

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**See inside for details on our July 11, 2026, meeting!**

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A parent loon and chick rest on the Turtle Island nest raft in 2025. Maine Audubon provided two rafts a few years ago to help our loons, who too often lost their shoreline nests to flooding. You can see the edge of the platform on the left. Both platform nests are in use this year! Please help the loons by slowing your boat and not getting too close to the loons. If the adults show any sign of distress, please back away slowly. *Photo by Stephanie Donaldson*

## **Board Members**

(p) indicate year term ends

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

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

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

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

Kerry Conway (2028)

Stephanie Donaldson (2026)

Andrea Falaguerra (2028)

Stephen Fennell (2028)

Alan Howie (2026)

John Kingsley (2026)

Greg Parish (2026)

Ann Wagner (2028)

Holly Rahmlow, Newsletter Editor  
and CBI Coordinator  
207-685-3287, hollytrr@gmail.com

## **Watershed Friends**

2518 U.S. Route 202, Winthrop  
207-395-5239,  
mail@watershedfriends.org

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## **An easy way to help TPA!**

Did you know that you may be able to make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to the Torsey Pond Association from your IRA that is tax free — that is a minimum 12% bonus to your donation. And, it does not affect your adjusted gross income (AGI), so it won't impact any other income limits you might be thinking of. So, ask your broker or financial planner. Thank you!

## **Hats off to the Buoy Folks!**

Many thanks to Keith Coulling and Henry Whittemore for taking out and putting in the hazard and no wake buoys each fall and spring — often a messy and back-breaking task!

## Greeting from Torsey Pond!

I am excited to have finished my first year as president of the Torsey Pond Association. I am thankful for the support and help of the Board of Directors, particularly Darcy Whittemore, Keith Coulling, Mark Dershwitz and Andrea Falaguerra. Their long history with the TPA and knowledge of how to get things done in Maine has been invaluable.

Our family purchased a camp on Torsey Pond in 2019. Listening to the cacophony of the loons and owls at night brings me true joy. I joined the board as soon as I learned about the TPA because I wanted to help preserve everything I love about this lake — the clean water, the abundance of fish, the astonishing variety of dragonflies (we're big dragonfly fans!) and the many other critters, furry, feathered and not that make this ecosystem so special. Even the porcupines, which knocked out electricity to half our cabin, are part of the story of living here. Torsey Pond is a treasure. Protecting it is a responsibility we all share, and I am grateful to be part of a community that cares so deeply about its future.

We have had two significant changes this past year. Andy Zourski, who founded and led the volunteer TPA Courtesy Boat Inspection program for 20 years has retired and has passed the leadership of the program to longtime volunteer Holly Rahmlow. We can't thank Andy enough for his leadership and vision. He leaves in place a dedicated group to help protect our lake from invasive plants. Holly has worked closely not only with Andy but with Watershed Friends to participate in training and get the program organized for the 2026 season. Check out our volunteers in their new eye-catching vests! If you would like to help inspect boats and trailers for invasive plants, please contact Holly (hollytrr@gmail.com). If you don't have time to assist but want to support protecting Torsey Pond, please consider making a donation to the TPA invasives prevention program at [torseypond.org/courtesy-boat-inspections/](https://torseypond.org/courtesy-boat-inspections/)

Another notable change is the leadership transition at Watershed Friends, our partner organization dedicated to protecting the 217-square-mile Cobbossee Watershed, which includes 28 major lakes, ponds and streams. TPA's Damkeeper and Treasurer Keith Coulling has served as interim executive director since 2024, donating countless hours to keep the organization strong during this transition. We are deeply grateful for Keith's extraordinary commitment.

Watershed Friends has now welcomed a new executive director, Daniel Griffin, who recently relocated to Maine. He looks forward to listening, learning and working alongside the volunteers, partners, neighbors and donors who care so deeply about our watershed. The Watershed Friends has some fantastic educational opportunities to learn about invasive plants and event boating safety. Please check out [watershedfriends.org](https://watershedfriends.org)

Just a few more notes to close:

You know the water in front of your property the best! Please help us to monitor for invasives by joining our Torsey Plant Patrollers, coordinated by Darcy Whittemore. Read her article for more information!

