



TPPA Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

30 April, 2008

Special points of interest

- Water Quality Problems
- Need new President for 2008 Season
- More boats were inspected this year than ever.
- Getting Boats Ready for Summer Season

Inside This Issue

A View From Shore	1
President's Message	2
Landscaping at Water's Edge	2
Getting Your Boat Ready for Summer	3
Your Milton Conservation Commission	3
Great East Lake Removed from Milfoil Infestation List	4
Legislative Update	5
Lake Host Program Breaks Records	6
Toxins in Townhouse Pond	7

A VIEW FROM SHORE

A Wake-up Call
By Bob Myrick



I'm a practical realist with a propensity toward procrastination and sloth, usually choosing least disruptive over cautious behavior. My nature and beliefs make me a bit lax towards security, safety, and health issues with my worldview of similar ilk. Ah, if only I ran the world. My family knows I tend to under-react to questionable conditions and they gladly point out my folly when I exceed the posted speed limit to keep up with traffic or ignore how sanitary the hotdog vendor is at the ball game. Life is too short to duck every time I hear a quack. So with it understood that I don't wave many red flags, I do feel it's time to say out loud - [Milton, we've got a problem!](#)

For those who were not present on April 9th to hear the points of concerns presented about our water at the NROC Water Resource forum, a storm flag has been raised. Dr Jim Haney and Professor Jeff Schloss both of UNH talked about the Salmon Falls watershed, the Three Ponds, and the public drinking water. The information they presented is troubling; and they made it clear our water quality is at a critical juncture.

First off, the 17-year water sampling of all three ponds has shown a steady decline in clarity and oxygen content; but, it is the condition of Townhouse, which is most alarming. Clearly all three ponds show problems, but the Salmon Falls River continually flushes Northeast and Depot Ponds leaving Townhouse with the full effects of our manmade issues. The most distressing part of this is the resulting growth of bacteria that produce toxins in quantities, which could threaten public health. And the punch line is it's all preventable. Now, that alarms me!

With the Milton public wells in close proximity of Townhouse Pond and the town beach at the lake's heart, we are witnessing a serious problem emerging that could affect every aspect of the community, with the ramifications on everyone's doorstep. There could be consequences of contaminated drinking water, closing of the beach, greater decline in prop-

erty values, crippling of our tax base, greater risk to wildlife, and fishing reduced to alewife, carp and catfish. This is a Milton, Lebanon, Salmon Falls River, and Three Ponds issue that won't fade quietly into the woods.

The causes are multiple and all man-made. The chief culprit seems to be excess nutrients and other pollutants getting into the water. Contributing to this are the lack of lakeside buffers, bad septic systems, clear-cutting, indiscriminate use of fertilizers and pesticides, too many impermeable surfaces, and oil residue from motorboats and winter vehicles. All the landowners whose runoff is within reach of the river or lakes can adversely impact water quality. I seriously doubt that anyone is deliberately broadcasting a bag of Scotts into Townhouse to watch the algae grow, but without a proper buffer that is the result; and Depot and Northeast can easily fall victim too.

This day and age everyone loves to ask, 'in which direction do I throw my stone?' If it was all that easy we could just point and heave and forget to look at our own behaviors. Unfortunately, it's more of a complex collective issue. In the words of Walt Kelly's Pogo – "We have met the enemy and he is us". The reality is it's all self-inflicted from multiple sources over a long period of bad habits and neglect. If you live up the beach, upstream, uphill, up wind, or up to life as usual, it will be up to you to shoulder some responsibility for the Three Ponds condition. If we all can't buy into this, it will be a long expensive ride to an ugly end.

As a community, we will need to look at our own habits, get educated on best practices, join an active organization, open our mouths and generally **get involved**. We clearly have a problem and sitting on the shoreline waiting for the town or others to clean up this mess won't clear the water. We have ducked this issue long enough and it's time to get quacking. Jump in and get wet before it's too late.

Editor's Note: A Rochester Times Article about Dr Haney's presentation is reprinted on page 7.

President's Message



Steve Baker,
TPPA President

A few short weeks days ago I was worried the snow would **never** stop or ever disappear. Yet, here I am today writing this on my deck with the awning up to shield me from the 80 degree sun. While I still have a bit of snow in my yard and nearby in the woods, all that white stuff is soon to be just a cool memory. Like the unusual winter we've just endured, thus far spring has also been atypical, with warm and extremely dry conditions prevailing.

Where is all the rain we normally get? Not wanting to jinx anything, I don't assume at this point we've avoided the deluge of the past two years, so I'll end that discussion. On the subject of flooding, we've invited James Gallagher the head of the State of NH's Dam Bureau to speak at our May TPPA Meeting (5/22 @7PM Emma Ramsey) . I'm quite sure he's hoping this year's weather will be different than the last two to avoid the damaging

floods.

That said, the weather is not what's on my mind these days. And, despite the rising prices of gas, food, and heating oil, those problems are also lower on my list. What I'm getting really worried about is the Three Ponds water quality. On April 9th a group of about 70 folks from the community heard Dr. Haney present his findings from the series of water quality tests we ran last summer (our 17th year of testing). His presentation was very similar to all the others I've heard – only worse. It was his distressing charts and dire warnings in September of 2004 that prompted me to

“Another disappointment for me is TPPA membership numbers. ...I have trouble understanding why anyone would ignore the issues or look the other way.”

start TPPA. The differences this year are; the charts have three more years of discouraging data, and I heard the word toxic used for the first time. TOXIC, now that word is an attention getter! I can tell you after the word was used a lot of people got very quiet. Those who know Jim Haney also know he is not an alarmist, he doesn't say things for shock value. (See Rochester Times story on page 7)

Although we've made good strides on the weed monitoring and milfoil prevention side of the ledger on the Three Ponds, and

continue to win grant funds from both NH and Maine to continue this work, we've done very little if anything to address the “manmade” problems we have. Another disappointment for me is TPPA membership numbers. Of the roughly 550 waterfront property owners in Milton/Lebanon our membership numbers are hovering around 135. It should be higher, more folks need to take our goals seriously and join the team. Aside from the obvious aesthetic impact of dirty water, our property values are highly correlated with the water quality issues. So I have trouble understanding why anyone would ignore the issues or look the other way. The time for action is now.

This summer I will step down as President. I'm not quitting, just stepping aside for someone new to take the reins. I will remain fully involved as “Past President.” I'm hopeful one of the group of active workers will step forward to assume the role. We have much to do and being involved is not only a challenge, its fun and I've met more of my neighbors as a result, so that will not change. I encourage you to come to a TPPA meeting and find out how you can get involved and better educated about water quality issues.

Thanks

Landscaping at the Water's Edge — A Manual for NH Landowners

No matter where you live in New Hampshire, the actions you take in your landscape can have far reaching effects on water quality. Why? Because we are all connected to the water cycle and we all live in a watershed, the land area that drains into a surface water body such as a lake, river, or wetland.

“**Landscaping at the Water's Edge: An Ecological Approach**” is a new publication for NH landowners that will explain how our landscaping choices impact surface and ground waters and demonstrates how, with simple observations, ecologically-based design and low impact maintenance practices, you can protect, and even improve, the quality of our water resources.

Authors are UNH Cooperative Extension

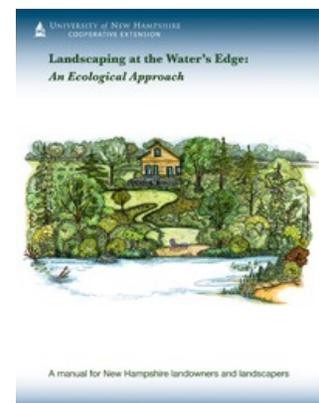
specialists and educators with expertise in horticulture, water resources, turf grass, entomology, planting and maintaining landscapes, and home lawn care.

Photos and sketches on almost every page provide clear examples of the concepts presented. The appendices carry extensive information about state regulations, recommended plant lists and other resources.

The book is designed to help landscapers and property owners living along New Hampshire's lakes, ponds, rivers and streams make decisions about landscape design and maintenance that will reduce pollution and environmental degradation.

Cost is \$20. Visit <https://www.events.unh.edu/register.shtml>!

[event_id=2703](#) for the order form. Payable to UNH Cooperative Extension and mail to: UNH Cooperative Extension Publications Center, Nesmith Hall, 131 Main St., Durham, NH 03824.



Getting Your Boat Ready for Summer

By Jeffrey Everett

The winter of 2007/2008 has been horrendous in New Hampshire and Maine. The snow has finally melted, and most of us can't wait to lose the memory and get back out on the water! It's that time of year again to start preparing for another boating season.



As the proprietor of Everett's Cove Marina, I was asked to submit an article on boating readiness. I've listed some of the easy fixes to bad situations that we have encountered. Whether you leave your boat on the water for the summer or you trailer it back and forth, there are some pre-season maintenance chores that are often overlooked every year.

Spending a lot of time on the launch ramp at the marina and boating on the lake, we

have seen more accidents/incidents than we care to remember. While some are truly accidents, the majority could have been prevented with some preventative maintenance and proper attention to detail while preparing the boat and launching. Below are just a few of the actions you should take at or before your first launch to avoid serious problems;

- **Check or replace the stern drain plug.** Imagine your boat sinking to the bottom of the lake. All of your summer gear is now floating, covered in oil. There is sheen on top of the water from the gas that was in your tank. Your boat has created an environmental mess! Your engine is full of water. The cause could have been avoided for \$5.00! We have seen several boats sink on the lake because the plug has failed. This is especially true when your plug is the rubber twist type. If you haven't changed it in a couple of years, it's time. The \$5.00 investment will seem like nothing if you are looking at your boat on the bottom of the lake! Most marinas and mechanics will remove the plug when they winterize your boat in the fall. Typically, they will leave it out if they summerize the boat in the spring. Reason: As a boat owner, you don't want water collect-

ing in the bilge prior to launch. Check the plug! This happens often and every marina and/or mechanic gets the blame... it's your boat, your responsibility... check it!

- **Have the boots inspected every year (inboard/outboards).** The boot is the rubber casing around the out drive. We have seen several boats where the boot failed and the boat sank or had significant water damage to the engine because of a boot failure (3 in 2007 that I know of alone). Boots will rot and crack with age just as any other rubber will. There is a tremendous amount of pressure on a boot keeping the lake out of your boat; and that pressure will eventually cause a boot to fail if it is too old.
- **Inspect all hoses and, if applicable, pipes that carry water.** This is especially true in the spring. A hose may have been missed when the boat was winterized. It happens more often than you might imagine. Once you float your boat, give it a few minutes and check the bilge. Any sign of water is much easier to deal with while still at the ramp. If there are other boats waiting to launch, tie the boat up and pull the trailer out but don't let it leave the area until you are

BOATS (Continued on page 6)

Your Milton Conservation Commission

We owe the Milton Conservation Commissioners many thanks for their hard work (without pay) to help protect Milton's wonderful array of natural resources.

The first step in protecting a significant natural area in your community is to contact your local Conservation Commission. A Conservation Commission is the local government entity charged with protecting a town's natural resource areas. Conservation Commissions may do this by acquiring lands, with the permission of the selectmen, and manage these areas for conservation purposes. They provide a focal point within municipal government for environmental concerns. They may advise the planning board and other local bodies on conservation matters.

According to Cynthia Wyatt, Milton Conservation Commission (MCC) chairperson, the MCC made a deliberate decision in 2002 to become much more proactive with regard to its duties (defined in RSA 36-A) to: "Protect and encourage the proper use of local resources; protect watershed areas; conduct research on the use of local land and water areas; seek to coordinate local conservation group; establish an index of open space and wetlands areas with information as to their proper and best use (Natural Resource Inventory.)"

From 2002 to 2004, MCC performed a Natural Resource Inventory of the town's most valuable natural resource features. Then, with help from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, MCC incorporated

the NRI into a Natural Resource Chapter of Milton's Master Plan. The Natural Resource Chapter includes policies and implementation strategies to protect all of Milton's natural resource areas, including Milton Three Ponds. This chapter also includes an index of valuable additional documents, resources, and maps, including Milton's NRI.

Since 2004, many of the implementation strategies recommended in the Master Plan for the protection of Milton's water resources have been accomplished. They include:

- Form a Lake Association to help implement many of the strategies for pro-

CONSERVATION (Continued on page 4)

Great East Lake Removed from Milfoil Infestation List

Rapid Response Nips New Infestation in Bud Maine Department of Environmental Protection, October 2007

Now, Maine has just 28 water bodies (that we know of) infested with invasive aquatic plants. Last summer's early detection of Variable leaf milfoil in Great East Lake on Maine's border ended a two-year record of no new invasive plant infestations in Maine inland waters. Thanks to a volunteer trained in removing plants by hand and no evidence of repopulation of the invasive plant in the site one year since it was uprooted, Maine officials have taken the unprecedented action of de-listing this York County border lake from its roster of 29 documented infestations of invasive aquatic plants. No new infestations of Variable milfoil or any other invasive aquatic plant populations have been reported in Maine thus far in 2007.

The volunteer who discovered the plant, Carol Lafond, is a volunteer Weed Watcher for the Great East Lake Improvement Association. The de-listing of an infested site is considered extraordinary by scientists who are accustomed to seeing invasive species as inexorable once established.

"It's a landmark event when biologists can announce an invasive species has been eradicated," says Paul Gregory, an environmental specialist for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. "Vigilance shown by Carol and her lake association to detect, remove and then continue monitoring this infestation is a blue-chip example of how invaluable volunteers are in fighting invasive species."

Subsequent monitoring in 2007 by Lafond and other volunteers has revealed no signs of either regrowth of the initial plant or new plants. By its nature as an invasive species, variable milfoil is an aggressive reproducer able to spread quickly, out-competing native

"Vigilance shown by Carol and her lake association to detect, remove and then continue monitoring this infestation is a blue-chip example of how invaluable volunteers are in fighting invasive species."

plant species for habitat.

"Normally, volunteers like Carol are trained to identify and remove Variable milfoil with a practical goal in mind: to contain the infestation effectively before it spreads elsewhere within a given lake or into another lake," says



DEP's Gregory. "Carol exceeded this goal by responding rapidly at the optimum moment when the plant was identifiable and before it had the opportunity to spread, thereby eradicating the species from this lake."

Efforts to prevent, detect and manage aquatic invasive plants are made possible by boat registration fees and sticker revenue deposited into the Maine Lake and River Protection Fund.

CONSERVATION (Continued from page 3)

tecting Milton Three Ponds.

- Preserve shore side buffers that filter out pollutants - MCC has worked with the Planning Board to develop and support several ordinances such as the Wetlands Ordinance, Groundwater Protection Overlay District, Shoreland Protection Overlay District, Conservation Overlay District, Transfer of Development Rights Ordinance, Stormwater & Erosion Control Regulation. Recently, MCC applied for and received a technical assistance grant to review all of our present ordinances for relevancy and consistency
- Protect Milton's Strategic Wetlands - MCC worked with Moose Mountain Regional Greenways (MMRG) to obtain a grant from the New Hampshire

Estuaries Project to perform a wetlands evaluation of Milton's 10 most valuable wetlands. This evaluation by Blue Moon Environmental, Inc. is a huge component of Milton's NRI, and will help for future conservation planning.

- Increase voluntary land conservation - MCC has had great success working with MMRG and other NH land trusts on voluntary land protection projects such as the 2200 acres Moose Mountain parcel which forms one of the headwaters of the Salmon Falls River, the Milton Mills Jappe project which is working on protecting 800 acres along the Salmon Falls River and Jones Brook, 173 acres on Union Meadows, and 103 acres of historic blueberry fields on the top of Teneriffe Mountain. Through another grant from the NH

Estuaries Project, MMRG is assisting MCC in developing an Open Space Plan.

- Establish a Conservation Fund - MCC obtained the Selectmen's support for a warrant article that would deposit 50% of the land use change tax into the Conservation Fund per RSA 79-A. These funds are used for such purposes as preservation of natural resources, and the purchase of conservation land and easements. The MCC has utilized these funds for the Teneriffe Mt. project, the Salmon Falls Headwater Project, and to help with expenses for monitoring existing town owned conservation lands and easements, as well as several other conservation projects.

Legislative Update

Waterfront Septic Failure Notification Bill Passes NH House Committee

The Problem

Numerous studies have identified waterfront septic systems as a significant non-point-source of pollution and water quality degradation. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) is required to enforce against "failing" waterfront septic systems. Yet, because most of the state's waterfront homes have septic systems, and the state has limited funding and staff to adequately regulate septic system failures, this problem continues to grow especially in areas that are becoming developed or are re-developed.

Currently, RSA 485-A:39 requires that "prior to the execution of a purchase and sale for any developed waterfront property using a septic disposal system" the land-

owner "engage a permitted subsurface sewer or waste disposal designer to perform a site assessment study to determine if the site meets the current standards for septic disposal systems established by the department." RSA 485-A:39 further requires that findings of septic systems that do not meet current standards be reported to the buyer.

While many failed systems may be replaced or repaired as a result of the site assessment findings, there is no provision in the law that requires the permitted designer or the landowner to notify the DES or local authorities of a failed system or a system that is not meeting current standards. Therefore there is no true oversight being provided by the state to ensure that failed systems or systems that do not meet current standards are repaired or replaced.

The Remedy

SB 384, a Waterfront Septic Failure Notification Bill, was initiated by the joint efforts

of the NH Lakes Association and the NH Rivers Council, and sponsored by Senator Kathy Sgambati (D-Tilton).

SB 384 would require that the NH DES and local authorities be notified when a septic system is found to be failing during a site assessment of developed waterfront property (lakes and 4th order and larger streams).

SB 384 is being supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the NH DES, the Granite State Designers and Installers Association, the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee, and the NH Lakes Management Advisory Committee.

SB 384 passed the NH House of Representatives Resources, Recreation and Development (RR&D) Committee with a vote of 13-6. A House floor vote on SB 384 is scheduled to be taken on April 23.

NH LAKES and the "ski craft" Loophole

According to the Fall 2007 Issue of LAKE-SIDE, a publication of the NH Lakes Association (NH LAKES), NH LAKES is contemplating legislation in 2008 that would seek to correct the "ski craft" loophole, making it a definitional subset of the term "personal watercraft", therefore allowing individual water bodies to also seek prohibitions related to these vessels and "ski craft" at the same time.

RSA 270:73. defines "ski craft" as any mo-

torized watercraft or private boat, which is less than 13 feet in length as manufactured, is capable of exceeding a speed of 20 mph, and has the capacity to carry not more than the operator and one other person while in operation. The term includes jet ski, surf ski, fun ski, or other similar device.

When the definition for "ski craft" was passed into law, similar three-and-four-person "personal watercraft" had yet to evolve. Several lakes and ponds in the state legally petitioned to prohibit "ski craft" from operating on their water bodies. Many of these lakes and ponds, where "ski craft" had

been prohibited by law, saw a sudden explosion in the number of indistinguishable three-and-four-person "personal watercraft" on their water bodies and began to complain, arguing that these vessels were violating existing prohibitions. However, despite their identical appearance and equivalent functionality to "ski craft", three-and-four-person "personal watercraft" are not prohibited by law on water bodies which have banned the "ski craft", due to a legal loophole that has been left unremedied.

SB 358 Continues to "Moor" in Subcommittee

NH Senate Bill SB 358 establishes a citizen-driven petition process (25 signatures per municipality abutting a lake) to require the Department of Safety to hold a public hearing to determine the necessity of moorings regulations. The bill is still being discussed in a House subcommittee.

Currently, only the six "big lakes" (Sunapee, Newfound, Ossipee, Winnepesaukee, Win-

nisquam, and Squam) fall under the NH moorings regulation. However, as both of the state and regional populations grow, many lakes are being visited by an increasing number of recreational users, including boaters. Moorings, if not properly regulated, pose a threat to both humans and the environment as boats become sporadically placed in different areas throughout a water body and, in some cases, in very large numbers. In some instances, more boats even prevent property owners from accessing the public water in front of their property.

While this is not currently an issue at the Three Ponds, it has become increasingly problematic in many localized "pockets" of the state, especially as many lake groups seek to balance the different uses of their particular water bodies.

BOATS (Continued from page 3)

sure all is well. We speak from experience.

- **Check the cable/rope attaching the boat to the winch.**
If it is frayed at all, replace it. We have seen many instances of these failing. In two incidents (one of a cable and the other a rope), while pulling a boat out of the water, the force of the recoiling rope/cable hit the operator in the face and shattered teeth! If you cannot inspect the line with the boat on the trailer, do so after your first launch.
- **Don't disconnect your bow from the trailer until the boat is in the water.**
This is especially important if you have a roller trailer. There is nothing more difficult to move than a boat that rolled off of the trailer 30 feet before the water (or more embarrassing for that matter!)
- **Inspect your trailer tires.**
Trailers are often ignored when it comes to routine maintenance, especially if you only use it once a year. Often, in the fall, someone will back a trailer into the lake with full tires, load

a boat and pull out with 2 flat tires. Check the pressure before you use the trailer. If the tires are rotten, replace them.

- **Check your trailer for rust.**
There are a lot of trailers that were manufactured to look good with paint but lack any significant rust protection. Paint can often hide serious rust issues. We've seen a couple of trailers that looked good actually crack in half under the weight of a boat.
- **Charge your battery in the spring.**
And make sure it has enough power to turn over the engine. The first start of the year can be the toughest. You don't want to be one of the many that get towed back to the launch ramp on your first outing of the year.
- **Monitor your engine.**
If you have an inboard or Inboard/outboard, make sure that it is cooling properly (check the gauges). Outboards should have stream of water coming out the back. These can become blocked and cause overheating or the impeller can fail (especially over a long cold winter).
- **Get your registrations and affix**

the stickers before you get to the launch!

In 2008, Maine incorporates the Milfoil sticker with the registration for Maine residents. If you are a New Hampshire resident and dock your boat in Maine, you need a non-resident sticker. New Hampshire assesses their Milfoil tax with their boat registration and no extra stickers are necessary.

- **Inspect your life vests and throw cushion.**
You don't want to be in a time of need and find out that a mouse used your vest for a winter home! Nor do you want to show that same mouse house when Marina Patrol asks to inspect you.
- **Do a complete inspection of the boat, trailer and live wells for any weeds.**
This is especially important if you take your boat from lake to lake. Invasive weeds are the number one killer of great lakes. Don't spread these weeds from lake to lake. Once you are on the water, enjoy and please be safe!

2007 Lake Host Program Breaks Records.

A record number of boat inspections were conducted in both New Hampshire and Maine as part of the 2007 Lake Host Programs.

Boats Inspected Statewide.

State/Year	2007	2006
NH	44,183	34,878
ME	49,783	40,435
Total	93,966	75,316

Boats Inspected at Milton/Lebanon Three Ponds

State/Year	2007	2006
NH	1059	867
ME	380	329
Total	1439	1196



Jeff and Alex Everett at Everett's Cove



Karen Johnson At Milton Town Beach

Toxins in Milton's Townhouse Pond worry UNH boffin

By John Nolan

jnolan@fosters.com

Article Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008

The Rochester Times

MILTON — "We've got a problem. The levels for Townhouse Pond are off the charts," Dr. Jim Haney of UNH's Zoology Department told a packed room in Nute High School last week. Haney was referring to the chlorophyll levels, which he said were reaching into the "eutrophic range," and signalling a problem with increased toxic cyanobacteria, more familiarly known as blue-green algae.

It was not lost on the audience that the popular swimming locale, Milton Town Beach, lies along the shore of Townhouse Pond. Pulling no punches, Haney warned that scum containing the strong toxins produced by bacteria in the pond could wash up along the water's edge.

"Three teaspoonfuls are enough to kill a small child," he said. "If you see any green material, send it to UNH or DES (Department of Environmental Services). They'll test it, and they could shut the beach down. It is deadly."

"We are also looking to see if loons are affected," continued Haney, and he advised pet owners not to let their dogs drink from Townhouse Pond. The boffin recited instances of dogs suddenly keeling over after unwittingly lapping toxin-laced water from Lake Champlain.

Earlier in his 20-minute presentation — which was part of an evening program focused on water quality in Milton Three Ponds and the Salmon Falls River Watershed — Haney explained why Townhouse Pond is more affected by contaminants than either Depot Pond or Northeast Pond.

Milton Three Ponds is fed and flushed by a relatively large watershed. However, while the waters from the Salmon Falls and Branch rivers flow through Northeast Pond, and via a broad channel, into Depot Pond, they have little impact on Townhouse Pond, which is tucked behind a peninsula. Townhouse Pond is fed by streams from a much smaller area and is not as oxygenated, especially at its lower depths.

Haney said that thanks to an initiative back in 1991 by Milton resident Jan Nelson, a water quality monitoring program was established, which, to his admitted surprise, took off and is now one of the best in the state. It has provided data for the past 17 years, allowing trends in water quality and contaminants to be charted. While Depot and Northeast ponds compare favorably with other New Hampshire lakes, Haney said that he had concerns about Townhouse.

"Every year the chlorophyll goes up," said Haney, referring to a standard indicator of water quality — in this case, declining water quality. "It has skyrocketed since 2002. Something is happening. We've got a problem."

The chlorophyll has helped to eliminate oxygen from the lower levels of Townhouse Pond. At this point, Haney showed a slide of microscopic organisms that enjoy such conditions — organisms that struck a sinister chord with the audience when he showed them in greatly magnified detail as gliding, snakelike creatures.

These are the bacteria non grata, according to Haney, that produce strong toxins and, in sufficient concentrations, are hazardous to health.

Adding to the concern, Haney, who is also a Milton Water Commissioner, pointed out that the town's two municipal wells are located close to Townhouse Pond and draw from sandy deposits partially fed by the lake.

Following Haney's talk, Jeffrey Schloss of UNH Cooperative Extension gave a presentation that included strategies for diminishing



John Nolan/The Rochester Times photo Dr. James Haney of UNH's Department of Zoology gives a slide presentation to Milton residents which elaborates on the declining water quality in Milton Three Ponds. Haney is a Milton resident and also serves as a water commissioner.

the negative impacts of development on rivers and lakes — by planting shoreland buffers, creating drip trenches to catch water from impervious surfaces like roofs and hot top, and reducing or avoiding the use of insecticides and fertilizers.

The economic value of New Hampshire's lakes and rivers, as estimated in 2002 dollars, is \$1.8 billion, said Schloss, listing the recreational activities they support. Around 14,000 jobs are also dependent upon these water bodies.

He also said that a three-foot drop in a lake's water clarity, as can occur with algae blooms or sediment run off, can result in a 10 to 20 percent loss in property values of surrounding properties — something that affects all of a community's residents, lake dwellers or not, by dint of a shrinking tax base.

Schloss, in illustrating how devastating insecticides, such as ant killing solutions, can be, said that one teaspoonful in 1,447 gallons will be fatal for a rainbow trout, while it only takes one teaspoonful in 162,760 gallons (about one part per billion) to be a death warrant for daphnia stoneflies — small aquatic bugs which helpfully snack on phosphorus.

He also revealed that 80 percent of all endangered plants and animals spend all or part of their lives in aquatic areas.

After Schloss, the evening was wrapped up with short addresses from Milton Conservation Commissioner Cynthia Wyatt and from Bob Myrick, who is an active volunteer in Milton's Natural Resources Outreach Coalition initiative.

All three Milton selectmen attended the meeting, and speaking this week, chairman of the board, Tom Gray, expressed surprise at Haney's revelations about the levels of toxins in Townhouse Pond being higher than in other New Hampshire water bodies.

"It was a real eye-opener. We certainly have to look at it. We might bring it up at our next meeting on April 21," said Gray.

The selectman noted that the water at the town beach is tested annually before opening for the summer.

"This year we will test for everything and see what Dr. Haney's group recommends. We have to ensure it is not dangerous," said Gray.

TPPA Election of Officers Scheduled for 22 June Membership Meeting

Our By-Laws specify that officers be elected at an annual meeting of the Membership. This year the election will take place at our 22 June 2008 meeting. **Please plan to attend!**

Our founding President, Steve Baker, is stepping down and we hope that one of our active volunteers/members will accept a nomination for the President's position. If that person is one of our current officers, then we will also need a replacement for that position.

We are also looking for people to work on:

- **Newsletter Staff** – write and/or find articles, produce, edit, distribute.
- **Public Relations** - assist President in relations with the press and public officials
- **Water Quality Research** – find out what other lakes assocn's are doing; administer funded studies
- **Education and Outreach** – prepare/find/distribute education materials; ar-

range for meeting speakers

- **Membership** – plan membership drives; maintain roster
- **Tax and Legal Matters** – keep us out of jail

We hope that the leader of each of the above areas will be willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

To let us know the areas in which you would like to work, contact Mike McDonnell at 652-4769 or Norm Turgeon at 652-7863.

Did You Know That?

Milton Zoning Ordinance Article XX prohibits the use of fertilizer, except lime and/or wood ash, on all land within 250 feet of the shoreline of public waters.

Membership Matters

We wish to thank our members for their generous contributions of both dollars and volunteer hours. We hope you will renew for 2008, and that you will encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well.
TPPA Board

TPPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen Baker (President)
Mike McDonnell (Vice Pres/
Treas)
Norm Turgeon (Secretary)
Emery Booska
Linda Dame
Mike Dubois
Jeff Everett
Bob Myrick
Dolly Shevenell

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.THREEPONDS.ORG

Webmaster Dave Dorris
at
Three Ponds Consulting

Contact us at
sbaker@threeponds.org

TPPA MEETINGS are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the EMMA RAMSEY CENTER at 7PM.

Three Ponds Protective Association NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2008

Name:	
Permanent	Summer
Address:	Address:
City, State and Zip:	City, State and Zip:
Phone # :	Phone # :
E-mail Address:	E-mail Address:

Family Membership*

- Supporter \$15
- Sponsor \$25
- Patron \$50
- Benefactor \$75
- Conservator \$100

Business Membership

- Silver \$50
- Gold \$100
- Platinum \$200

Own Waterfront Property? [Y/N]

Renewing members need only provide address (including e-mail) if it has changed.

**Make check payable to: TPPA
Mail Application and Payments to:
TPPA**

**P.O. Box 1242
Milton, NH 03851**

* Individuals who cannot contribute one of these amounts may still become members. Whatever one can afford is sufficient. Members are encouraged to contribute by volunteering to work as an officer or action team member.

Members and Prospective Members are invited to attend the **TPPA ANNUAL PICNIC** at **EVERETT COVE MARINA** starting at 6 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 24 JULY. Get your free hamburgers, hot dogs and soda