

Torsey Pond Association  
c/o Keith Coulling  
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Mount Vernon, ME 04352

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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**See inside for details on our July 8, 2023, meeting!**

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Sand hill cranes build their nest in a marsh, and loons guard their nest. Torsey Pond photos by Keith Coulling.

## Board Members

(p) indicate year term ends

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Stop Aquatic  
Hitchhikers!  
CLEAN, DRAIN  
and DRY  
your boat!

Greetings from Torsey Pond!

It is always amazing how the loons seem to know the hour that the ice goes out in Torsey ... no sooner were there gaps in the disappearing ice than the loons flew in that night! On April 13 we saw eight loons in the middle part of the pond, diving amongst ice flows. Maybe this summer a pair will choose one of the two loon nesting platforms that are placed in the north end of the pond.

The big news for Torsey is that we, along with the sponsoring organizations, the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) and the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW), were awarded a grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement water quality protection projects and education on Torsey over the next year and a half. This grant can provide assistance with stopping runoff and erosion on your lakefront property or camp road, as well as address a few major erosion issues on the pond. **Bill Monagle, executive director of CWD, will present information about this grant award and the opportunities it provides for all lakefront owners on the pond at our annual meeting on July 8.** Please see the article elsewhere in the newsletter that describes the grant and the opportunities in more detail. And bring your questions to the Annual Meeting on July 8, at 10 a.m. at the Readfield Town Office!

Milfoil infestation in Torsey Pond continues to be a very real and alarming threat. There are many surrounding lakes that already have infestations. Torsey Pond is especially vulnerable due to its shallow perimeter topography and so everyone's awareness and vigilance is essential in protecting our lake. You can help in several ways:

- The first is for all lakefront owners to be members of the Torsey Pond Association (TPA) (<https://www.torseypond.org>). Half of your \$50 membership goes directly to our CBI/Invasive Protection fund.
- The second way to help protect the health of Torsey is to volunteer to be a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) at the boat launch. Andy Zuorski manages this important program — please see Andy's article for more detail. Visit our website, [torseypond.org](https://www.torseypond.org), to sign up to volunteer to be a CBI. And please consider making an additional donation to specifically support this vital program.

We have a busy and promising summer ahead! Thank you again for the many ways you support the TPA and help to keep Torsey healthy and safe.

— Darcy Whittemore, TPA President

### **2023 TPA Annual Meeting Agenda**

- Torsey Pond Watershed Protection Project, Bill Monagle, Cobbossee Watershed District
- 2022 Meeting Minutes Approval
- Dam Keeper's Report
- CBI Program Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Officer Elections
- Q & A

# Invasive protection program critical for Torsey

Maine has more than 6,000 lakes and ponds and thousands of miles of stream habitat that are ripe for infestation by invasive aquatic species including plants and animals. Protecting Maine waters is a monumental environmental challenge. Invasive plants and animals are primarily spread from lake to lake by hitchhiking on boats but can also be moved in complex ways. Once a waterbody is infested, the unwanted invasive can demonstrate explosive growth, eliminate native species and change the ecology of an infested waterbody forever. Once well-established, eradication of an invader is extremely difficult, costly and may be impossible.

Prevention is the first line of defense against aquatic invaders. The state partially funds the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program (CBI) to provide a first line of defense. But invasives can elude the safeguards and slip through. Therefore, it is crucial to detect an infestation as quickly as possible before it has an opportunity to cause significant damage or spread to other waterbodies. Early detection provides the best hope of eradication. The Torsey Pond Association funds both lines of defense on Torsey.

The state has identified 35 infected waterbodies; 11 of which are within a 10-mile radius of Torsey. New to the list last year were North Pond and East Pond. There was also some encouraging news. The state applied an herbicide treatment in Great Meadow Stream which enters the north bay of Great Pond. The herbicide treatment appears to have been effective, and there is hope the infestation has been eliminated.

Last year, volunteers from the TPA racked up 91 hours inspecting boats at the launch. Those who volunteered their time are as follows (I hope I didn't miss anyone): **Nancy Allen, Peggy Barnes, Keith Coulling, Paul Dube, Joe Field, Don George, Carolyn Gorry, David Gross, Linda Hamilton, Dan Hill, Holly Rahmlow, Susan Roberts, Ann Wagner, Deb Waterhouse, Darcy Whittmore, Ash Zuorski and Garrett Zuorski.**

A comprehensive, ongoing effort to prevent the introduction of aquatic invaders to Maine waters, through public education and Courtesy Boat Inspections is, and should remain, a top priority. If you haven't already, please consider joining us in this effort.