We are working on new ways to get involved and meet your neighbors on the lake this summer—keep an eye out on [torseypond.org](https://torseypond.org) or our Facebook page for a social event or two.

Lastly, please join us for our annual meeting at 10 a.m. July 11 the meeting room at the Readfield Town Office at 8 Old Kents Hill Road, featuring a guest speaker from Avian Haven, coffee and some treats! We would love to see new faces, so if you have any new neighbors, bring them along! If you want to learn more about the TPA or join our Board of Directors, please reach out to any of us listed! We enjoy talking all things Torsey!

All the best,

— Kasey Rogers, TPA President

# Torsey Pond surrounded by invasive threats

*For 20 years our association was lucky enough to have Andy Zuorski leading the effort to keep invasive plants out of Torsey, a job which includes managing the Courtesy Boat Inspector volunteers. As I am just beginning this task — and Andy's knowledge far exceeds mine! — it seems appropriate to have him report the current status of invasives one last time. — Holly Rahmlow, CBI Volunteer Coordinator*

Welcome to another summer on the pond! The TPA has robust invasive prevention initiatives including Courtesy Boat Inspections, Invasive Plant Surveys and an Adopt a Shoreline program. These initiatives are performed by paid resources from the Watershed Friends and volunteers from the TPA. In 2025 volunteers, in addition to protecting Torsey, saved the TPA approximately \$1,500 in paid resource avoidance. Thank you, volunteers!!

There are currently eight established invasive plant species actively documented in Maine waters. The most widespread is variable-leaf milfoil (VLM), which infests at least 49 distinct waterbodies. The calendar year 2025 saw a critical expansion of invasive species footprints across Maine's southern and western regions. The primary driver of recent escalations is swollen bladderwort, an aggressive plant added to the state's prohibited list in 2023. By late 2025, swollen bladderwort expanded into eight separate bodies of water including Tilton Pond in Fayette.

The Maine DEP Lake Vulnerability Assessment explicitly identifies Torsey Pond as a high-risk target for future infestations. Our vulnerability stems from Torsey's proximity to infested waterbodies, shallow littoral zones and public access point. Our initiatives are designed to prevent an infestation from occurring. As always, we are seeking community members to help protect our shoreline this summer. Additionally, please ensure your boat, trailer, kayak and gear are completely clean of mud and plants before moving between waterbodies. Please ensure you — and any summer guests visiting your property — always Clean, Drain and Dry your equipment.

Thank you for your continued dedication to keeping Torsey Pond pristine!

## Torsey Adopt-A-Shoreline, Plant Patrol Programs

Early detection of an aquatic invasive plant is so important to maintaining the health of Torsey Pond. 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. These surveying efforts are done in addition to the annual plant survey done by Watershed Friends that TPA pays for. We already have over 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 [www.watershedfriends.org/workshops](http://www.watershedfriends.org/workshops) 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 Darcy Whittemore, [darcywhittemore@gmail.com](mailto:darcywhittemore@gmail.com) for more info and/or if you'd like to join Torsey's plant patrol program.

For questions or to register for a workshop at Watershed Friends, contact Caroline Balano-Stott, Conservation Programs Manager: [caroline@watershedfriends.org](mailto:caroline@watershedfriends.org) or go to [www.watershedfriends.org/workshops](http://www.watershedfriends.org/workshops).

— Darcy Whittemore, TPA Vice President

# TORSEY POND ASSOCIATION

Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2025

1. Clerk Mark Dershwitz called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He asked the other officers present to introduce themselves: President Darcy Whittemore, Treasurer Keith Coulling and Clerk Mark Dershwitz, Kasie Rogers is Vice President. The other directors present in the audience also were asked to stand and introduce themselves, Stephanie Donaldson, John Kingsley, and Andy Zuorski. Other Directors include Judith Beck, Andrea Falaguerra, David Gross, Alan Howie, and Ben Parish.
2. The minutes of last year's annual meeting were considered, and approved unanimously.
3. Treasurer Keith Coulling presented the Treasurer's Report. At the beginning of the fiscal year, our bank balance was \$44,721. During the year, our income was \$21,677. Our total expenses were \$12,900, with about \$10,000 of that amount paid to the Watershed Friends for their services to the TPA. Our balance at the end of the year was \$53,497.

