

Little Ossipee Lake Association

2011 Annual Newsletter



LOLA the loon

ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, August 13th, a day at
Camp Laughing Loon**

YOGA 7:30am
Meeting 9:30am

*Cookout/Social 11:30-2:30pm
(lunch will be served 12-2)
FREE Food for Current Members

*DANCE 6-10 pm

**Bring your own beverage*

Message from the President... Michael Taflas

Welcome, everyone, to the 2011 season! I often wonder where we would be, without beautiful Little Ossipee Lake to come to and share with our family and friends every year. I would like to open this article with a personal thank you to our Officers, Directors, Alternates, members and volunteers that participated in the 2010 season. All of you who participated in our 2010 season are without a doubt the best group of folks in the world... : >)

The theme this year was real easy to come up with and falls in line perfectly with the July 4th boat parade theme. During the 2010 season, one outstanding concern developed that we, as an organization, would be remiss if we did not attempt to address in 2011; and that concern is that our lake membership is significantly lower than in past years. Watching our membership decline without taking immediate action would have an immense impact on our ability to function at a level we feel is required to preserve and protect Little Ossipee Lake.

A strong Lake Association requires:

- A full board of Officers, Directors and Alternates, (currently there are several alternate slots open)

- A solid group of volunteers ready to support yearly activities
- A strong, caring group of members whose yearly dues help support all the lake functions
- Your current LOLA Board of Directors is a fairly aggressive group of individuals who are action oriented and continuously work toward achieving results as evidenced by what we were able to accomplish during the 2010 season.
- Procurement and Installation of the safety buoys'
- Water testing
- Re-branding our mission. E-Cubed, Preserve and Protect Little Ossipee Lake through Education, Eradication and Erosion Control.
- Incorporating a "Clean the Lake Day"
- Involvement in a local scholarship fund
- On-going effort with our Erosion Control Project (ECP)
- Re-designing the July 4th boat parade
- Hosting our 2nd annual meeting at "Camp Laughing Loon" which incorporates Yoga, Lake Barbeque and Benefit Dance.

So, with all the benefits LOLA is providing to the lake and local community, we have to ask ourselves, why is our membership down? Maybe the benefits provided to Little Ossipee Lake have not been effectively delivered. As your president, I accept full responsibility for the failure in delivering the message that a strong lake association requires solid membership. Traditionally, many folks become involved during the boat parade which leads us to believe that this is a great opportunity to entice folks to become involved. Therefore, a very fitting boat parade theme has been selected for the 2011 season and that is, "We the People"... The United States Constitution is an extremely influential and powerful document that continues to shape our history and country. The first three words mean everything to me and for this message; I hope this rings true for you as well. *We the People...* Our forefathers clearly understood that it is the people who make this country great, the people make the difference. We do

not sit idle and think someone else will take care of our issues, we the people get involved and move toward a happier life. It is our right, as a citizen of the United States.

So, in the spirit of the United States Constitution; *We the People* of Little Ossipee Lake Association are working hard to educate our association and community on how to be an effective lake steward. We will continue to monitor and be involved in eradicating any and all invasive plants and animals that populate our lake, as well as fight all erosion concerns that tip the delicate ecosystem of Little Ossipee. Our goal is to aggressively work to preserve Little Ossipee for this generation and the generations of the future.

We the People of Little Ossipee Lake need your help, regardless of age and abilities! We need more involved members to help us with our goal to protect our lake environment; so we are, once again, reaching out to you for your help. You, our members, need to reach out to your lake neighbors to see if they are a part of this association. If not, ask them why? If they say something negative please let us know and I will personally reach out to them. If they simply forgot to sign up last year give them the extra attached membership dues form to fill out. Follow up with them, downstream to see if they joined our lake association community.

We the People, the community of folks that make up Little Ossipee Lake Association in 2011, will set the example for future generations to continue to preserve the beauty of Little Ossipee Lake!

See you on the Lake!
-Mike Taflas



2010-2011 Dam Report

- Don Holden, "The Dam Man"

Summer level is 6' 6" and winter level is 4' 6" . This is a reading taken from a scale at the dam.

This report starts in August 2010 and is a continuation of the report I gave at the annual lake association meeting.

This past year was the year we attempted to lower the lake an additional amount so shore line repairs can be done. The ability to lower the lake an extra amount, strictly depends on mother nature.

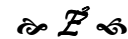
Because of heavy rain all 3 gates were opened on the 29th of September which lead to the start of the winter draw down. On December 12th the lake reached its lowest level of 4.0'.

Ice-in occurred on January 2, and ice out took place during the day of April 17, which is considered quite late.

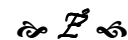
Heavy spring rains along with heavy snow run off have brought the lake to summer level and the gates are still open as of this day May 7th.

Late last fall, engineers inspected the gates that are leaking to determine the scope of work required to replace the gaskets between the concrete dam and the aluminum gates. In doing so, much of the remaining gaskets got pulled out and the leak as we speak today is very significant. I'm told by the selectmen's office that the money has been raised and the repairs will take place this spring. At this point there is no choice because summer level will not be able to be maintained this summer with all gates closed.

I will continue to follow up on the repair needed to the dam and report back to the lake association.



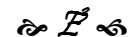
Congratulations to Martha Cyr & Ethel Hackett, winners of the 2011 LOLA Ice-Out Contest!



Little Ossipee Morning Yoga!

- Lindsay Taflas

All are welcome to attend an early morning yoga class with certified yoga teacher, Lindsay Taflas, for a class that is sure to help you begin your day right. This will be a **FREE** class, starting at **7:30 AM on the morning of the Lake Association Annual Meeting**. Weather permitting the class will take place outside, overlooking the beautiful lake at Camp Laughing Loon. If you're an experienced yogi or a beginner, join us for some early morning serenity. Please wear comfortable clothes, and bring a yoga mat or towel.



2010-2011 Scholarship Winner

- Sandy Labelle

Congratulations to Masabesic senior, Delani O'Connell of Lyman! Delani was awarded a \$500 scholarship and will be attending the University of

Vermont to study veterinary medicine. We wish her the very best in her academic pursuits!



The Clean-up Day is Saturday, June 25th

As you take that leisure ride in your pontoon boat, paddle in your kayak or canoe, or fly by on a tube or on skies, take a few seconds to make an effort to retrieve any litter encountered. That can, styrofoam cup, plastic bag, etc. is not only harmful to the environment but to you as well.

To enjoy the lake for many years to come, we all must be good stewards of Little Ossipee. Please help protect against pollution, and debris in the lake. By working together and not putting anything into Little Ossipee Lake that does not belong, and by removing all items from the ice before before melting, we will preserve its pristine quality forever. Each of us cares deeply about Little Ossipee Lake, we all want to maintain this beautiful treasure.

Little Ossipee Lake Association's (LOLA) mission is to preserve and protect Little Ossipee Lake through Education Eradication, and Erosion control. PLEASE DO YOUR PART.



Water Quality Report

by Bob & Sandy Labelle

The Little Ossipee Lake Association in conjunction with the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has collected valuable water quality monitoring data since 1977. The testing is done every two weeks from Ice Out through October. During this period, 33 years of Secchi Disc Transparencies (SDT) and basic chemical information were collected.

Secchi Disc Transparencies are a direct measure of the water clarity and an indirect measure of algal growth. Unless a lake is highly colored or turbid from suspended sediment, transparency readings of 2 meters or less generally indicate a severe algal bloom according to the 2010 Maine Lakes Report. Little Ossipee Lake transparency readings are typically between 5.9 and 11.9 with an average reading of 8.2 meters. Of the 390 Maine lakes that were monitored in 2010, Little Ossipee Lake ranked 357 with 1 being the worst and 390 the best. Additionally, of the 26

lakes monitored in York County, only Great East Lake in Acton had a higher Secchi Disc average.

The basic chemical information includes water temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements at every meter down to twenty meters in the deepest part of the lake. Additionally, water samples are submitted to the state for Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a monitoring.

As a direct result of this testing, the water quality of Little Ossipee Lake is considered to be excellent and the potential for nuisance algal blooms is also very low. That's the good news.

Of the 2,314 Maine lakes classified as "Significant", 181 Maine lakes are classified as a Priority Watershed. These 181 lakes have water quality that is either impaired, or threatened to some degree from non-point source pollution (pollution runoff) from land use activities in the watershed. Little Ossipee Lake is classified as a **Priority Watershed**.

