

Don't miss the Torsey Pond Association Annual Meeting! Join your neighbors in preserving our lake on July 14 at 10 a.m. at the Readfield Town Hall.

If you can't attend, please still send in your dues and proxy.

## Meeting program

Forest Ranger Kent Nelson will be at the annual meeting to give a short talk about the Maine Forest Service's Firewise program. This program is designed to educate and inform homeowners on how they can reduce the risk of wildfire near their homes and cottages. He will discuss the different phases of the project:

1. Conduct a few randomly selected wildfire risk assessments of lake association members' homes (note: only the exterior of the home and landscaping are viewed).
2. The data from the assessments is gathered and compiled into a report called a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which will be made available online.
3. The results and recommendations are then presented to the Lake Association at a later date.

For more info on our wildland urban interface program, please visit

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpd/pages/wui/wui.html>

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## Update on the new dam

The new dam continues to work superbly, enabling an unprecedented degree of control over Torsey water levels. Achieving these results requires more frequent trips to the dam, but performing dam operations is vastly simplified and much safer than it was with the old setup.

We are routinely praised by the Cobbossee Watershed District, which is tasked with establishing and auditing water levels at all lakes within the watershed, for the excellent results we have been able to achieve with the new dam.

Special thanks and recognition are due once again to all Torseyites who so generously contributed time and/or money to make this project possible.

Recognition is also due to the contractor and fabricator for their outstanding and very reasonably priced work.

If anyone is interested in observing the dam in operation or learning about our target levels or historical results, please feel free to contact me ([don@tc2.net](mailto:don@tc2.net)). I typically visit the dam once or twice a day during periods of changing weather and would be happy to meet you there.

— Don Rahmlow, Damkeeper



Niece Rebecca, an annual summer visitor to the lake, documents her 2010 stay using mud from the lake. Don the Damkeeper rids nieces and nephews of their fear of the healthy lake bottom by taking on his role as "Muck Monster." He coats himself in muck and weeds, turning something unknown and feared into a game.

Torsey Pond Association  
c/o Holly Rahmlow  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

#### Board Members

(parentheses indicate year member's term ends )

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Hello, Everyone,

Do you remember the song “My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music”?

I was thinking about many of my favorite things about Torsey Pond: soaring eagles and osprey, colorful sailboats, loons and hummingbirds (if you haven't put up a hummingbird feeder, you're missing a lot of fun), and the reflection of the moon splashing across the lake. I'm sure many of you have your own favorite things. There's just so much to like about our pond.

After the big dam project in the fall of 2010, the association didn't tackle any major items last year. We did replace a waterlogged hazard buoy. This year we will be looking into dressing the concrete walls in the dam spillway. This would prevent further concrete deterioration. Cost will be the determining factor in whether we undertake the project this year or next.

Some members have expressed concern about the farm on Kents Hill that is drawing water from Torsey Pond. Wendy Dennis of the Cobbossee Watershed District looked into it and felt that the farm had proper permits and the drawdown was insignificant.

Andy Zuorski continues to coordinate the boat inspection program. Any help that you can give, either financial or volunteering to inspect the boats, would be very much appreciated. This is the only way we have to try to protect our pond from invasive plant material.

If the doomsayers and the Mayan calendar are correct and this is the last year of Earth as we know it, then I for one plan to enjoy every moment! Of course, that's the way I have always tried to live. Enjoy every day. I wish you all many enjoyable days on and in Torsey Pond.

Best regards,

*Linda Lally, President*

P.S. The annual meeting this year will be at 10 a.m. on July 14. Please note that the meeting location has been changed to the Readfield Town Hall.

## **Invasive Aquatic Plant Update**

After a depressing string of increasing infestations, the number of affected Maine waterbodies declined from 34 in 2010 to 33 in 2011 with the removal of Pleasant Pond in Casco from the list.

The battle against milfoil in Pleasant Pond took many years, countless hours and tens of thousands of dollars, but progress has been made.

Also, the application of herbicide to a six-acre area of milfoil in Salmon Lake in Belgrade has so far been successful with no plants being discovered this spring. While it is believed that milfoil will reappear in Salmon Lake, it has for the time being been contained. Good news!

Since there are eight known infestations in close proximity to Torsey, the threat remains very real. So once again this year, Courtesy Boat Inspectors with their yellow T-shirts will be at the boat launch inspecting boats and educating boaters on the danger of invasive plants.

They are our first line of defense and consist of a great group of volunteers and resources provided through the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. Coverage will begin over the Memorial Day Weekend and run through Labor Day.

In addition to the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program, an invasive plant survey will be done on the pond near the end of the summer. The survey performed last year incorporated a large portion of the pond, and no invasives were identified.

This is our second line of defense. Should an infestation occur, it is critical to quickly identify and contain any invasive plants. Funding is provided through a grant from the state of Maine, the town of Readfield and individual contributions.

If you get a chance, stop by the launch and say “hi” to the folks protecting the pond we love.

— *Andy Zuorski*

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**Please visit our website at  
[www.torseypond.org](http://www.torseypond.org)!**

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If you would like to be added to an email distribution list for the association, please email your newsletter editor at [holly@thundercastle.com](mailto:holly@thundercastle.com).

She promises not to spam you! You will be notified only about issues affecting Torsey Pond directly.