The beginning balance in the scholarship fund was \$2,273 and we received \$450 in donations. We awarded one scholarship in 2024 that has not yet been claimed. We approved one scholarship to be awarded this year. Keith made a motion to award one scholarship in 2026 and it was approved unanimously.

Keith said that the budget for this upcoming year would be about the same as last year. He said he would like to transfer \$5,000 from the general fund to the invasives reaction fund, and made a motion to do so. It was approved unanimously. That brings the balance in the invasives reaction fund to about \$30,000.

So far this year, we have received dues from 48 members and a total of 101 donations.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

4. In lieu of an invited speaker, there was a panel presentation by several Board members.

A little TPA history by Mark Dershwitz. "I am going to emphasize some of the people who participated in the early days. In 1987, the family that owned the dam, the Dumaines, decided that they didn't want the responsibility going forward, and they did not register the dam that year. The state took ownership at the beginning of 1988, and announced that the dam would be dismantled, by removing the wooden stop boards that held back the water, unless a lake association was formed to take responsibility for it. On May 12, 1988, Manny Buss, who owned the service station in Readfield Depot, filed the incorporation papers for the Torsey Pond Association. An organizational meeting was scheduled, and a letter was sent to property owners around the lake. In addition to Manny, the initial Directors included Mike Pastore, a woodcutter who was the first person to live year-round on Quiet Harbor Road, Bill Williams, a retired school teacher and carpenter, who built many of the original cabins on Quiet Harbor Road and elsewhere around the lake, and Fran Reilly, the retired assistant headmaster of the Kents Hill School. They immediately started raising money to repair the dam as the existing dam boards were in bad shape. Those dam boards were indeed replaced in the fall of 1990, without obtaining any Town or State permits, but that is another story.

"There is a plaque on the dam naming it after Bill Holman. Who was he? He lived on Torsey Shores Road and was a quiet and modest person, and an avid fisherman. He had a funny looking boat that looked like a small tugboat, painted green and white, and every day, late in the afternoon, he could be seen going up and down the lake, over and over again. He was on the Board of Directors in the early 1990's, and the Board appointed him in 1992 as the first, and so far the only, harbormaster of Torsey Pond, and paid for him to go to harbormaster school. The harbormaster has no enforcement authority but informs boaters of infractions in a friendly and educational way, and that is what Bill did for 16 years. He died suddenly at the age of 66 in 2008, and the position of harbormaster remains vacant, should there be anyone who would like to volunteer to fill the role.

"The TPA awards scholarships to students graduating from Maranacook High School who plan to study ecology or environmental sciences, and it is named after Stanis Corvelli. Who was he? His family built their first cabin on Torsey Pond in 1912, and Corvells have lived on the pond ever since. When I was serving my first three-year term as President, Stanis came to me in 1991 and said that we had to do something about the high spring water levels that were eroding the shore and flooding his property. I told him what a big deal it would be to get permission from the Cobossee Watershed District to adjust the water levels, but he was undeterred. As an engineer for Grumman Aerospace, his job was to make things happen, like the Apollo lunar module, and he took up the challenge. He compiled decades of water level data, as well as evidence of erosion and flooding, and wrote a report. By hand, printing each character as if it were an engineering diagram. And the Board approved his report, and presented it to the Cobossee Watershed District for their approval, and every year since then we have dropped the water level in the fall, and let it rise up again in the spring after ice out, and the shoreline has greatly improved. He lived to be 85 and died in 2006. I could keep telling lots of stories about Stanis, but those will have to wait for another time."

Adopt a shoreline by Darcy Whittemore. This is a program with the Watershed Friends in which volunteer citizen scientists examine a designated area around their property for suspicious growth that may be an invasive plant. This way we spread the workload and hopefully catch an invasive expeditiously. This work fills gaps in between formal surveys by the Watershed Friends. The next training session is July 26 at the Quiet Harbor Beach.

