

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

See inside for details on our July 5, 2025, meeting!



Volunteer CBIs at the Torsey launch. All take multiple shifts during the summer. From right are Astara Zuorski, Linda Hamilton, Ann Wagner, Andy Zuorski, Dan Hill and Garrett Zuorski along with Harbor Master Dexter. Astara has also raised over \$6,000 for the CBI program doing charity swims the full length of Torsey. *Photo by Michelle Zuorski.*

Board Members

(p) indicate year term ends

Darcy Whittemore, President (2026),
207-441-0680
darcywhittemore@gmail.com

Kasey Rogers, Vice President
(2027), 508-843-0119
kagarreis@yahoo.com

Keith Coulling, Treasurer (2027)
and Damkeeper, 207-838-5023
keithc@sacriver.net

Mark Dershwitz, Clerk (2026)
207-685-9373 (camp)
508-653-4450 (home)
Mark.Dershwitz@umassmed.edu

Judith Beck (2025)
207-685-3281, 631-474-1715
judithbeck@optimum.net

Stephanie Donaldson (2026) 207-
931-6123, bluepotoo@sbcglobal.net

Andrea Falaguerra (2025)
508-965-4800
2momsroc@gmail.com

David Gross (2025)
860-227-9153
d.gross200@comcast.net

Alan Howie (2026)
207-685-8167
however2@comcast.net

John Kingsley (2026) 978-902-5367
jkingsley.ma@gmail.com

Greg Parish (2026)
617-872-1494
bparish747@gmail.com

Andy Zuorski (2027)
Courtesy Boat Inspections
603-930-3705
azuorski@septemberpartners.com

Also serving TPA:

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

THANKS TO JUDY!

We want to acknowledge and say thank you to Judy Beck for her years of service to the TPA as a member of the board of directors. For over two decades Judy has then been the eyes and ears for the south end of the pond. Judy brought her care and concern for her beloved Torsey to every board meeting. We will miss you, Judy. Thank you!

Greeting from Torsey Pond!

The Cobbossee Watershed, which includes Torsey Pond, needs our attention.

TPA members, supporters and volunteers have been taking very good care of Torsey Pond. We have robust member support, avid volunteer courtesy boat inspectors (CBI), an enthusiastic volunteer plant patrol and adopt-a-shoreline crew. This is all great! However, we also need to consider the health of the entire watershed because any nearby lake infested with aquatic invasive species (AIS) could be the cause of the start of an invasive plant entering Torsey. This is why we also need to support the Watershed Friends (formally the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed).

Watershed Friends (WF) is our partner in keeping both Torsey and all of the other lakes in the watershed healthy and free of aquatic invasive species. And where there is an infestation, WF, along with the Maine DEP, will be the guide and acting agent in identifying, containing and mitigating the infestation. WF recruits and manages the paid CBI program Torsey relies upon. WF educates and trains volunteers for the Adopt-a-Shoreline and Plant Patrol program. And WF conducts the annual plant survey of high use and susceptible areas of Torsey so that an infestation could be caught early.

Invasive plant infestation in Torsey Pond continues to be a very real and alarming threat. There are many surrounding lakes that already have infestations: Cobbossee Lake, Annabessacook Lake, and Pleasant Pond/Cobbossee Stream. Torsey Pond is especially vulnerable due to its shallow perimeter topography; 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) (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, to sign up to volunteer to be a CBI. And please consider making an additional donation to specifically support this vital program.
- Participate in the Adopt-a-Shoreline and/or Plant Patrol Programs: Help us maintain the health of our shoreline. For more information, please contact Keith Coulling.
- Make a contribution to Watershed Friends: watershedfriends.com/get-involved/donate-to-the-friends

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

— Darcy Whittemore, TPA President

2025 TPA Annual Meeting Agenda

- Torsey Talk – Coffee and refreshments with your neighbors from our pond
- 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval
- Damkeeper's Report
- CBI Program Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Officer Elections
- Q & A

INVASIVE PLANT PREVENTION PROGRAMS CRITICAL FOR TORSEY

Torsey Pond surrounded by invasive threats

Warmer weather has finally arrived, and Torsey has awakened from the long, snowy winter. I hope you had a healthy and safe winter and are looking forward to spending time at this beautiful place;

We are ramping up our boat inspection program, and coverage will be provided through a combination of paid resources from the Watershed Friends and Torsey volunteers every weekend beginning in late May and running through Labor Day. Boat inspections are our first line of defense and they will be supplemented by extensive plant surveys.

