

May 2012

TRICKEY POND NEWS

Presidents Message

Hello again, friends, neighbors and Trickey Pond homeowners around the lake. For any of you who have not been in Naples recently, this past winter and spring has been one of the mildest in many years. Trickey Pond is back in liquid form, the trees are in blossom, and, once again, this lake is one of the most beautiful in Maine.

Every spring I receive post card advertisements from local Realtors asking if we are interested in selling our property on Trickey Pond and, as usual, I just smile and think "not in this life time". This year, however, I got to wonder how many of the neighbors on our street are still here the twenty five years that we have been here. So I dug out my road association records for the past 25 years and did some checking. It came as no surprise when I discovered that almost 60% of the families are still here after 25 years and a rough estimate is that 80% are here ten years. I would guess these numbers are typical for all of Trickey Pond . Another interesting bit from the advertisements was how few homes around Trickey Pond are for sale. One of the Realtor web sites quoted LEA Executive Director Peter Lowell's statement "Trickey Pond is the cream of the crop". It is not hard to see why.

Two of the major reasons that Trickey Pond is so desirable are the pristine condition of the water and the lack of invasive plant species. 2012 is the seventh year that the TPEPA has been leading the effort to protect and maintain this wonder of nature.

As the current President of Trickey Pond Environmental Protection Association Inc. {TPEPA}, I encourage all to continue their efforts to keep this pond one of the best in southern Maine. Twice a year, TPEPA directors meet to discuss lake concerns and promote solutions to lake related problems. Our next meeting will be held on June 23, 2012 at 9:30 AM in the Naples Town Office. Any and all are welcome to attend so please consider joining us in the effort to maintain Trickey Ponds excellent condition.

We currently have seventeen of twenty director positions filled. Filling the three open positions with new residents is necessary to keep this organization energetic and

Trickey Pond Environmental Protection Association Inc.

PO Box 417, Naples, ME 04055

A 501 (C) (3) Charitable Organization

enlightened with new ideas and solutions to various concerns. Any neighbor who is interested in joining this organization please contact me via email at m.jankowski@sbcglobal.net . As with any organization, there are term periods and no one should be concerned that this could become a lifetime position. I understand we all have other interests and responsibilities that fill our lives and finding time might be difficult, but I promise you that it will be rewarding not only for you but future generations of your families.

Thank you all for your support,

Matthew Jankowski

Shoreland Zoning Buffer Zone

To protect the water quality of Trickey Pond and the other Great Ponds in Naples, the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance requires that a one hundred foot buffer zone be maintained around the high water mark of the lake. What does this mean to us, the property owners around the pond – what are we allowed to do in the buffer zone and what is prohibited?

Structures are not allowed within the buffer area. This prohibition includes storage buildings, boat houses, patios, decks, tents and any portion of a dock extending above the normal high water line. Grand-fathered buildings within the buffer may be expanded if the expansions are no closer to the water body than the original structure. Such expansions of floor area and/or volume are limited to 30% of the floor area and volume in existence as of January 1, 1989.

One winding footpath of no more than six feet in width is allowed for each lot or for each 200 feet of shoreline frontage. They cannot be constructed so as to create a view corridor. In the off-season, docks should be stacked on the footpath to avoid damage to buffer vegetation. Fill cannot be brought into the buffer except for path construction or to re-vegetate bare ground as part of an approved re-vegetation plan. Openings or view corridors in existence prior to Dec. 16, 1991 can be maintained but not enlarged. Openings that have been "closed" with growth of woody vegetation cannot be "re-opened".

Bushes can be trimmed down to three feet in height. All existing vegetation less than 3 feet in height cannot be removed or damaged. No disturbance of the ground cover (including the duff and leaf layer) or vegetation is allowed within the buffer, or between the lake and a grandfathered structure. Trees can be limbed up to one-third of their height and dead branches can be pruned without restriction. You are allowed to remove some trees while keeping a “well distributed stand of trees and other vegetation”. The rules on what can be removed get rather complicated so I highly recommend the use of a certified arborist who is familiar with the rules.

The above is a simplified overview of what can and cannot be done in the buffer zone. You can read the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance on the Town of Naples website (www.townofnaples.org) and if you have any questions, you should contact the Naples Code Enforcement Officer.

Larry Anton

WE NEED YOU!
Have you seen this map before?



All those dark gray lines show milfoil on our doorstep. Courtesy boat inspections are the first line of defense in catching a stray piece before it takes hold in the lake. Because so many of you have been generous with your contributions, we are able to fund paid inspectors from LEA for many of the most active hours at the boat launch. However, it is not possible to cover all the hours we would like, and that is where you come in. As a volunteer courtesy boat inspector, you might be the one to stop an infestation from happening.

We realize there are many good reasons not to volunteer - you're on vacation; you work hard all week and just want to relax; you have company; you're already too busy. But think about what your vacation would be like if you couldn't access the lake because the weeds were too thick to boat or swim through. Is it worth a couple of hours of your time to keep that from happening? That's all it needs to take. Most volunteers spend two hours per shift, but it can be adapted to your schedule. We train you and give you a fancy t-shirt to identify you as a CBI. If we all give a little, it can make a big difference. Think about it.

Contact Daphne Meyer, CBI coordinator, at tpdaphne137@roadrunner.com or 693-6488 to find out how you can help.

Thank You

To Camp Skyemar for donating the Tee Shirts that we sold last Fall. We raised over \$700 from the sales which will be used to help protect Trickey Pond.

2012 MILFOIL SUMMIT IN REVIEW

This year's summit was held on March 2 and was, as usual, well attended, a sign that concern for the quality of Maine's lakes and streams remains high. The session began with a highly informative video produced by LEA documenting the progress of Maine's milfoil program over the first ten years (Yes, it has been ten years.) and looking ahead at where we go from here. You can see this video for yourself by going to mainelakes.org or (even easier) just google "Facing the Tipping Point" which is the title of the video. It is well worth your time.

Sustainability was the theme for this year's summit looking at how to keep a maturing program viable in terms of human effort, funding, and commitment. While the milfoil sticker fees are dedicated to the program, they do not cover the cost of prevention and eradication efforts without the dedicated work of volunteers and donations to organizations such as TPEPA. Moreover, boat registrations have been declining in recent years resulting in lower revenue to sustain the program. Every year, more lakes form associations such as ours, but volunteer burn-out is a growing concern.

Of course, prevention is the first line of defense, and it was the main focus of remarks by DEP Commissioner Patricia Aho who said that DEP has declared 2012 the year of self-inspection by all boaters. The courtesy boat inspection program is at the heart of all prevention efforts, and the focus of this program will be to get boaters to do their own inspections before entering the water. The department remains committed to rapid response to new infestations, but these can be greatly reduced if boaters themselves take preventive action. In the words of DEP representative, John McPhedran, "We need to instill the self-inspection ethic."

And let's not forget that plants are not our only concern. IF&W biologist, Bobby VanRipper, talked about what he called a shift in native fish species. Non-native fish of most concern to officials at the moment are northern pike, walleye, and black crapie.

There was quite a bit of discussion about requiring stickers for passive watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, and rowboats which is already being done by other states that have sticker programs. Other suggestions to increase funding included access fees at public launches, an anti-milfoil license plate, and a tax checkoff for voluntary contributions.

Peter Lowell talked about an information gathering trip he made to Lake Tahoe last fall. There, every boat must undergo a mandatory \$75 inspection performed off site after which it is attached to its trailer by a secure cable which can only be removed at the launch site. Could such restrictive measures be in store for Maine?

While funding issues seemed to dominate, there was some discussion in this largely gray-haired audience about preparing the next generation to take up the fight. This is the other half of the sustainability theme. The problem of invasive species is not going to go away, and no amount of funding is going to eradicate it. As Maine's milfoil program enters its second decade, it will require a new corps of individuals with new energy and new ideas to sustain the momentum on behalf of all our waterways.

Daphne Meyer