The Maine VLMP has also classified Little Ossipee Lake as a "**Lake At Risk**" as defined by the Maine Storm-water Management Law. This law provides a higher level of protection from storm-water runoff by development activities within the Water-shed and additional permitting is required for projects that disturb more than one acre of land within this area.

If you would like additional information you can contact the Maine DEP at (207) 287-3901 or the VLMP at (207) 783-7733, or on the Internet at

<http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/waterquality/>
and/or
<http://www.pearl.maine.edu>

On behalf of the Little Ossipee Lake Association, we would like to thank all of you for your support. It is through your membership that this important monitoring is possible. With everyone's help, our future generations may be able to enjoy our beautiful lake as we have.

The mission of the VLMP is to foster stewardship of Maine's lakes and their watersheds in order to insure high water quality and ecological integrity. This is accomplished by the collection of credible lake data by trained citizen volunteers, and by providing education material to the citizens of Maine.

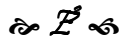
NOTE: Information provided by the 2010 Maine Lakes Report, the annual report of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program



Invasive Plant Inspection

Our newest member of the Board of Directors, David Raye, has been pursuing training as an invasive plant monitor. Dave will continue the efforts initiated by Wayne Gautreau and will share his findings with board members. Little Ossipee has a lot of shoreline and area that requires monitoring – too much for one or two plant inspectors. As Dave has taught us – early detection is critical for successful eradication.

You can help by getting to know your shoreline. Make an effort to identify plants and watch growth patterns from season to season and year to year. If you see foreign vegetation, contact a member of the board who will help you determine whether it is a native or invasive species.



July 4th Boat Parade

Based on the positive feedback we received last year, we will follow the same route.

Day and Time:

Monday, July 4th at 11:00am



Theme:

“We the People” –

Before 11:00am -

Pick up your number at Frank Salvo’s dock down by the dam; this is the usual location.

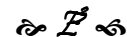
11:00 Parade Route -

The path of the boat parade commences at Frank Salvo’s dock where you pick up your number. Once you have secured your number, your tour of the lake will take you to Bear Island (which is the largest

Island on the lake) where you will see a barge anchored with a big Red Star. When you approach the barge, show them your entry number and in turn, they will hand you a Red Star. Continue your ride to Camp Laughing Loon and just past Camp Laughing Loon, you will see a Big Blue Star at the end of a dock. Again, show them your entry number and the Red Star and they will give you a Blue Star. You will need both stars (Red and Blue) and your entry number to be considered for a prize. Once your Blue Star has been secured, continue your journey along the shoreline to the judge’s station at Weymouth Point where the judges will be waiting to select the winners. Remember that once you approach the judge’s station, you want to dazzle them with song and entertainment which, by the way, you may want to do throughout your journey around the lake as many of the residents on shore will be cheering you on!

Throughout your journey, please remember to respect the boating laws and to give ample room to the boats or barges in front of you.

Remember, think Safety First and Good Luck!



Have a great summer!

from the LOLA Board of Directors

Officers:

Mike Taflas, President

Stan Goff, Vice-President

Karen Cummings, Secretary/Webmaster

Ed Doggett, Treasurer

Directors:

John Cyr, Ross Dindio (Parliamentarian),

Barbara Hamor, Bob Labelle, Sandy

Labelle, Barbara Lamont, David Raye, Stu

Lamont, Donna Taflas, Bob Thomas

Alternates:

OPEN – Please consider becoming an Alternate.

Come to a board meeting to show your interest!



Membership



LOLA the loon

If you have already sent your dues, THANK YOU! If not, please send the completed form with your dues by June 25th.

Membership Dues 2011

Mail to: Little Ossipee Lake Association, P.O.Box 204, E. Waterboro, ME 04030

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____ Map/Lot #(If Known) _____

Phone: #1 _____ #2 _____

Email: _____

Dues per cottage/household : **\$ 15.00**

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

Please make payable to *Little Ossipee Lake Association*.

E³ Preserve and Protect Little Ossipee Lake through Education, Eradication, and Erosion Control