Statewide, last year, there were five reported new invasive aquatic plant infestations; the majority of which were swollen bladderwort. Swollen bladderwort, similar to milfoil, spreads by plant fragmentation, produces dense mats of vegetation and can double in size in a week. Variable leaf milfoil continues to be our major threat because several waterbodies in close proximity to Torsey have infestations.

Why is milfoil such a threat?

Milfoil outcompetes native plants, reducing biodiversity. Native fish and wildlife depend on diverse habitats and **milfoil threatens their survival**.

Milfoil alters nutrients cycling, affecting oxygen levels and pH. This disrupts the delicate balance required for healthy aquatic life.

Milfoil entangles boat propellers, swimmers and recreational activities such as fishing.

Milfoil management can be **very expensive**, requiring ongoing financial resources as eradication is unlikely.

Milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants negatively impact **shorefront property values**.

In summary, an invasive aquatic plant infestation in Torsey Pond would severely impact the ecological health, recreational uses and economic value of the pond. Proactive preventative measures such as Courtesy Boat Inspections, Plant Surveys and Adopt-a-Shoreline are key to maintaining the health of Torsey Pond.

Please consider supporting these preventative initiatives through a TPA membership, volunteering and donations through the TPA website; or scan the QR code below.

Thank you for your support and have a great summer!

— Andy Zuorski, CBI Program Director



If you scan this QR code with your phone camera, it will take you to the website where you can join TPA, renew your membership or make a donation!

TORSEY POND ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2024

1. President David Gross called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. He asked the other officers present to introduce themselves: Vice President Darcy Whittemore, Treasurer Keith Coulling and Clerk Mark Dershwitz. The other directors present in the audience also were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

He thanked the TPA members who volunteer to perform courtesy boat inspections (CBI) or who have adopted a shoreline to watch for invasive plants; these actions keep invasive plants out of Torsey.

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) and the Maine DEP are our partners in keeping Torsey healthy. We have been working with them to formulate a rapid response plan in the event an invasive plant is found in Torsey. Today we have representatives from each of these organizations to speak to us: John McPhedran, a biologist with the Maine DEP and a resident of Readfield, and Alex Dyer, the director of conservation at the FOCW.

2. John McPhedran spoke about infestations in Maine. Most are in the southern part of the state. When a suspicious plant is found, DNA analysis is used for confirmation. Seven infestations have been delisted. Swollen bladderwort is a new invasive identified in Maine, but not yet in the Cobbossee Watershed District.

A new law in 2023 requires draining water from boats in a way that does not allow drainage to enter a body of water. A new sign at boat launches reminds boaters to "Clean plants - Drain boat - Dry for 5 days."

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife just hired a specialist in invasive aquatic animals like the spiny water flea and the zebra mussel. The DEP goals include "no new infestations."

3. Alex Dyer showed the new sector plan of Torsey. A Level 1 survey covers the highest priority areas like the boat launch (Sector 1) and the unofficial boat launch (Sector 4). Plant surveys of the entire littoral (shoreline) zone are performed biennially. In 2024, Sectors 1-4 (west side) will be surveyed, and in 2025 Sectors 4-6 and 1 (east side) will be surveyed.

On July 18, there will be a plant i.d. training session at the Quiet Harbor beach. What do you do when you see a plant that maybe shouldn't be there? Take a photo and send it to the FOCW.

Is it better to spend money on plant surveys or courtesy boat inspections? The DEP prefers boat inspections if there are people available to perform them.

The rapid response plan worked out between the TPA and FOCW depends somewhat on the species. We may put signs on the shore and/or close an area to water traffic. Invasive plants will be removed by hand by a scuba diver. Large infested areas may be cleared by using the DASH - diver-assisted suction harvester. A bentic barrier may be put over a patch of plants like a blanket to block sunlight. Using herbicides is a last resort.

4. David thanked John and Alex for their presentations. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of last year's annual meeting. The motion was made by Joe Field, seconded by Keith Coulling, and approved unanimously.
5. Keith Coulling presented the damkeeper's report. There were three large rain events in 2023. The dam continues to function well. The dates for ice-in keep getting later, this past winter was 12/8/23, and for ice-out keep getting earlier, this year was 3/18/24.

