. Our trusty dam, which was last renovated in 2010, is in need of some significant repairs. We want to stay on top of the maintenance so that our pond is not compromised. Our damkeeper, Keith Coulling, will outline the needed repairs in more detail in the Damkeepers Report, but please know that we will be asking all lakefront property owners for some more significant contributions this summer so that we can take care of the repairs. Stay tuned!

I’m excited to report that Susan Gallo, executive director of the Maine Lakes Society (MLS), will be our guest speaker at the annual meeting on July 6. Prior to working for the MLS, Susan worked for 20 years at Maine Audubon as a wildlife biologist, including managing the Maine Loon Project. Susan will be able to tell us about the many legislative efforts this year that aim to maintain the health of Maine lakes and ponds. And she is looking forward to hearing from us about ways that the MLS can continue to advocate for Maine lakes.

I hope you will all be able to join us for the annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 6 at the Readfield Town Office. And 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 6, 2019

- Susan Gallo, Maine Lakes Society, on current water quality legislative efforts, loons and your questions
- Last year's meeting minutes approval
- Treasurer's report
- Dam report
- Milfoil prevention report
- Officer elections
- Q & A

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

Milfoil Prevention Program

Ice out on Torsey occurred on April 23 and plans are underway to prepare for the busy boating season ahead.

As in prior years, courtesy boat inspectors (CBIs) will be on guard to prevent invasive aquatic plants from entering the pond. Additionally, volunteers will be scanning the water for any sign of an invasive which may have escaped being detected by our first line of defense.

In 2018, invasives were caught by CBIs at four Maine lakes (none at Torsey) prior to boats being launched containing the fragments. It is interesting to note that two of the boats travelled long distances to Maine (Madison, Wisc., and the St. Lawrence River), and the plants were still viable.

Prior to 2018, no invasive plants were known to be in the 5,500 acre Cobbossee Lake. Unfortunately, Cobbossee now has not one but two invasive aquatic plant species (Eurasian water milfoil and European frog’s bit). Containment and survey efforts to determine if the infestations are widespread will continue in 2019.

The variable leaf milfoil infestation in Annabessacook Lake in Winthrop (discovered in 2017) is much more expansive than originally thought. To combat the spread of milfoil in the lake and transport to other lakes they have closed a boat launch and placed warning markers to keep boaters away from invested areas. Containment efforts have so far cost more than six figures.

Invasives are primarily spread by boaters. Data on statewide boat inspections show that 37% of the boats inspected were previously from an infested body of water. Given the infestations in close proximity to Torsey, the danger is very real, but there is much you can do to protect Torsey. Before you launch your boat, please inspect it (hull, trailer, prop, fishing tackle, live wells, etc.) and remove any plant fragments.

To keep Torsey free from invasives clean, drain and dry your boat and encourage others to do the same. Also, please consider volunteering for our CBI or plant paddle programs. Volunteering takes very little time and will provide benefits for generations to come.

If you would like more information about our milfoil prevention program, please send an email to azuorski@septemberpartners.com.

Join the Torsey Plant Patrol

In 2017 nine volunteers were trained to survey for invasive milfoil and became part of the Torsey Plant Patrol. Last year a plant survey refresher class was held. The more eyes we have out on the lake the more quickly a possible invasive plant can be spotted!

Please contact Darcy Whittemore if you’d like to join the Torsey Plant Patrol. The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed will be holding Milfoil 101 and other classes this summer. Check their website for the schedule and more info: www.watershedfriends.com/events/

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.

Minutes from the 31st Annual Meeting

The TPA 31st annual meeting was held July 7, 2018, at the Readfield Town Office. Darcy Whittemore called the meeting to order at 10:10 and introduced the Board of Directors: Andrea Falaguerra, Vice President; Keith Coulling, Treasurer; and Sandra Gorry, Clerk. She then introduced this year's speaker, Dale Potter-Clark, a Readfield historian who spoke about the history of Torsey Pond, its mills and camps.

Clerk's Minutes: It was motioned that the Clerk's Minutes from the 2017 TPA annual meeting be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report: Keith presented the Treasurer's Report. TPA has approximately \$4,016 in the General Fund, \$5,009 in the Dam Maintenance Fund, \$14 in the Milfoil Fund and \$2,130 in the Stanis Coryell Scholarship Fund. Expected expenses in the following year total \$2,365 for the General Fund that includes a final payment of \$1,200 for the Watershed Survey, \$3,800 for the Milfoil Program, \$4,000 for repairs to cracks in the Dam foundation and \$1,000 for two scholarships. Expenses for the General Fund include transfers to the Dam Maintenance Fund of \$2,500, lake associations' dues, buoy replacements and TPA towel gifts for those members donating \$100 or more.

Keith mentioned that in the future it probably would be necessary to establish a fund for invasive plant protection. Repairs to the cracks in the dam are expected to total \$14,000 of which the town of Readfield has committed \$10,000; the balance to be paid by TPA. It is expected that the Milfoil Program will be fully funded once the state has responded to the grant request and the town of Readfield has made its annual contribution. The town of Mt. Vernon is not expected to contribute to the program.

It was motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and approved.

Membership Drive: It was noted that in 2017 there were 65 members in the TPA out of 165 camp owners. It is a major goal to increase membership in the organization to help defray anticipated major repairs to the dam and expenses to combat a potential infestation of invasive plants whose eradication could cost close to \$250,000. Turn out for the 2018 TPA Annual Meeting is significantly higher than in the previous year in part due to the lawn signs posted at the beginning of every camp road announcing the meeting.

