

Torsey Pond Association  
c/o Holly Rahmlow  
118 Thundercastle Road  
Readfield, ME 04355

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Our July 10, 2021, Annual Meeting is in person!  
See details inside.**

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Our newly refurbished dam! Thanks again to all who donated to the dam repair project!

## **Board Members**

(p) indicate year term ends

Darcy Whittemore, President (2023),  
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Andrea Falaguerra, Vice President  
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Andy Zuorski (2021)  
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## **Also serving TPA:**

Holly Rahmlow, Newsletter Editor  
207-685-3287, holly@tc2.net

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

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For the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, please see [torseypond.org/2021-annual-members-meeting/](https://torseypond.org/2021-annual-members-meeting/) and click on link to the 2020 meeting minutes.

Greetings from the Torsey Pond Association Board of Directors:

What a year it has been! Amidst the pandemic and all that changed how we could interact with each other, the Torsey Pond Association and its members rose to the challenge. First and foremost, we made our fundraising goal of \$75,000 for the repair of the dam! In all we received 149 donations. A huge thank-you to all who donated! You will be forever known as a “dam good supporter”! And, as you’ll read in Keith Coulling’s Dam Report, the repairs were made last fall. We also thank the town of Readfield for partnering with us so that common costs in the project could be shared between the TPA and the town.

Last July we had a very successful virtual annual meeting via Zoom, thanks in part to the generous tech support from Susan Gallo of Maine Lakes. We also launched an online volunteer sign up for the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) volunteers, and we will continue to use that system this summer. Please see Andy Zuorski’s news article on this important program and visit our website, [torseypond.org](https://torseypond.org), to sign up to volunteer to be a CBI — it is fun and you will meet other wonderful people who love Torsey, too. Please consider making an additional donation to specifically support this program.

Thankfully, the pandemic appears to be easing and fully vaccinated people can now go out and about without masks. The town of Readfield is allowing in-person meetings so we will hold our annual meeting IN PERSON on Saturday, July 10, at 10 a.m. at the Readfield Town Office. Along with the official business of the association, I am pleased to tell you that Tracy Hart, a wildlife ecologist from Maine Audubon and the director of the Maine Loon Project, will talk about loons. Tracy will cover common loon natural history, threats, and loon conservation efforts in Maine. You’ll find out how loons are doing in the state, what is unique and special about these fascinating birds, what challenges they face, and ways to get involved in loon protection and conservation.

For those of you who may not be able to attend the annual meeting in person for whatever reason, upon request we will provide a link to a Zoom meeting so that you can listen in and see slides of the meeting and presentation. You will not be able to comment or vote on articles, however, so please designate a proxy if you cannot attend in person. Use the proxy form to indicate that you’d like us to send you an invitation to view the meeting via Zoom. If you have any questions about the annual meeting, please contact me via email: [darcywhittemore@gmail.com](mailto:darcywhittemore@gmail.com).

We have a promising summer ahead! Thank you again for the many ways you support the TPA and help to keep Torsey healthy and safe. Send in memberships today or renew on our website, [Torseypond.org](https://torseypond.org).

— Darcy Whittemore, TPA President

## **2021 TPA Annual Meeting Agenda**

- Maine Audubon Presentation on Loons
- 2020 Meeting Minutes Approval
- Dam Keeper’s Report
- CBI Program Report
- Treasurer’s Report
- Officer Elections
- Q & A

# Invasives Program Update

The past year has been a challenging and difficult one for all of us. Life as we knew it has changed, but thankfully, we have Torsey to raise our spirits. I hope you and yours have remained healthy and safe over the winter.

Regarding invasive aquatic plants, the lake associations on Cobbossee and Annabessacook are making some progress in their battle with variable and Eurasian milfoil, but the fight is very difficult. The infestation in Annabessacook has been found to be more extensive than originally thought. A DNA analysis of the plants in both lakes show that it is likely that the infestation in Annabessacook spread to Cobbossee either through boat traffic or connecting streams.

The state of Maine has launched a new initiative to encourage boaters to drain, clean and dry their boats after they leave a waterbody and before they launch them again. This process helps to prevent the spread of invasive plants and aquatic pests like zebra mussels and spiny fleas. Unfortunately, the highly invasive zebra mussel has been found in Maine pet store aquariums. These mollusks are very prolific and compete for space and food that native species need to survive. Please practice the drain, clean and dry routine on your boat to protect Torsey and other lakes in Maine.

Through our partnership with the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, courtesy boat inspections will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day this year. The CBI program is our first line of defense against aquatic invaders, and it needs your support to keep it going. Please consider volunteering for boat inspections at the Torsey launch. There is a link on the TPA webpage to sign up for one or more shifts. If you are unable to inspect boats at the launch, please consider a donation to fund resources from the FOCW. There is a donation link on the TPA website as well.

Thank you for your support and have a safe summer.

— Andy Zuorski, CBI Program Director

## Social Committee announces two fun events on Torsey Pond!

The TPA “fun” committee is hosting two events.

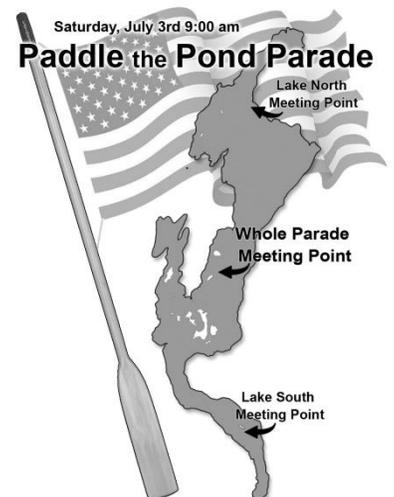
The **Paddle the Pond Parade**, Saturday, July 3, at 9 a. m. (rain date Sunday, July 4) will feature a Torsey Pond parade of paddlers. Any human-propelled boat of choice (kayak, canoe, paddle-board, rowboat) is welcome! Feel free to decorate you and/or your boat.