6. CBI coordinator Andy Zuorski presented his report. CBI's are partially funded by the state, mostly by the TPA, and paid personnel provided by FOCW. You can volunteer to perform CBI's on the TPA website as well as donate to support CBI's and plant surveys. About one-third of boats inspected by CBI's came from lakes with infestations.

7. Darcy asked people to consider adopting their own shoreline. You pay attention to your own shoreline and get trained to recognize invasive plants. Please sign up for one of the workshops.

8. Keith Coulling discussed the watershed protection plan. The 2017 watershed survey identified 59 non-point source pollution sites with three areas having the highest impact: Five Seasons Road, Desert Pond Road, and the northeast corner of the lake. In 2020, a mitigation plan was drawn up and a grant application was submitted. The grant was funded at \$80,000 from the federal government matched by \$53,000 by private property owners. The original plan using rip rap was vetoed by the DEP, the next iteration will involve using plunge pools. There are also opportunities for Lake Smart consultations in which the property owner pays for materials and the labor is supplied by the Youth Conservation Corps.

9. Keith also presented the treasurer's report (that is appended). In the last fiscal year, we had about \$20,500 in revenue consisting of dues, donations, and bank interest. Our expenses were a little over \$3,000. We received an anonymous donation of \$5,000 that was matched by a \$2,500 donation from the person's employer.

50% of our dues goes toward invasives prevention. We currently have about \$21,000 in the rapid reaction fund. Our overall balance is about \$44,000, and \$38,000 was put in a CD.

We received \$705 in donations to the scholarship fund and it has a balance of \$2,318. We awarded one scholarship in 2023 and another one in 2024.

Holly Coryell made a motion to award one scholarship in 2025. It was seconded by Joe Field and approved unanimously.

In the next year, we expect about \$12,500 in revenue, and have anticipated expenses of \$3,000 for engineering costs for the watershed project, \$4,800 for CBI's, and \$3,500 for plant surveys. Ben Parish made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Stephanie Donaldson and approved unanimously.

10. Clerk Mark Dershwitz announced that the terms of Board of Directors members Keith Coulling, Kasey Rogers, and Andy Zuorski expire this year and each of them is willing to stand for reelection. He asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor and there were none. Susan Roberts made a motion to elect the slate of directors. It was seconded by Stephanie Donaldson and approved unanimously.

Mark presented the proposed slate of officers: Darcy Whittemore as President, Kasey Rogers as Vice President, Keith Coulling as Treasurer, and Mark Dershwitz as Clerk. Joe Field made a motion to approve the slate of officers. It was seconded by Jean Scudder and approved unanimously.

11. David asked if there was any new business. He then thanked Keith Coulling, Henry Whittemore, and Andrea Falaguerra for putting in and taking out the buoys, Andy Zuorski for coordinating the CBI volunteers, Holly Ramlow for creating the newsletter, Andrea and Roc Falaguerra for performing the water clarity measurements, Andrea Falaguerra for maintaining the Facebook website, and all of the CBI volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Dershwitz, Clerk

Torsey Pond Association

TREASURER'S Report 2023-2024 June 30, 2024

	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Invasives Reaction	Invasives Prevention	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2023	\$ 5,882	\$ 8,267	\$ 11,300	\$ 8,826	\$ 34,275
2023-24 Revenue					
Dues	\$ 5,150				
General Donations	\$ 10,312	\$ -	\$ 340	\$ 3,445	
2023 Readfield CBI \$787 grant included in Inv. Prev. above					
Bank Interest	\$ 1,045				
Total Revenue	\$ 16,507	\$ -	\$ 340	\$ 3,445	\$ 20,292
2023-24 Expenses					
Paypal	\$ 91				
Website(2023)	\$ 217				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35				
Zoom annual cost(2023)	\$ 159				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2023)	\$ 100				
Maine Lakes Society(2023)	\$ 200				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2023				\$ 4,372	
FOCW Plant Survey				\$ 2,000	
D&O Insurance	\$ 854				
GL Insurance	\$ 603				
Readfield Meeting Rm Fee	\$ 50				
Dirigo Engineering		\$ 465			
Newsletter Mailing	\$ 564				
Free Membership Mailing	\$ 34				
Year End Donor Mailing	\$ 102				
Total Expenses	\$ 3,009	\$ 465	\$ -	\$ 6,372	\$ 9,846
Transfer to Invasives Reaction	\$ (7,500)		\$ 10,000	\$ (2,500)	
50% dues transfer to Invasives Prev.	\$ (2,575)			\$ 2,575	
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 9,305	\$ 7,802	\$ 21,640	\$ 5,974	\$ 44,721

