



Protecting  
Trickey Pond  
since 2006

Dear Friends of the TPEPA,  
The seasonal changes of Trickey Pond are upon us once again. Most are gradual, like the change of water temperature, not noticed at first, until the day you realize it's just too cold to dip your feet in as you carry your kayak to the shore. Or the appearance of colorful foliage, that begins with a hint of red and yellow on the tips of the maples and beech as early as September and then peaks in late October, followed by the predictable bare branches of late November.

But there are other changes afoot on Trickey Pond and in its watershed, those that present a challenge to the ecosystem of the lake we all love. Included among them are increases in the number of boats as made evident by another year of increased courtesy boat inspections (CBIs) at the public launch, the reported and observed disregard some boaters exhibit for the 200 ft safety zone, the removal of the vegetative buffer in the shoreland zone, and the continued prevalence of invasive aquatic vegetation in surrounding lakes documented by boat inspectors in the region. That's the bad news. But the good news is that all of these challenges can be met, and their threats can be mitigated by:

- ▶ boaters practicing the Clean, Drain, Dry rule to avoid introducing invasive aquatic plants into Trickey Pond.
- ▶ residents and visitors making a donation to the TPEPA to help fund CBI hours at the public launch.
- ▶ property owners maintaining a robust vegetative buffer on their shoreline to help prevent erosion and halt the introduction of NPS pollution into the lake.
- ▶ boaters obeying the 200 ft safety zone law and being responsible for their wake to protect people, property, wildlife and the shoreline.

The beauty of the changing seasons is inevitable and something we have come to expect and happily anticipate. But expecting that Trickey Pond will always be the clean and clear lake we love requires that we make appropriate choices now. There are many resources available to learn more about how you can be a good lake steward. Some may be accessed through the links on our Take Action page at <https://www.trickeypond.org/takeaction>. Recommended reading for all property owners is the Home Owners guide published by the Lakes Environmental Association. You can find it at <https://mainelakes.org/lake-health/homeowners-guide/>.

I hope you enjoy reading this fall issue of our newsletter. We've included articles and updates about our EPA 319 grant, CBI numbers for summer 2021, installations of BMPs using stormwater compensation funds, a story of the summer's loon count, and an article that offers a trip down memory lane with two of our founding members in recognition of TPEPA's 15<sup>th</sup> year. As always, thank you for your support and interest in protecting Trickey Pond.

Warm regards,

*Martina*

Martina Witts, President



## Please Support TRICKEY POND

The primary purpose of the TPEPA is to raise money to take care of Trickey's pristine waters. Your donations fund boat inspector hours at the public ramp to keep milfoil and other invasive species out of Trickey Pond. Thank you for your support!

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[www.trickeypond.org](http://www.trickeypond.org)

## Meet Our Members

*If you're inspired to share your own Trickey Pond story in our next issue, please send it to [Martina.Witts@gmail.com](mailto:Martina.Witts@gmail.com)*

### Reflections on 15 Years of TPEPA

*Summer's triumphant return to Maine in mid-October, a resurgent warmth coupled with the fiery autumn colors ringing Trickey Pond set the perfect backdrop for a discussion with two of the founding members of the TPEPA: current resident and board member Larry Anton, and former resident and board member Dick Meyer, joined by Tory Ryden, the newest member of TPEPA, and Trickey Pond resident since 2000.*

*By Tory Ryden*

**I** grew up dreaming of having a place on a lake. I was born in the Bronx and grew up in a tenement house, it was a five flight walk up. Luckily, we lived on the second floor," Larry Anton shares. "I dreamt of building my own house on a lake. And it came true!"

Those lofty dreams have in turn fueled Anton's desire to keep what he found back in 1970, a pristine Trickey Pond, as clean and clear as possible. "I used to go out in the canoe, canoe around the lake and everywhere you went you could pick up blueberries along the shore," Anton remembers wistfully. "We used to have a muskrat all the time who was digging up freshwater clams and mussels and we'd find piles of shells. But those and the shoreline blueberries are all gone."