The latest on loons by Stephanie Donaldson. Four chicks hatched so far this year, two each to two loon pairs. An additional pair is still incubating eggs on an artificial platform we placed in the north end of the lake. Of the first set of chicks, one disappeared, possibly snatched by an eagle, and the other appears to be thriving. The second set of chicks hatched on an artificial platform we placed in the south end of the lake. One of these fell off the parent's back and couldn't get back on, and the second one disappeared during a fireworks display that made the parents frantic. We need to spread the word that the time around the Fourth of July is a time during which the loon chicks are very fragile and scaring the parents with fireworks hurts chick survival.

Courtesy boat inspections by Andy Zuorski. The program started in 2001 and has been very effective in keeping invasives out of Maine lakes in general and Torsey Pond in particular. In New Hampshire, about 10% of its 950 lakes greater than 10 acres in size have an invasives infestation. In contrast, only about 1.5% of the 2,700 similarly sized lakes in Maine have an infestation. In 2024, there were about 78,000 inspections in Maine, and 102 instances of invasive plants were found on boats. If every TPA member donated \$5 per week, we could cover our boat launch with inspectors every day instead of just weekends and holidays. We use volunteer inspectors whenever they're available, otherwise we use paid inspectors. Several volunteer inspectors spoke of how rewarding the experience has been for them. Since Andy will be stepping down from running the CBI program, the coordinator position is open.

5. Keith also presented the Damkeeper's Report. He said that there was essentially nothing to report in that the renovated dam is functioning very well. Several members present thanked him for his work as the damkeeper.

6. Clerk Mark Dershwitz presented the Nominating Committee's report. Three Directors, Judith Beck, David Gross, and Andy Zuorski, are stepping down from the Board of Directors at the end of their terms this year. The Nominating Committee proposed Kerry Conway and Ann Wagner as Directors for three-year terms. Mark then asked for additional nominations from the floor. Stephen Fennell was nominated. Mark asked for a motion to approve the slate of Directors as presented. The motion was made and approved unanimously.

Mark then presented the nominations for officers. Vice President Kasie Rogers has agreed to serve as President, and President Darcy Whittemore has agreed to serve as Vice President. Treasurer Keith Coulling and Clerk Mark Dershwitz have agreed to continue in their positions. Mark asked for a motion to approve the slate of Officers as presented. The motion was made and approved unanimously.

6. Mark thanked Judith Beck for her more than 20 years as a Director, including several terms as Vice President. She attended countless Board meetings, and served as the eyes and ears of the south end of the pond.

Keith thanked Dave Gross for his 15 years as a director, including terms as both President and Vice President. His experience in civil engineering was consistently of great help to the Board.

Darcy thanked Any Zuorski for starting the courtesy boat inspection (CBI) 24 years ago. He raised the needed funds and trained the volunteers. He has saved the TPA thousands of dollars in CBI costs and helped keep our lake free of invasives.

7. Keith discussed water quality monitoring performed by Andrea Falaguerra and her son, Roc. He demonstrated how a Secchi disk and underwater viewer are used to measure the water's clarity. The clarity is lower in the spring when there is a lot of pollen in the water, and it improves later in the summer. Peak water clarity measurements in Torsey Pond are about 8 meters now, and each year there is gradual improvement.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Dershwitz, Clerk