There are two starting meet up points:

1. North End: North Shore near Williams’ dock.
2. South End: Near floating Island.

Paddlers can meet at their preferred starting meet up point and also gather folks along the way. The whole parade will meet in the center of the lake near the islands with camps across from the Quiet Harbor Beach.

These two meet-up places are visible from most of the lake sections. The parade can circle around this section of the lake.



# Dam Report

We now have a refurbished dam! The project started Aug. 24 and ended Nov. 24, 2020. Overall, the project went well even though we encountered a couple of problems.

First, we found that the piers surrounding the steel dam plate were more degraded than thought. We could not see this until the area in front of the dam was de-watered and soil excavated in front of the foundation. This consumed the contingencies placed in the project cost.

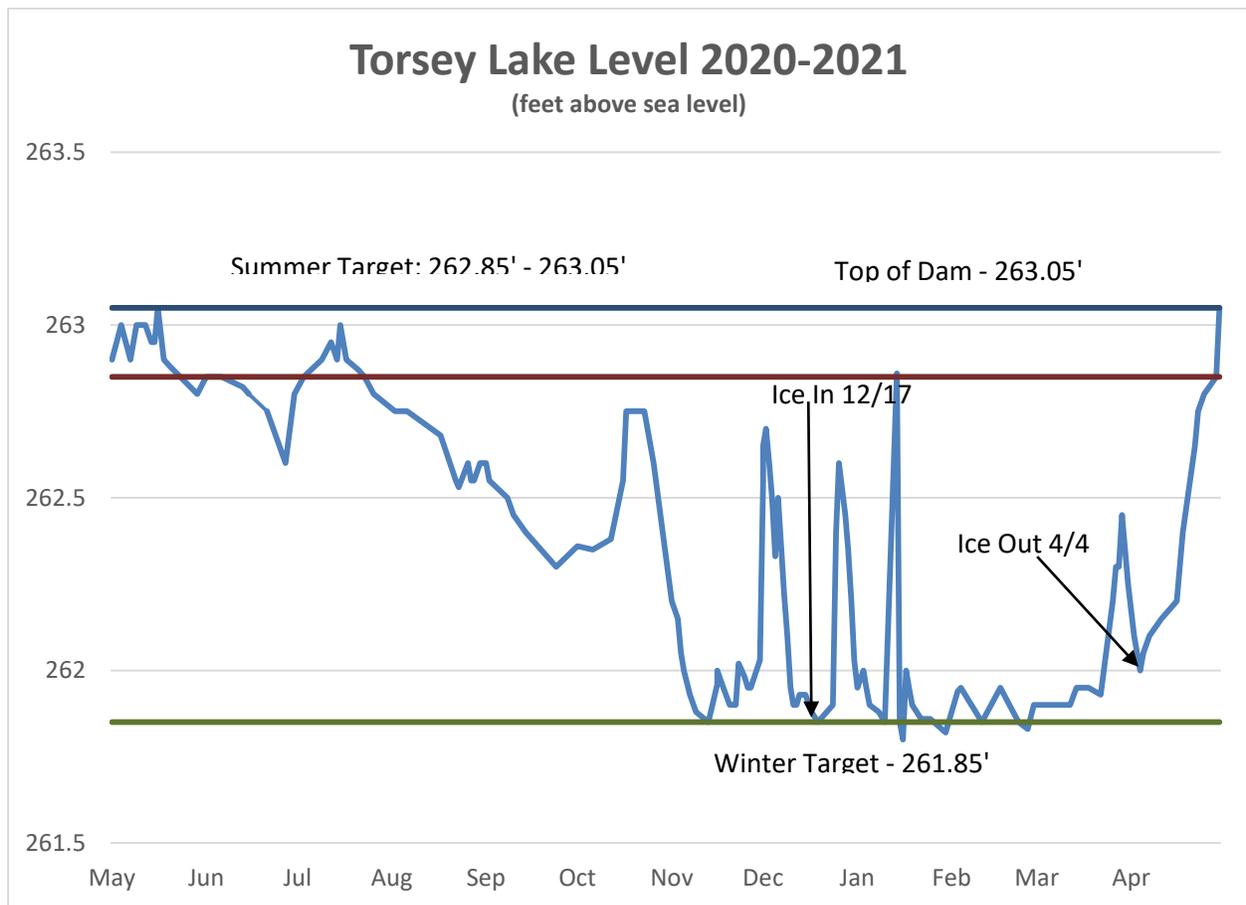
And at the end of the project, the excavator bent some of the framework around one of the sluices. The vendors came back and fixed the damage.

We did exceed the budget of \$75K by \$1,400. This overage was to fix some drainage issues on the east side of the dam. Check out our website for more detailed information and pictures. Stop by and see the great results!

Winter drawdown started Oct 23. The ice started forming at the end of November and covered the main bay on Dec. 17 only for heavy rains and high winds to reopen it. The main bay finally iced over in early January. The ice went out on April 4.

Feel free to contact me at [keithc@torseypond.org](mailto:keithc@torseypond.org) with any questions/concerns about the dam.

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper





Renovating the dam was a big job, led by Damkeeper Keith Coulling, shown here kneeling on the deck. The water is regulated by plates that can be lifted or lowered depending on rainfall and the desired lake levels.



The final result. Thanks again to all who donated to the dam repair project!