Coryell Scholarship Fund

Ending balance June 30, 2023	\$ 2,318
2023-24 Revenue	
Donations	\$ 705
2023-24 Expenses	
2023 Scholarship for Esme Jamison(Marine Sci)	\$ 750
Total Expenses	\$ 750
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 2,273
Additional Approved Expenditures	
2024 Scholarship	\$ 750
Future Expense Total	\$ 750
Final Balance	\$ 1,523

Budget July 1, 2024 - June 30,2025

	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Invasives Reaction	Invasives Prevention	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 9,305	\$ 7,802	\$ 21,640	\$ 5,974	\$ 44,721
Future 2024-25 Revenue					
Dues	\$ 2,500			\$ 2,500	
General Donations	\$ 2,500			\$ 3,500	
Bank Interest	\$ 1,500				
Total Revenue	\$ 6,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,500
Future 2023-24 Expenses					
Paypal	\$ 100				
Website(2024)	\$ 225				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35				
Zoom annual cost(2024)	\$ 160				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2024)	\$ 100				
Maine Lakes Society(2024)	\$ 200				
D&O Insurance	\$ 877				
GL Insurance	\$ 613				
Readfield Meeting Rm Fee	\$ 25				
Watershed Engineering Costs		\$ 3,000			
Year End Donor Mailing	\$ 125				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2024				\$ 4,800	
FOCW Plant Survey 2024 - 1st half of lake & high impact areas				\$ 3,500	
Dam Signs	\$ 125				
Torsey Postcard/Handout	\$ 300				
2025 Newsletter Mailing	\$ 600				
Total Expenses	\$ 3,485	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 8,300	\$ 14,785
Forecast '24 - '25 Final Balance	\$ 12,320	\$ 4,802	\$ 21,640	\$ 3,674	\$ 42,436
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 9,305	\$ 7,802	\$ 21,640	\$ 5,974	\$ 44,721
Change	\$ 3,015	\$ (3,000)	\$ -	\$ (2,300)	\$ (2,285)

Member and Donation Stats

Calendar Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Member dues paid	95	93	89	94	97	59
General Donations	18	17	17	14	29	16
Scholarship Donations	10	9	10	12	11	10
Dam Donations	96	53	0	0	0	0
Invasive Prevention Donations	11	25	53	47	46	23
Invasives Reaction Donations				4	4	
Sandra Memorial Donations	11	5	1	5	1	0
Total number of donors(includes members)	141	121	108	102	104	63

2024 Secchi Disc Water Clarity Monitoring Report

Andrea Falaguerra and her son, Roc, continued monitoring Torsey's water clarity last summer using a Secchi disc reading in one location on the lake. They recorded eight readings from June 9th to October 5th. Factors that reduce the clarity are algae, zooplankton, water color, pollen and silt.

Torsey Pond's average Secchi disc transparency (SDT) reading for 2024 was 6.94 meters. The average reading shows improvement from 2023's average reading of 6.69 meters. This means you can see the Secchi disc up to 22.7 feet below the water's surface! The overall average for Maine's lakes and ponds water clarity, measured by a Secchi disc, is 4.83 meters (15.8 feet).

Please note that this monitoring requires certification training, specialized monitoring equipment consisting of a secchi disc and a scope, a lovely boat ride out to the monitoring station and a half hour or so of mom/son bonding time! We enjoy volunteering for our pond. Please help us keep Torsey's water clear and beautiful!

— Andrea Falaguerra, TPA Board Member



Learn to identify invasives through Adopt-A-Shoreline

Looking out for suspicious plants, or plant surveying, is an important prevention effort that volunteers around the pond can assist with. This can be as simple as keeping an eye on the aquatic plants that grow near your dock and shoreline to surveying certain areas of the lake from your kayak, paddleboard or canoe. We already have about a dozen people who volunteer to do "plant patrols," and we'd like to increase this number so that all parts of the pond are covered.