Holly Rahmlow suggested that a kiosk be erected either by the dam or the boat launch containing a TPA membership and donation form.

Acknowledgement: Darcy acknowledged the generous donation to the TPA from the Kents Hill School represented by the Headmaster, Chris Cheney.

Invasive Plant Program: Tamara Whitmore and Toni Pied from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed described its major programs that include providing Courtesy Boat Inspectors for 10 public boat launches and administering educational programs such as the Tadpole Patrol and the Summer Nature Camp. They also discussed the effort to contain and eradicate the large infestation of Annabessacook Lake and noted that Cobbossee Lake is the second most vulnerable lake in Maine. Based on several criteria, such as proximity to a major highway, depth of the lake, composition of the lakebed and its public boat launch, Torsey Pond has been designated as a threatened lake with a risk factor of 72 on a scale of 0 to 93. They stressed that early detection is the first line of defense, and Darcy said that anyone who was interested in participating in the Plant Patrol program should contact her.

Dam Maintenance Update: Keith noted that a chunk of concrete has pulled away from the foundation of the dam, and cracks in the foundation have started to leak making it difficult to maintain the water level. When Keith presented his findings to the Readfield Road Committee, he was told that repairs to the dam could cost as much as \$50,000.

This project would entail building a cofferdam, installing a sluice plate, removing the old concrete, inserting rebar and replacing the concrete. Suggestions for funding this effort included investigating the possibility of insurance for the dam repairs, applying for grants, and asking the towns of Readfield and Mt. Vernon to help fund the cost of repairs. Readfield is likely to contribute, but not Mt. Vernon. In response to a question, it is not possible to raise the funds by a special tax assessment.

Increased Dues: Darcy announced that the TPA dues would be increased to \$50 a year in 2019, noting that dues had not been increased since 1992.

Officer Elections: Four directors were up for reelection: Andy Zuorski, Mike Pastore, Keith Coulling and Sandra Gorry. All are willing to continue to serve. A motion was made to reelect the current slate of officers for another term - Darcy Whittemore, President, Andrea Falaguerra, Vice President, Keith Coulling, Treasurer, and Sandra Gorry, Clerk. The motion was seconded and passed.

Adjournment: At 11:45 it was moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
— Sandra Gorry, Clerk*

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 new trail map is on the website or you can pick up a copy at the town office, library, post office or at the kiosks at the beginning of some trails.

The Kennebec Land Trust also has several preserves with trails in Readfield. You can locate those trails at www.tkl.org/propertymap/. They also appear on the new trails map.

Torsey Pond Association

TREASURER'S Update 2018-2019 23-May-19

	General Fund	Dam Maintenance Fund	Milfoil Fund	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2018	\$ 5,038.39	\$ 3,384.48	\$ 114.37	\$ 10,537.24
2018-19 Revenue				
Dues & Donations	\$ 4,990.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,430.00	
State CBI grant			\$ 1,900.00	
Readfield Milfoil grant			\$ 730.00	
Total Revenue	\$ 4,990.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,080.00	\$ 10,070.00
2018-19 Expenses				
Paypal	\$ 39.28			
Additional 10 Towels	\$ 161.28			
Kleinschmidt(Dam Inspection)		\$ 2,034.09		
Lake Stewards of Maine	\$ 100.00			
Maine Lakes Society	\$ 200.00			
Website	\$ 119.88			
State filing	\$ 33.00			
CBI Inspections(FOCW)			\$ 4,015.00	
Newsletter '18	\$ 310.22			
Transfer from General to Dam	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)		
Total Expenses	\$ 3,483.66	\$ (443.91)	\$ 4,015.00	\$ 7,054.75
Ending balance May 22, 2019	\$ 6,542.73	\$ 6,830.39	\$ 179.37	\$ 13,552.49
Additional Approved Expenditure				
Watershed Protective Plan	\$ 1,200.00			
Forecast expense				
Dam Foundation Repair		???		
2019 Society Memberships	\$ 300.00			
Bouy	\$ 300.00			
Website	\$ 120.00			
State filing	\$ 33.00			
Mailings	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00		
CBI Inspections(FOCW)			\$ 4,015.00	
Forecast Expense Total	\$ 2,253.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 4,015.00	\$ 6,570.00
Forecast revenue				
2019 State CBI grant			\$ 2,200.00	
2019 Readfield Milfoil grant			\$ 730.00	
2019 Dues(30% toward Milfoil)	\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00	
Forecast Credits Total	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,430.00	\$ 7,930.00
Forecast Final Balance	\$ 6,787.73	\$ 6,530.39	\$ 1,614.37	\$ 14,932.49

107 Members (97 Camps)

Submitted by Keith Coulling, Treasurer

TREASURER'S Update 2018-2019 23-May-19

	Coryell Scholarship Fund
Ending balance June 30, 2018	\$ 2,240.00
2018-19 Revenue	
Donations	\$ 263.00
2018-19 Expenses	
Erin Bonenfant Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Liam McNamara Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
Ending balance May 22, 2019	\$ 1,505.00
Additional Approved Expenditure	
1 Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Future Expense Total	\$ 500.00
Final Balance	\$ 1,005.00