

May 2016

# TRICKEY POND NEWS

## SOCIAL EVENT

Mark your calendars. We have scheduled another social event at Camp Skylemar for Saturday, August 13, 2016. It starts at 5:00 pm. Colin Holm from LEA will speak on shoreland zoning as it affects Trickey Pond. Colin will also introduce and be a part of a discussion with representatives from the Portland Water District, and the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District regarding their joint study of our watershed and the effect on pond water quality.

A barbeque will be provided through the generosity of Camp Skylemar and its Director, Arleen Shepherd. There will be time to meet and greet your neighbors, tours of the camp ground, and events for children.

There will be another mailing later, but mark your calendar now for Aug. 13, at 5:00 pm.

## A Few Words of Thanks

Ten years ago I was approached by Dick Meyer about joining him and Joe Pedulla in establishing a lake wide environmental association to protect Trickey Pond from the invasive species that seemed to be closing in around us. My initial response was that it would never work. This had been tried years ago with everyone invited to an organizational meeting. The result was that nobody showed up and the idea died.

I did agree to do what I could to make the concept work and it succeeded far beyond whatever I could have imagined. Much of the credit for the success belongs to Dick Meyer. Those of you that have been reading our newsletter over the last ten years already know that the great majority of the articles have been written by Dick. He has spent countless hours learning to identify both native and invasive plants. He has conducted a plant patrol of the lake for years looking for signs of an invasive plant

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infestation that could be eliminated before it had a chance to spread. He has been to all of the Milfoil Summits and attended the various training sessions. Whatever needed to be done from posting signs on the islands, to cleaning up log jams blocking the dam, Dick has been there. After being a valued member of our Board of Directors for ten years, he and Daphne are leaving Trickey Pond. We all owe Dick a big thank you for all his efforts to preserve our lake. Please read his article below on the Plant Patrol.

*Larry Anton*

## **PLANT PATROL**

Sadly, Daphne and I are leaving Trickey Pond for an apartment in South Portland. For several years I have taken Secchi disc reading for water clarity, and I have done plant patrols looking for invasive plants. For anyone who enjoys being out on the water, and who wants to be involved with keeping Trickey Pond in pristine condition this is an ideal way to participate without taking a lot of time or effort.

However, for Secchi reading to be acceptable one must be certified – it takes practice to take accurate and consistent readings. Identifying invasive plants also take instruction and practice. I still don't trust my judgment because even after training I cannot positively identify a new plant, so I take samples and mail them off for official identification.

Actually, since LEA comes to Trickey Pond every two weeks to take Secchi disc reading I have stopped doing this, but I have continued to do plant patrols. However, the more data the better, so if you would like to take Secchi reading there is no harm in additional readings. If there is someone who would like to continue this work, either or both Secchi readings or plant patrol, please contact me at 536-7592, or email me at: [richard419@roadrunner.com](mailto:richard419@roadrunner.com). (I'll be in South Portland but I won't forget Trickey Pond) I have the scope, Secchi disc and tape measure, a bucket scope, and I can arrange for your training.

*Dick Meyer*

## **WATER QUALITY TEST RESULTS**

After sending out the LEA report on Trickey Pond water quality test results for the summer of 2015, I was asked if the "concerned" rating meant our quality was in danger. I think the short answer is that we are always in danger because anything less than pristine is a come down. However, a little longer answer is that although our test results were not quite as good as the long term averages, our results are still better than any other lake under the watchful eye of LEA. However, the trend line for the last few years is definitely sloping toward worse water quality. It will take additional years of testing to see if the trend continues downward. These concerns, however, are what I want Colin to address at the social event on August 13 which is explained in the article on page one.

*Dick Meyer*

## **SAVE THE ISLANDS UPDATE**

As we discussed in the Fall 2015 Newsletter, the Crowley property which runs from the end of Trickey Pond Road to Lake House Road has been listed for sale. Some of you may have seen an online listing or the sign on Gore Road showing a subdivision of the property. We have had the goal for several years of wanting to forever preserve the islands with the loon nesting area in their natural state. We had an informational meeting in early May with the representative of the owners, their realtor, the current and former Directors of Loon Echo Land Trust, and representatives from the Board of the Trickey Pond Camp and Homeowners Association.

The property has not been subdivided. The map showing the lots is a concept design. The owners desire is to sell the property as one parcel to an environmentally conscious owner that would appreciate the natural beauty and would preserve as much of the parcel as possible. They do not want to sell to a developer that would maximize his profit by creating as many lots as legally possible. If they cannot find such a buyer, they would consider subdividing the property into large lots. They know from our previous correspondence of our desire to acquire and preserve the islands. This will depend on how the sale is eventually structured. We may be looking to acquire the dam site as well as the islands. There could be tax benefits to the seller for selling these to a charitable organization such as ours for below market value. Everything is on hold until a sale is structured, but if our preservation goals come to fruition, we will have to ask all of you for help in raising the necessary funds.

*Larry Anton*

## **ICE IN AND ICE OUT**

This was a rather unique winter on our lake. Trickey Pond didn't freeze over until January 7, 2016, the latest we have seen it freeze in recent memory. Normally, we would see the ice fishermen by New Years Day. Then along came March with the ice going out in a different pattern than I have ever seen. There was very little melting around the edges except where a spring flows in.

A small melted vein started at the old Camp Wenonah swim area (adjacent to and currently used by Camp Skylemar ) melting a narrow strip toward Mitchell's house on the western side of the lake. Every day it grew longer, but stayed narrow. Then a similar vein started at the Pullis house heading toward the eastern shore. Overnight on the thirteenth these veins merged, and continued to widen. On the fourteenth, hooded mergansers were seen in the open water and an eagle was seen scouting them. Then on the fifteenth while Daphne and I were eating dinner, the eagle perched on the edge of the ice and sat there for 20 minutes until flying off. During the day on the sixteenth, the ice all but disappeared. This is the earliest ice out that I can remember.

*Dick Meyer*

## Loss of Ice Coverage

The previous article with Dick Meyer's observations on ice in and ice out dates illustrates the gradual warming that is taking place on our planet. Whether this is a natural cyclical phenomena or is being caused by human activities can be argued ad infinitum but the warming is real. The question that we need to ask is "what effect will this warming have on our lake. The coverage by ice of Trickey Pond this winter was about a month less than normal.

The early ice out will probably lead to a slightly warmer summer temperature of the lake water. How will this affect the stratification of the lake over the course of the summer? Will it increase the oxygen depletion in the bottom layers? Will it impact the ability of cold water fish species to survive in our lake? Could it cause a release of phosphorus from the lake bottom which would then stimulate the growth of algae? There are lots of questions that need to be answered. The good news is that the Lakes Environmental Association Maine Lakes Science Center is up and running. Hopefully they will eventually be able to provide answers to many of these questions.

One point to ponder. Why are only 19% of the shorefront owners on Trickey Pond members of LEA???

*Larry Anton*

## PLASTIC WORMS CONTAINER

The container for used and/or left over plastic worms that Boy Scout Cameron Patterson installed at the route 114 boat ramp did not get much use last year, but in checking it this spring, there were considerable worms, fish line, and packaging debris in the container. It's kind of creepy to unscrew the bottom plug and have them fall out into your hand, but at least the worms were not dumped into the pond but were placed in the container for proper disposal.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The spring meeting of our Board of Directors will take place at 9 AM on Saturday, June 18 in the Naples Town Office. Come and join us, give us your thoughts, and consider joining our Board. Remember the "three T's" of charitable giving – time, talent, and treasure. We need your response to our fund raising appeal but we also need a little of your time and your inputs as members of our Board of Directors.