Please join the Torsey Adopt-a-Shoreline (AAS) program! Free workshops in basic or advanced aquatic plant identification are available through the Watershed Friends this spring and summer; visit watershedfriends.com/programs/community-engagement/ to see the full schedule. For beginners and experienced plant surveyors and everything in between, the workshops will cover the basics of how to identify a suspicious plant and then focus on the fundamentals of reporting your findings. By the end of the training, if you're comfortable, we'll set you up with an adopted section of Torsey for you to keep an eye on.

Reach out to Watershed Friends Director of Conservation Jennifer Peasnall, jennifer@watershedfriends.com, or Keith Coulling, TPA representative, keith.coulling@torseypond.org, to register for an AAS training, or with any questions.

— Darcy Whittemore, TPA President

TREASURER'S Update 2024-2025 May 19, 2025

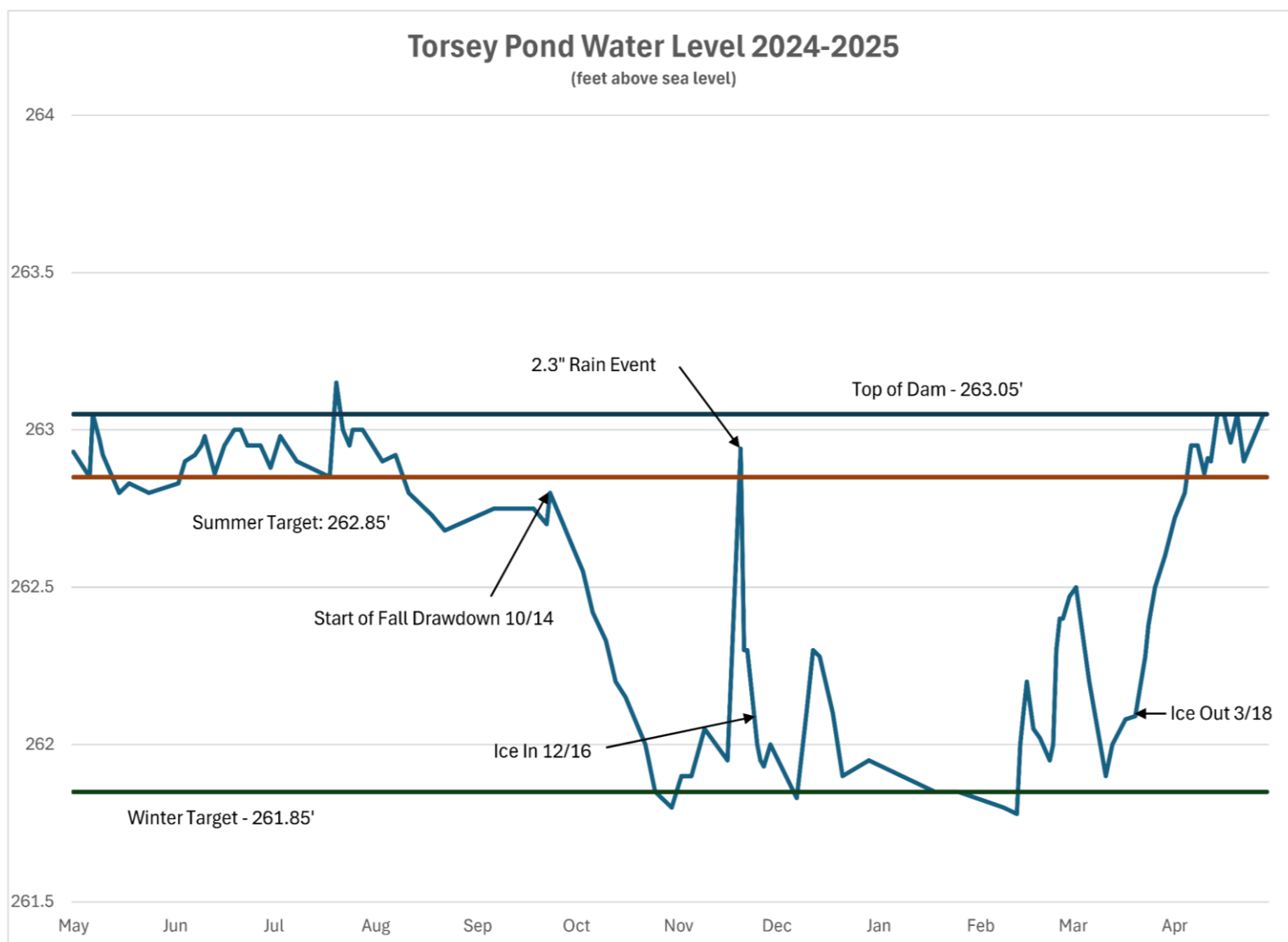
	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Invasives Reaction	Invasives Prevention	Total
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 9,305	\$ 7,802	\$ 21,640	\$ 5,974	\$ 44,721
2024-25 Revenue					
Dues	\$ 2,150				
General Donations	\$ 2,090	\$ -	\$ 1,180	\$ 9,786	
Bank Interest	\$ 1,341				
Total Revenue	\$ 5,581	\$ -	\$ 1,180	\$ 9,786	\$ 16,547
2024-25 Expenses					
Paypal	\$ 88				
D&O Insurance	\$ 877				
GL Insurance	\$ 613				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35				
Zoom annual fee	\$ 169				
Website(2024 & 2025)	\$ 127				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2024)	\$ 103				
Maine Lakes Society(2024)	\$ 206				
'24 Year End Donor Mailing	\$ 109				
FOCW CBI Inspections 2024				\$ 5,108	
FOCW Plant Survey 2024 - 1st half of lake & high impact areas				\$ 3,000	
FOCW CBI & Plant Survey 2025 Deposit				\$ 1,879	
Readfield Mtng Rm Deposit Refund	\$ (25)				
Total Expenses	\$ 2,302	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,987	\$ 12,289
50% dues transfer to Invasives Prev.	\$ (1,075)			\$ 1,075	
Ending balance May 19, 2025	\$ 11,509	\$ 7,802	\$ 22,820	\$ 6,848	\$ 48,979
Chg since FY24					\$ 4,258
Coryell Scholarship Fund			Member and Donation Stats		
Ending balance June 30, 2024	\$ 2,273	Calendar Year		2024	2025
2024-25 Revenue	\$ 165	Member dues paid		99	4
2024-25 Expenses		General Donations		27	6
Ending balance May 19, 2025	\$ 2,438	Scholarship Donations		16	1
Additional Approved Expenditures		Dam Donations		0	0
2024 Scholarship to Wyatt Stevenson	\$ 750	Invasive Prevention Donations		55	4
2025 Scholarship -TBD	\$ 750	Invasives Reaction Donations		10	0
Future Expense Total	\$ 1,500	Sandra Memorial Donations		0	0
Final Balance	\$ 938	Total number of donors		113	15