Protecting Torsey takes time, money and effort. Maine ranks Torsey as highly vulnerable to an infestation, so it is to all of our benefit to keep invasives out of Torsey. Please help by volunteering your time, making a donation and encouraging friends and relatives visiting you this summer to CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY their boats before launching in Torsey. Please go to [www.torseypond.org](http://www.torseypond.org) to sign up for boat inspections or to make a donation.

Thank you for your continued support and have a great summer!

— Andy Zuorski, CBI Program Director



This example of a variable watermilfoil infestation (provided by the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed) shows what we are up against in the fight against invasives at Torsey Pond.

Once milfoil is in a pond, it is extremely difficult and very expensive to remove. Property values are affected, as natural wildlife is pushed out and recreation becomes unpleasant.

Torsey is particularly vulnerable, as it is not only shallow but surrounded by infected ponds. We need your help to keep this scourge and several others out of our pond.

Please consider joining the Torsey Pond Association. Half of all dues go to milfoil prevention. Volunteers are also needed. Please visit [torseypond.org](http://torseypond.org) to see how you can help.

# Torsey Pond Association

## TREASURER'S Update 2022-2023 May 25, 2023

	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Dam Fund	Invasives Prevention	Total
<b>Ending balance June 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 11,552.71</b>	<b>\$ 11,845.00</b>	<b>\$ 238.22</b>	<b>\$ 9,838.70</b>	<b>\$ 33,474.63</b>
<b>2022-23 Revenue</b>					
Dues	\$ 2,250.00				
General Donations	\$ 910.00	\$ 25.00		\$ 1,875.00	
Donations in memory of Pat Williams		\$ 625.00			
2022 Readfield CBI grant				\$ 787.00	
Money Market Interest	\$ 299.36				
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 3,459.36</b>	<b>\$ 650.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,662.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,771.36</b>
<b>2022-23 Expenses</b>					
Paypal	\$ 42.90				
Website(2022)	\$ 215.34				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35.00				
Zoom annual cost(2022)	\$ 158.89				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2022)	\$ 100.00				
Maine Lakes Society(2022)	\$ 206.00				
Maine Audubon loon handouts	\$ 50.00				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2022				\$ 3,588.00	
FOCW Plant Patrol - majority of lake				\$ 1,762.00	
GL and D&O Insurance	\$ 1,446.25				
Ecological Instincts		1415.12			
Chk Overdraft	\$ 10.00				
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,264.38</b>	<b>\$ 1,415.12</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,029.50</b>
50% dues transfer to Milfoil	\$ 1,125.00			\$ (1,125.00)	
<b>Ending balance May 25, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 11,622.69</b>	<b>\$ 11,079.88</b>	<b>\$ 238.22</b>	<b>\$ 8,275.70</b>	<b>\$ 31,216.49</b>
<b>Forecast expense(present-Jun '23)</b>					
Paypal	\$ 10.00				
Newsletter Mailing	\$ 300.00				
Readfield Meeting Rm Fee	\$ 25.00				
<b>Forecast Expense Total</b>	<b>\$ 335.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 335.00</b>
<b>Forecast revenue(present-Jun '23)</b>					
Dues(50% to CBI)	\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00	
Additional CBI Donations				\$ 500.00	
Additional General Donations	\$ 1,000.00				
<b>Forecast Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,750.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
<b>Forecast Final Balance</b>	<b>\$ 13,037.69</b>	<b>\$ 11,079.88</b>	<b>\$ 238.22</b>	<b>\$ 9,525.70</b>	<b>\$ 33,881.49</b>
<b>Coryell Scholarship Fund</b>					
<b>Ending balance June 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 3,017.50</b>				
<b>2022-23 Revenue</b>					
Donations	\$ 155.00				
<b>2022-23 Expenses</b>					
'22 Scholarship for Claire Holman (Er	\$ 500.00				
'22 Scholarship for Anna Erb (Bio)	\$ 500.00				
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>				
<b>Ending balance May 25, 2023</b>	<b>\$ 2,172.50</b>				
<b>Additional Approved Expenditure</b>					
2019 Scholarship for McKensie Freist	\$ 500.00				
2020 Scholarship for Cole Kubicki	\$ 500.00				
<b>Future Expense Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>				
<b>Forecast Final Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,172.50</b>				

### Member and Donation Stats

Calendar Year	2021	2022	2023
Member dues paid	89	94	1
General Donations	17	14	2
Scholarship Donations	10	12	0
Dam Donations	0	0	0
CBI Donations	53	47	2
Sandra Memorial Donations	1	5	1
<b>Total # of donations</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>5</b>

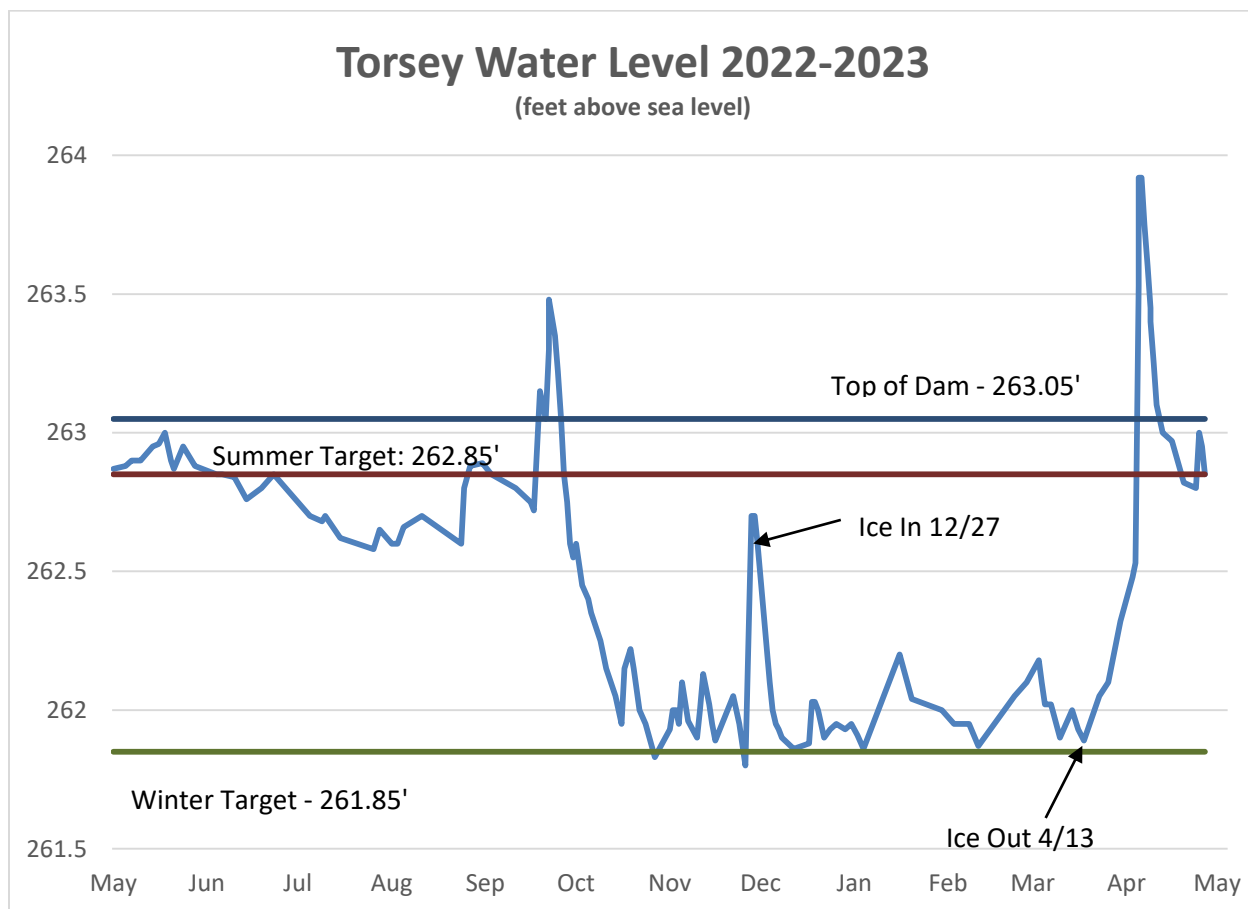
# Dam Report

It was a reasonably quiet year for dam operation except for 6.6 inches of rain in early May. This was the first time I had to have the dam gates wide open for an extended period. Even with this, the lake continued to rise for another day with 10 inches of water going over the top of the dam.

Winter drawdown started Oct. 17. The ice started forming in November. Torsey had full ice cover on Dec. 27. The ice went out on April 13, at which point the dam was closed to spring minimum flow.