Larry Anton laments that Trickey Pond has changed a lot since the early 70's: more houses, more people, more boats. But the one constant is Trickey's water quality, which consistently ranks among Maine's cleanest. "When I came up here in 1970 and '71, all we did was we ran a hose into the lake and we drank that lake water for years and years. We had no problem, had it tested several times. It was good! That's how clean the lake was." He has, however noticed a concerning addition: green slime.

"Even though the figures for clarity and the ingredients of the water, the amount of chlorophyll seem to be fairly stable, some-

thing's changed. Back then, when I put my swim float in, I take it out at the end of the summer and it's clean. Now I take it out and it's covered in green slime. The same thing with the dock, having a boat on the dock. There's much more vegetation."

By the time Dick Meyer bought his property in 1991, he had a good idea of what he wanted: something that would remind him of the lake his parents took him to as a child. "I came across this property that we bought. It actually looked terrible. It was in an estate, it was overgrown, it hadn't been taken care of. There was water in the basement and it needed a lot of work. But it had all the features that I wanted and I thought it was one of the best pieces of property on the lake. I bought it almost on the spot."

One of the biggest issues Meyer faced was 68 feet of sand running from his lake facing front door down to the lake, something he says was beginning "to look like I was in Venice because of my beach". Meyer, a chemical engineer, knew that much sand on a lake was not ok. "I worked with LEA to find out what we could do and then I worked with a local nursery in Bridgton (Mark's Landscaping) to find out what I could do. What we did was we took out a fair amount of the beach and we sodded it. When it rains it can absorb a lot more moisture than it used to. There were times when a hard rain would just wash the sand

right into the lake."

As Meyer's interest in water quality grew, he acquired the post of plant patroller. He and his dog would hop in the boat and slowly navigate their way around Trickey, looking for invasive species and erosion. Meanwhile, Meyer's neighbor Larry Anton believed that in educating every resident around the perimeter of Trickey Pond and sharing test results and environmental concerns, there would be an immediate and overwhelming response. "We called a meeting of everyone around the lake to talk about forming an environmental association and nobody showed up."

Undeterred, Anton teamed up with Meyer and Joe Pedulla and officially founded the Trickey Pond Environmental Protection Association in the summer of 2006. First order of business was building a board comprised of Trickey Pond-loving residents. A newsletter was not far behind. "We sent it to everyone around the lake. And we brought to their attention that there was a problem: as the lake got more developed, it was going to get worse so we had to take steps to mitigate future degradation," Anton explains. "The second thing we managed to do was raise funds, convincing people that they needed to contribute to help preserve the lake and the value of their properties."

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Anton also took up the mantle to keep jet skis off of Trickey Pond.

“The Maine Legislature gave towns a one-time opportunity to pass legislation regulating jet skis. We had several public hearings, publicized it and it went to taxpayers in a referendum vote. And it passed for Trickey Pond!” That fortune eluded Brandy Pond and Long Lake, which today, well, I don’t need to explain.

In the ensuing years, TPEPA has tackled land surveys, headway zoning and a fragile watershed ecosystem, plus protecting the loon population, creating a summer Courtesy Boat Inspection Program to monitor milfoil and invasive plants, and applying for (and winning!) grants to protect Trickey’s water quality.

As TPEPA completed its 15<sup>th</sup> circle around the sun in August, there was indeed reason to celebrate, but an even stronger pull to keep the collective nose to the grindstone. Board members are discussing ways to enforce state regulations requiring boaters to stay 200 feet from shore. The concerns are valid: the speed and wakes from large boats is wreaking havoc on efforts to reverse erosion, not to mention the potential damage to docks and the boats tethered to them. The work continues.

And while taking stewardship of a Maine lake does require time and commitment, members of the TPEPA have done it year after year, from 2006 until today, out of love for a very special place called Trickey Pond.

“We started something that now, in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, has only gotten stronger,” Meyer reflects. “I’m very proud of what we’ve accomplished.”

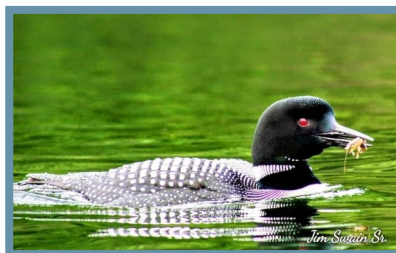


Photo by Jim Swain



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# Trickey Pond Loon Count – July 2021

By Sue Giroux

Every year on the third Saturday morning in July, from 7:00-7:30 a.m., the Maine Audubon Society conducts a loon count throughout the state of Maine to track the state's loon population. Volunteers from lakes all over the state head out for an early morning boat ride to count the number of loons and babies on their lakes. I took over as the Trickey Pond 'official counter' in 2020, when Bud McClellan decided to step down. I have been helping Bud count loons for the past several years, and my father, Vern Gokey, also helped Bud count loons every year before he passed away. It's something I look forward to every year, so I did not hesitate to tell Bud that I would take over counting duties for him.

My sister Dianne, her husband Peter, and I set out with Bud just before 7:00 a.m. on July 17<sup>th</sup> to count loons. It was mostly overcast but the water was calm and there was just a light breeze. It was a nice morning for counting loons. We cruised around the edge of the lake searching for the loons. We spotted the first pair of adult loons on the eastern shore of the lake fishing for breakfast near Sky-lemar's camping area (near the old girls' camp beach). We kept cruising along the lake and spotted two more adults fishing near the campgrounds at the northeast side of the lake. One of them treated us to a demonstration by flapping his wings and skimming over the water toward the middle of the lake. We continued at a slow speed down around the islands and observed a fifth adult loon fishing near the northern shore past the 2<sup>nd</sup> island.

We expected to count 4 adults on Trickey Pond, based on observations made earlier in the year by

us and by fellow neighbors on Trickey Pond Road. We were pleasantly surprised to see a 5<sup>th</sup> loon during the count. Unfortunately, we did not spot any babies this year. This was not a surprise though, because babies had not been spotted with the loons earlier in the year. We also did not find the nest, which is usually on the wooded island, during the loon count this year. But after the count we learned that the loons changed the location of their nest this year and built it on the western shore of the lake near one of our neighbor's homes.

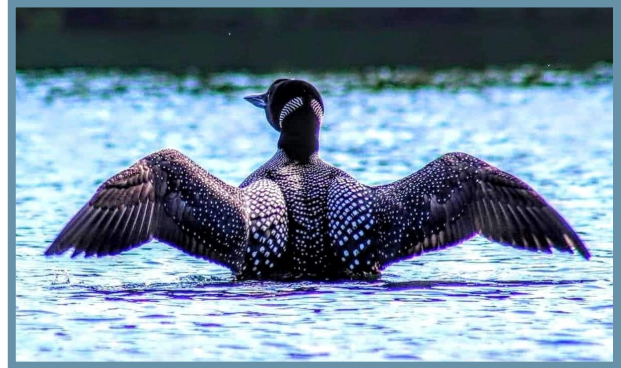


Photo by Jim Swain

My thanks go out to Bud for his help with the loon count, and for volunteering to drive his boat for the count this year. I hope to continue the tradition of counting loons on Trickey Pond for many years to come.

## Storm Water Compensation Funds Pay for BMPs

The TPEPA in collaboration with Lakes Environmental Association led an effort to remediate four erosion sites in the Trickey Pond watershed that were paid for by Maine DEP's Storm Water Compensation Fund. The projects were initially identified in the summer of 2020 and work was completed in the summer of 2021. In total, \$6435 of storm water compensation funds were used at these four sites, two on Trickey Pond Road, one on Rt 114 and one at Camp Sky-lemar. Water diverters, crushed stone and erosion control mulch were installed to prevent storm water and run off from entering the lake. These tools are referred to as BMP's or Best Management Practices. To learn more about these BMPs and others check out the Lake Smart Took Kit on the Maine Lakes website at <https://www.lakes.me/lakesmart-resources> or download a copy of the Lakes Environmental Homeowner's Guide at <https://mainelakes.org/lake-health/what-you-can-do/homeowners-guide/>

The TPEPA would like to thank the private land owners and the Trickey Pond Camp & Homeowners Association for participating in this effort to reduce nonpoint source pollution from entering Trickey Pond.

# Courtesy Boat Inspector Data for 2021

*By Martina Witts*

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) data shows another busy season at the Trickey Pond public launch on RT 114. This season the TPEPA funded 782.5 paid hours of CBI coverage and provided four hours of volunteer coverage at that ramp. During those 149 shifts, 1070 inspections were completed. Six plants were found and zero were shown to be invasive. CBI inspections include asking boaters what was the last waterbody their boat was in. The data shows that of the boats inspected, 54% indicated that Trickey Pond was the last waterbody they

were in, with Sebago Lake coming in second and Long Lake third. The remaining inspections show that boats were most recently launched in about 18 different lakes and rivers in the lakes region and beyond. Significantly, of all the lakes visited before coming to Trickey Pond, three waterbodies currently have milfoil infestation, Sebago Lake, Long Lake and Little Sebago.

State wide the MDEP reports that 24 invasive plants were found as a result of boat inspections. Several of the plants were on boats either launching into or having previously been in lakes in our region, including Sebago, Little Sebago,

Long Lake, Kezar Lake Narrows, Panther Pond, and Moose Pond.

The CBI program is an important line of defense against the spread of invasive plants and the TPEPA is committed to funding this important level of protection for Trickey Pond. You can help too by ensuring that you are not transporting potentially invasive plants on your boats, trailers and gear and by supporting our efforts with a donation.

## Trickey Pond Watershed-based Protection Plan Approved by EPA and DEP

In July the TPEPA received notice from Maine DEP that our grant application, written by Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) was approved. Heather Hunt, Project Manager and our grant writer at CCSWCD explained that the Trickey Pond Watershed Protection Project “will receive \$75,911 in EPA’s Section 319 Clean Water Act grant funds administered by the Maine DEP. These funds include on-the-ground matching funds for construction and buffer plantings as well as targeted technical assistance and education/outreach to the watershed (its property owners and road associations), and the implementation requirements of the grant itself.” Additionally, the TPEPA and CCSWCD have lined up non-federal matching funds from landowners/volunteers, Portland Water District, LEA, Town of Naples, TPEPA and the Stormwater Compensation Fund totaling \$52,599.

Before the end of 2021 a Memorandum of Agreement will be signed between CCSWCD and Maine DEP so work can start on all the agreed upon conditions outlined in the grant.

The project is slated to come on-line in January 2022 and the project completion date is December 2023. A steering committee will be formed with members from CCSWCD, the TPEPA, the Lakes Environmental Association and the Town of Naples. The first meeting will be in late winter and a second follow-up meeting in June. Project specific timelines will be developed and tasks will be assigned.

The process that has led to this grant began in 2019 when the TPEPA initiated a watershed study and then wrote a Watershed Based Protection Plan which was approved by both the EPA and the Maine DEP in March of 2021.





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Includes one t-shirt and a membership letter mailed to the recipient.

To become a member of TPEPA, please visit our web site at [TrickeyPond.org](http://TrickeyPond.org)

Please make a tax-deductible donation this year! Our hope is that every homeowner, friend, family member and renter will help protect Trickey Pond.

You can donate on the website with a credit card: [www.trickeypond.org](http://www.trickeypond.org)  
OR mail a check to TPEPA, P.O. Box 417, Naples, Maine 04055