Dam Report

It was a quiet year for the dam. The largest rain event was 2.3 inches in December.

Winter drawdown started Oct 14. Both ends of the lake had the start of ice cover by mid-November. Torsey had full ice cover on Dec. 16. The ice went out on March 18, at which point the dam was closed to allow the lake to fill back to summer levels.

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



— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper

Hats off to the Buoy Folks!

Many thanks to Keith Coulling 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!

Torsey Pond Association Annual Dues for 2025

Mail in form or visit TorseyPond.org to pay membership dues/donate online!

Annual dues \$50

Additional Donation for Torsey Pond Association

Additional Donation for CBI / Invasives Prevention

Additional Donation for Invasives Reaction Fund

Additional Donation for Stanis Coryell Scholarship Fund:

Total: _____

*Please make check payable to Torsey Pond Association
& mail to Keith Coulling, Treasurer - address below.
All dues & donations are tax deductible! We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: Phone: _____

_____ **Check Here to Volunteer as a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) / Invasives Prevention.** TorseyPond.org has an online sign up to add CBI coverage. We can arrange for quick training. Just a couple volunteer hours can help save our pond from invasive threats. Volunteers can also help to decrease the cost of the CBI program.

***The Annual Meeting will be held in person on Saturday, July 5 at 10am at the Readfield Town Office.**
For anyone who is not able to attend the annual meeting in person, **please designate a Proxy using the form below:**

2025 Annual TPA Meeting Proxy

I, _____, a member of the Torsey Pond Association, hereby appoint _____, or the Association Clerk (please circle which) as my proxy, to vote on all matters to come before the annual meeting of the Torsey Pond Association on Saturday, July 5, 2025. The person appointed as your proxy must be a current member of the association.