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

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper



## Hats off to the Buoy Folks!

Many thanks to Alan Howie (Supervisor of Buoys), Keith Coulling, Andrea Falaguerra and Henry Whittemore for helping with the putting in, taking out and storing of the No Wake and Hazard buoys. This can be a strenuous and often messy task. We appreciate your help!

# Secchi disc water clarity monitoring on Torsey restarts

The water quality on Torsey Pond has been monitored by volunteers for decades. The majority of our pond's monitoring activities are composed of Secchi disc transparency (SDT) readings. SDT is a measure of the water clarity, or transparency, of the lake. A volunteer monitor conducts the reading by lowering a black and white disc from a boat in the deepest part of the pond until it is no longer visible. The volunteer monitor collects the data of the depth of the reading. SDT readings are measured in meters.

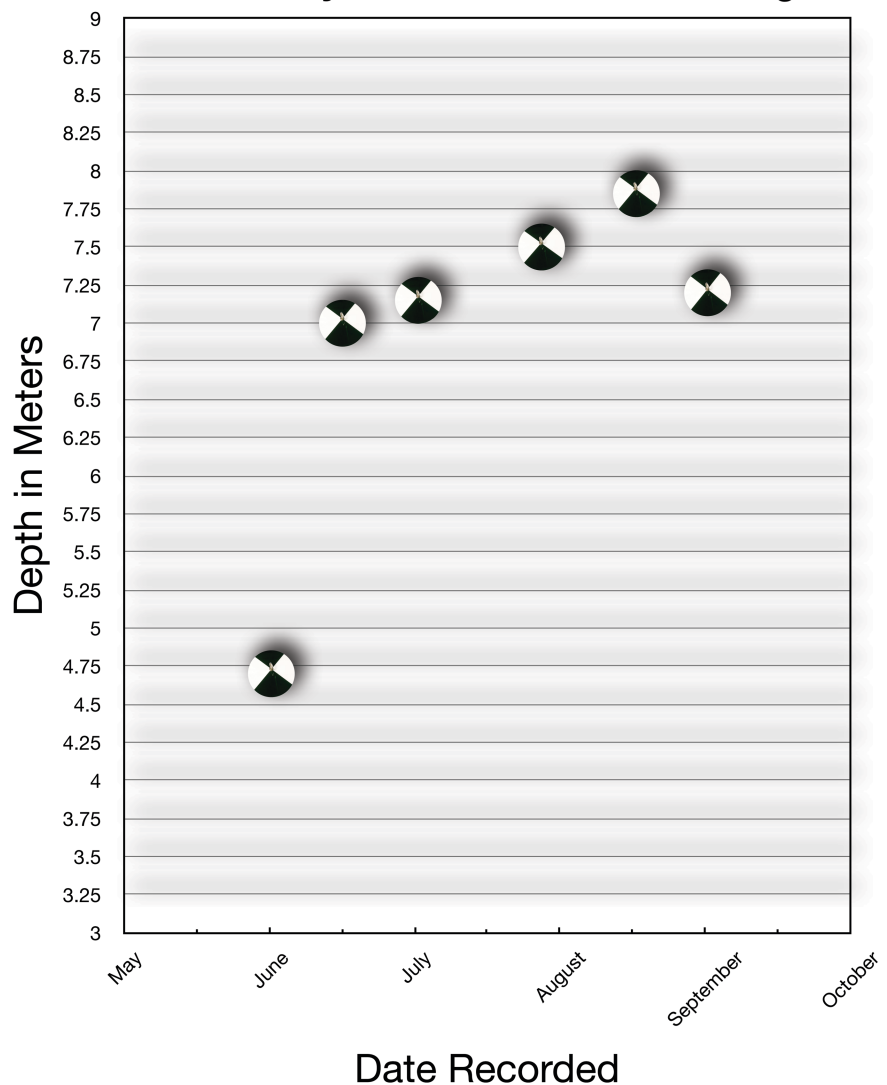
Factors that reduce the clarity are algae, zooplankton, water color and silt. Up until 2019, many seasons' data had been collected by then-TPA director Fran Zambella.

On June 24, 2022, Andrea Falaguerra received her SDT water quality certification from Lake Stewards of Maine - Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. Seven readings were recorded by Andrea and her son, Roc, in the 2022 season, from June 24 to September 26. Torsey Pond's average SDT reading is 6.95 meters.

This means you can see the Secchi disc up to 23 feet below the water's surface! The overall average for Maine's lakes and ponds water clarity, measured by a Secchi disc, is 4.83m (15.8 feet). That's great, Torsey, let's help keep our water quality the best it can be!



**Torsey Pond Secchi Disk Reading**



# Torsey Pond watershed project underway!

Last year's application to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP) to mitigate and prevent erosion and runoff was successful, so now a two-year project aimed at improving and protecting the water quality of Torsey Pond is about to kick into high gear. The Torsey Pond Watershed Protection Project, Phase I is sponsored by the Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD) and is aimed at reducing nonpoint source (NPS) phosphorus pollution to the pond. The specific phases of the project are outlined below, and services will be provided at no cost or by cost sharing through the grant (the total amount of the grant depends on participation and matching funds). Please read further about how you can be involved!

Assisting the CWD on the project are the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) with support from, and in cooperation with, the Torsey Pond Association (TPA). This project follows the 2015 Torsey Pond Watershed Survey Project that identified numerous NPS sites that contribute pollution, particularly phosphorus, to the pond, and follows recommendations of the Torsey Pond Watershed-Based Protection Plan (2020). According to CWD's Executive Director, Bill Monagle, the pond has maintained consistently good water quality over the past four decades, but measures should be taken to address NPS sources to provide long-term protection to Torsey Pond.

## What's available to protect Torsey Pond

- **Shoreline stabilization and/or buffer strip installation:**
  - LakeSmart-Start! visits by FOCW to shorefront property owners, providing **free** consultation and recommendations for “lake friendly” landscaping practices. Any costs associated with the state permit and nonmachinery-based project labor (Youth Conservation Corps) will be covered by this grant. Property owners will be responsible for material costs. Please read the attached LakeSmartStart! program description for details and who to contact to get started.
  - Technical assistance will be available by the CWD to individual landowners, road associations and Public Works Departments of the towns of Mt. Vernon and Readfield.
  - Examples include planting native vegetation to stabilize soil on the property, including the shorefront, and to create buffers for treatment of stormwater runoff.
- **Upgrade and improvement of private and public roads and the addressing of other land uses that cause surface erosion and other drainage problems:**

The CWD will guide the implementation of corrective actions at documented NPS sites associated with approximately six roads and one private property in the watershed. Landowners, gravel/camp roads, as well as town roads, will enter into a 60% cost-share agreement. Initially, those sites that were included in the list of top candidate sites accompanying the grant proposal will be targeted for best management practices (BMP) implementation.
- **Outreach campaign to educate watershed residents about the value of lake protection:**

FOCW will work with schools to promote watershed education through its Watershed Science Program and will be offering its TadPole Patrol program — an on-the-water lake ecology educational program. Keep an eye out for announcements on date and time for this program.

A Local Watershed Steering Committee has been formed that includes representatives of the CWD, DEP, FOCW and Torsey Pond Association. The TPA representatives are Keith Coulling, Mark Derschwitz, and Carolyn Gorry.

The project is partly funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. To learn more about the project or to seek to participate, please contact either CWD Executive Director Bill Monagle at 377-7109 (or email [cwd@fairpoint.net](mailto:cwd@fairpoint.net)), the FOCW at 395-5239 (or email [info@watershedfriends.com](mailto:info@watershedfriends.com)) or one of the TPA representatives (via email: [watershed@torseypond.org](mailto:watershed@torseypond.org)).



FRIENDS of the  
COBBOSSEE  
WATERSHED

# LakeSmart Start! Program



The Friends' LakeSmart Start program is the first step of our "Slow the Flow" program to help prevent waterfront erosion. "Slow the Flow" is in reference to wanting to slow the flow of polluted runoff into a lake, including soil and nutrients.

The program starts with the **LakeSmart Start site visit**, conducted by our Slow the Flow Technical Advisor, Jay Lindsey. During the site visit, Jay will listen to your observations and concerns and walk the property with you, looking for **signs of polluted runoff and erosion issues**. Jay will then develop a schematic of the **actions you could take to reduce the problems**, along with some resources on permitting, methods, and product vendors.



Ongoing support by the Friends can include assistance in filling out the State's Permit by Rule form and providing required documents with the application, as well as installing non-machinery-based projects on your property via our **Youth Conservation Corps** team.

These services are provided with the agreement that the **property owner will cover our costs and labor and minimal overheads; the LakeSmart Start site visit is provided free of charge thanks to our business sponsors.**

**Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed**  
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