## Torsey Pond Association

TREASURER'S Report 2024-2025 June 30, 2025											
	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Invasives Reaction	Invasives Prevention	Total						
<b>Ending balance June 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 9,305</b>	<b>\$ 7,802</b>	<b>\$ 21,640</b>	<b>\$ 5,974</b>	<b>\$ 44,721</b>						
<b>2024-25 Revenue</b>											
Dues	\$ 4,300										
General Donations	\$ 3,685	\$ -	\$ 1,515	\$ 10,632							
Bank Interest	\$ 1,545										
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,530</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,515</b>	<b>\$ 10,632</b>	<b>\$ 21,677</b>						
<b>2024-25 Expenses</b>											
Paypal	\$ 108										
D&O Insurance	\$ 877										
GL Insurance	\$ 613										
State Corporation filing	\$ 35										
Zoom annual fee	\$ 169										
Website(2024 & 2025)	\$ 167										
Lake Stewards of Maine(2024)	\$ 103										
Maine Lakes Society(2024)	\$ 206										
'24 Year End Donor Mailing	\$ 109										
2025 Newsletter Mailing	\$ 552										
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)										
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,913</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,987</b>	<b>\$ 12,900</b>						
50% dues transfer to Invasives Prev.	\$ (2,150)										
<b>Ending balance June 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 13,770.93</b>	<b>\$ 7,802.25</b>	<b>\$ 23,155.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,768.58</b>	<b>\$ 53,496.76</b>						
						Chg since FY24					
						<b>Member and Donation Stats</b>					
						Calendar Year		2024		2025	
						Member dues paid		99		48	
						General Donations		27		20	
						Scholarship Donations		16		8	
						Dam Donations		0		0	
						Invasive Prevention Donations		55		19	
						Invasives Reaction Donations		10		6	
						Sandra Memorial Donations		0		0	
						Total number of donors(includ		113		101	
						<b>Member and Donation Stats</b>					
						Coryell Scholarship Fund		2024		2025	
						Ending balance June 30, 2024		\$ 2,273		\$ 2,273	
						2024-25 Revenue		\$ 450		\$ 450	
						Donations		\$ -		\$ -	
						2024-25 Expenses		\$ -		\$ -	
						Total Expenses		\$ 2,722.50		\$ 2,722.50	
						Additional Approved Expenditures		\$ 750		\$ 750	
						2024 Scholarship to Wyatt Stevenson		\$ 750		\$ 750	
						2025 Scholarship		\$ 750		\$ 750	
						Future Expense Total		\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	
						Final Balance		\$ 1,223		\$ 1,223	

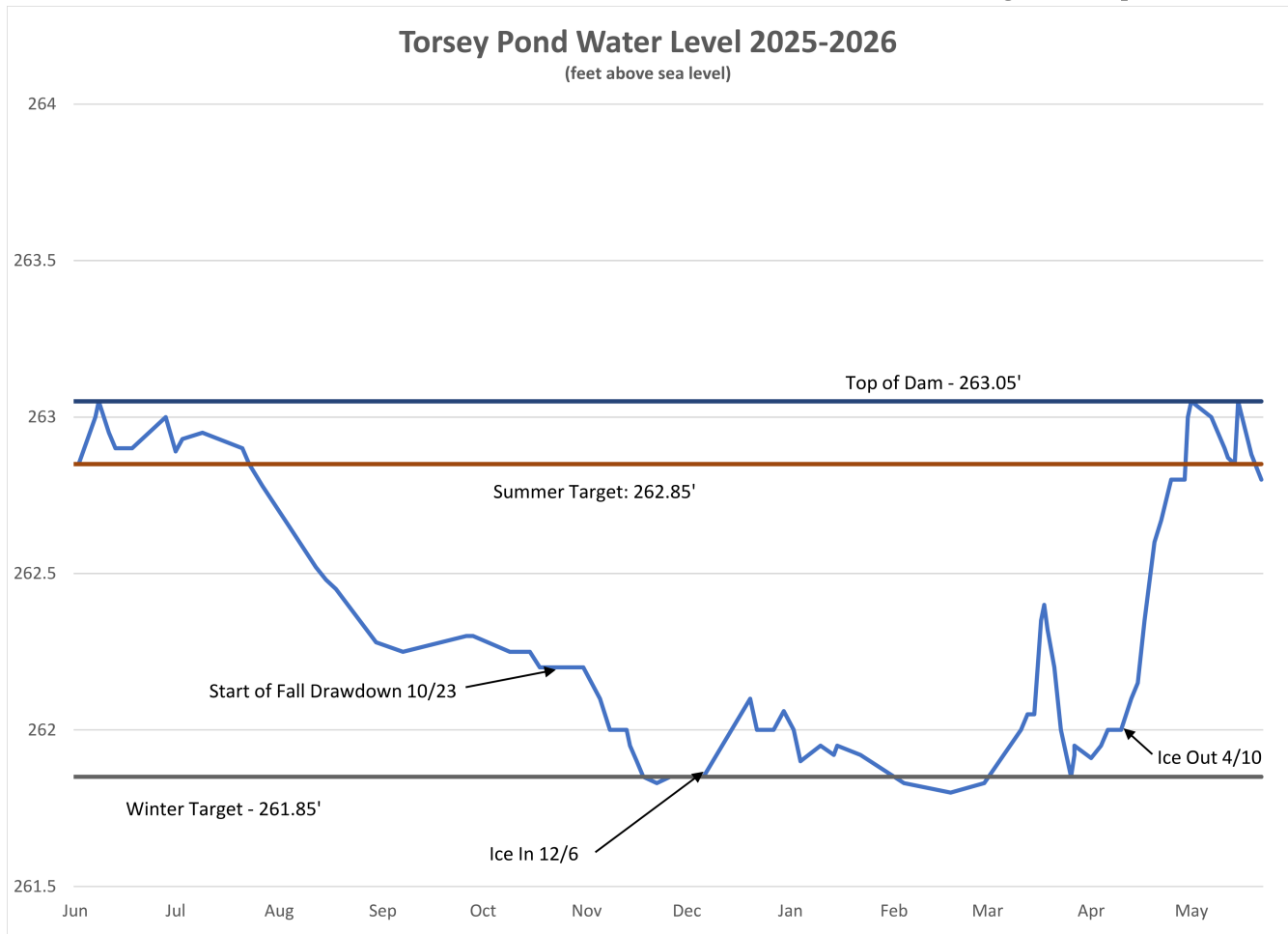
# Dam Report

It was a reasonably dry summer as the lake was already 7 inches below the summer target when I started the winter drawdown.

Winter drawdown started Oct. 23. Torsey had full ice cover on Dec. 6. Maximum ice thickness was approximately 20 inches. The ice went out on April 10, at which point the dam was closed to allow the lake to fill back to summer levels.

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

— Keith Coulling, Damkeeper



## TORSEY POND 2026 MEETING

The annual meeting will be held at 10 a.m. July 11 at the Readfield Town Office. The meeting agenda includes:

- Torsey Talk – Coffee and refreshments with your neighbors from our pond and Daniel Griffen, the new executive director of Watershed Friends
- Presentation from Barb Haney, executive director of Avian Haven
- 2025 Meeting Minutes Approval
- Damkeeper's Report
- CBI Program Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Officer Elections
- Q & A



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

## TREASURER'S Update 2025-2026 May 28, 2026

	General Fund	Sandra Memorial	Invasives Reaction	Invasives Prevention	Total
<b>Ending balance June 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 13,771</b>	<b>\$ 7,802</b>	<b>\$ 23,155</b>	<b>\$ 8,769</b>	<b>\$ 53,497</b>
<b>2025-26 Revenue</b>					
Dues	\$ 2,150.00				
General Donations	\$ 3,182.00	\$ -	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,186.92	
Bank Interest	\$ 1,031.64				
Total Revenue	\$ 6,363.64	\$ -	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,186.92	\$ 7,710.56
<b>2025-26 Expenses</b>					
Paypal	\$ 37.63				
Zoom	\$ 169.49				
D&O Insurance	\$ 877.00				
GL Insurance	\$ 622.00				
Lake Stewards of Maine(2025)	\$ 103				
Maine Lakes Society(2025)	\$ 206				
Website(2026)	\$ 142				
State Corporation filing	\$ 35				
WF May-June Invoice				\$ 228.74	
WF July payment				\$ 5,329.88	
WF August payment				\$ 961.33	
WF eos payment				\$ 21.39	
Watershed 319 refund		\$ (2,234.00)			
2025 IRS letters postage	\$ 78.00				
Total Expenses	\$ 2,269.82	\$ (2,234.00)	\$ -	\$ 6,541.34	\$ 6,577.16
50% dues transfer to Invasives Prev.	\$ (1,075)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,075	
<b>Ending balance May 28, 2026</b>	<b>\$ 16,790</b>	<b>\$ 10,036</b>	<b>\$ 23,315</b>	<b>\$ 4,489</b>	<b>\$ 54,630</b>
Chg since FY25					<b>\$ 1,133</b>
<b>Coryell Scholarship Fund</b>					
<b>Ending balance June 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 2,723</b>				
<b>2025-26 Revenue</b>					
Donations	\$ 105				
<b>2025-26 Expenses</b>					
2025 Scholarship to Kendra Bor (Envi	\$ 750				
Total Expenses	\$ 750				
<b>Ending balance May 28, 2026</b>	<b>\$ 2,078</b>				
<b>Additional Approved Expenditures</b>					
ship to Wyatt Stevenson (Conservation Law)	\$ 750				
olarship to Maia Holt(Atmospheric Science)	\$ 750				
Future Expense Total	\$ 1,500				
Final Balance	\$ 578				

# 2025 Secchi Disc Water Clarity Monitoring Report

We are fortunate to report that Torsey Pond's water quality, which is measured by Secchi Disc Transparency (SDT) readings, remains well above the state average for the 2025 season. The TPA volunteers, Andrea and Roc Falaguerra, conducted and recorded nine SDT readings from May 28 to Sept. 27. Each reading was posted the day it was conducted to our TPA Facebook page, and a comprehensive report of the 2025 SDT readings was mailed at the end of the season to The Lake Stewards of Maine.

The SDT readings were conducted biweekly using a black-and-white disc lowered from an anchored boat and observed through a scope in one of the deepest areas of the main basin. In addition to the measured depth of the disc, other data was included in the posts and the season's report such as: date, time, wind velocity, wind direction and cloud conditions.

Torsey Pond's average SDT reading for 2025 was 6.71 meters (22 feet). This reading is similar to the 2024 and 2023 seasons' average SDT reading of 6.9 and 6.6 meters. The 2025 state of Maine average SDT reading of the lakes and ponds was 4.83 meters (15.8 feet).

This volunteer monitoring requires on the water and written test certifications from The Lake Stewards of Maine/ Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). The TPA volunteers use their own boat, fuel and time to conduct and report the SDT readings. Lake neighbors, friends and visitors: please continue to help keep our lovely pond clear!

— Andrea Falaguerra, TPA Board Member

## The loons and other birds return!

A few years ago Maine Audubon began providing Torsey and other ponds with nesting platforms for loons. Changing water levels, due to alternating floods and droughts, made it difficult for loon parents to keep their eggs safe and dry. It took a few seasons, but both platforms in Torsey are in use this year!

Maine Audubon also trains volunteers who monitor loon activity. It is against the law to harass loons or to even approach their nests too closely, so please watch from a distance!

I hope you have been enjoying all of the migrant birds returning to their breeding grounds. We had a wave of warblers come through the area in early May. Some, like the yellow warbler, are sticking around to nest in the area, while others are just passing through on their way to their more northern breeding grounds.



People have been seeing the colorful Baltimore orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks and ruby-throated hummingbirds returning to feeders.

We've seen a return of our water and wading birds as well. There was a yellowlegs at the edge of the bog last time I went kayaking in that direction. I often see great blue herons, and the ospreys are back on the lookout for fish.

We have four pairs of nesting loons on the lake, and the sandhill cranes are back, too! It will be exciting to see the chicks appearing, and hopefully the loons and the cranes will have a successful breeding season this year!

Photo by Stephanie Donaldson

— Stephanie Donaldson, TPA Board Member

# Torsey Pond Association Annual Dues for 2026

Mail in form or visit [TorseyPond.org](http://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  
and mail to Keith Coulling, Treasurer (address below).  
All dues and donations are tax deductible! We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Check here to volunteer as a Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) / Invasives Prevention.**  
TorseyPond.org has an online signup to add CBI coverage. We can arrange for quick training. Just a couple of 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 at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 11, 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.**

## 2026 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 my behalf on all matters to come before the annual meeting of the Torsey Pond Association on Saturday, July 11, 2026. If you choose someone other than the clerk, that person 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 4, 2026.

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