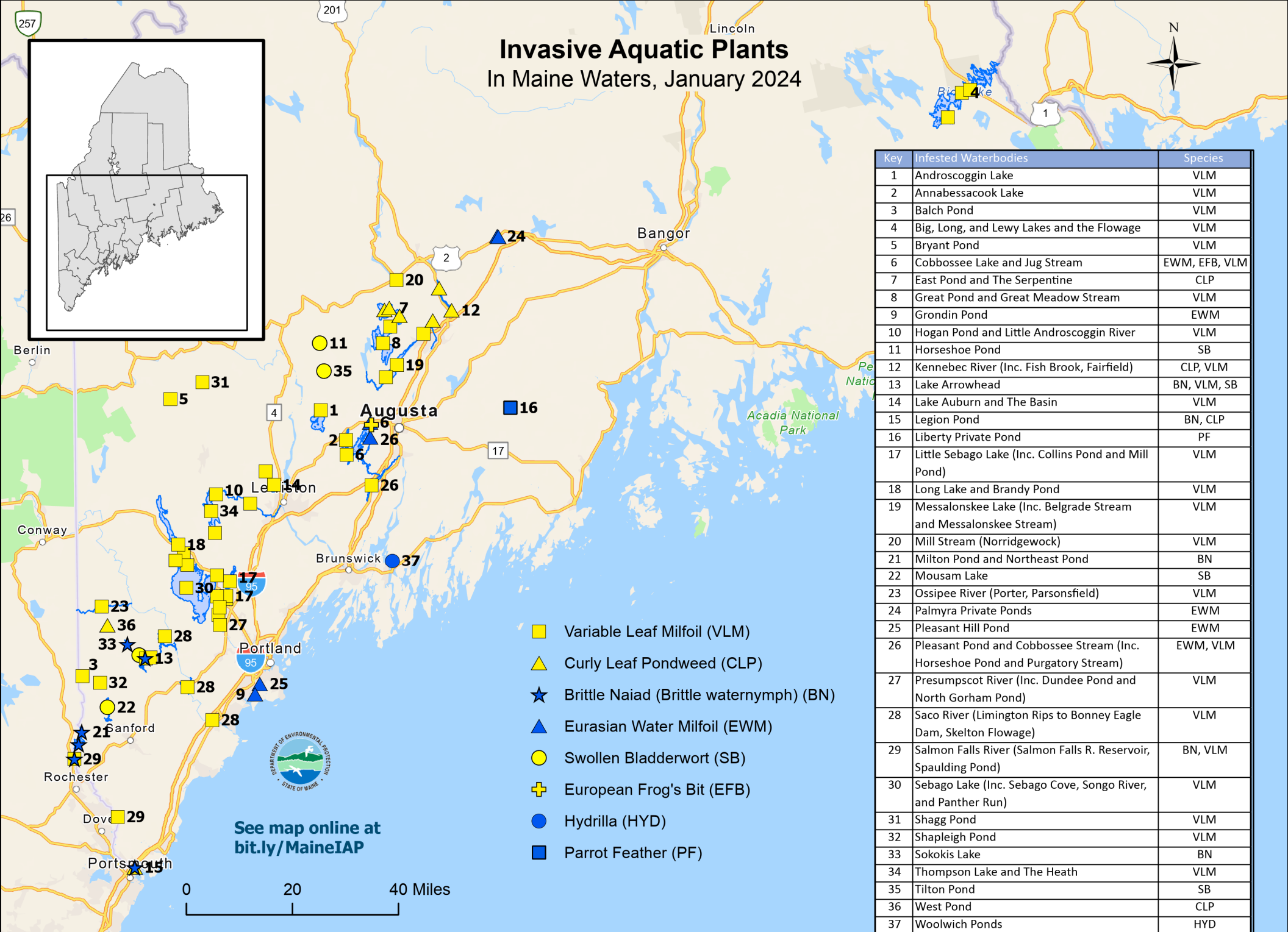
Signature (**required**, not valid without signature): _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to Keith Coulling no later than **July 1, 2025.**

Keith Coulling, Treasurer, TPA
16 Columbine Lane
Mount Vernon, ME 04352

Invasive Aquatic Plants In Maine Waters, January 2024



Find out more: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives