

Invasive Plant Patrol Team

By David Raye

At the annual LOLA meeting last August, we gave a presentation to the membership encouraging them to join our IPP Team. The mission of the IPP Team is to perform an annual survey of the lake's aquatic plant life in order to detect the presence of any "non-native invasive aquatic plants (aka, MILFOIL)".

Wayne Gautreau has been the only IPP person on Ossipee Lake for the past eight years. One person cannot survey a lake of this size adequately. We need to assist Wayne in this extremely important mission. Early detection of an invasive aquatic plant is paramount to keeping our lake clean. National statistics indicate that once an invasive aquatic plant is detected, values can drop by as much as 20% for water front properties. A drop in waterfront property values not only affects those folks who live on the water, but the entire community; as tax payers would have to pay more because the mil rate would increase in order to cover the lost property tax revenue.

We're excited to report that LOLA has been selected to co-host, along with Melissa Brandt of York County Soil and Water Conservation, the 2012 IPP Intro and Field Survey Training, to be conducted by the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program Center (VLMP) for Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP). There are two phases to becoming a Certified Plant Patroller. Following are the training dates for IPP:

Phase #1: Tuesday, July 3 Waterboro Fire Department 2:00-8:00pm

This is a six-hour classroom course conducted by VLMP. There is a power point presentation and plant identification training.

Phase #2: Saturday, July 28 310 Webber Road (Taflas house) 8:30-12:30pm

This is a two - three hour session on the water. It involves gathering plant specimens and plant identification.

Also to complete the IPP certification process you must sign an affidavit stating that you are committed to continue the effort of the IPP Mission.

Not everyone can commit to all phases, but Phase #1 is the most important. The LOLA IPP Team can perform the on the water training later. We are also very fortunate to have Laurie Callahan, biologist for the York County Invasive Aquatic Plant Species Program, to assist us in our effort to keep our lake free of IAP's.

Becoming an IPP Team Member does not consume that much time. The more team members we have means that we can divide the lake into smaller, more manageable sections. In most cases, a team member can choose to perform the annual survey right in front of their own property.

Ossipee Lake is extremely vulnerable to an infestation of an invasive aquatic plant for the following reasons: 1. The lake flows over the dam and under Chadbourne Ridge Road into Lake Arrowhead. Lake Arrowhead is heavily infested with an IAP know as variable leaf milfoil. The concern is that a fisherman can fish on the Lake Arrowhead side of the road and then cross over to Ossipee Lake to fish. If they carry a fragment of milfoil on their gear, then the milfoil could take hold in Ossipee Lake. Only thirty feet separate the two lakes. 2. Boat Traffic—Ossipee Lake is considered to be a "Lake at Risk" by the Maine D.E.P. due to heavy boating/fishing pressure. It only takes a tiny fragment of milfoil on a boat, boat motor, or fishing gear to start an IAP infestation.

You can see that the more eyes on the water, the better chance we have at early detection of an invasive aquatic plant. Naturally, prevention of the introduction of an IAP is the best solution. However, if we do get an IAP in our lake, we need to detect and eradicate at the earliest stages of plant growth.

Photo: Nick DeRoo



There are many resources out there to assist us in our effort. For those folks with children and grandchildren, this is an excellent opportunity for them to give back to the community. More often colleges and employers are asking the question: "What community service do you perform and how much time do you commit to community service"?

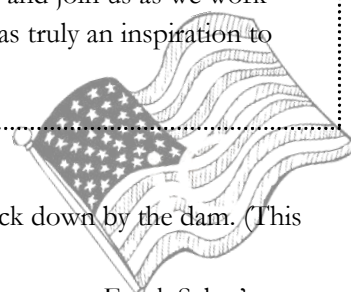
Please join our Invasive Plant Patrol Team. For information about the IPP Team and to register for the Phase #1 and #2 training sessions, please contact:

Dave Raye
207 247-8338
raye@sacoriver.net

A Remembrance

By Mike Taflas

For many of us, the 2012 season had a tragic start with the loss of our Vice President and dear friend, Stan Goff. Stan truly fit the mold of a Lake Association Officer. He had a big heart, was full of life, and more importantly, he cared about the lake as much as the people on the lake. For those of us lucky enough to have known Stan he enriched our lives and was a role model. Stan worked and retired from the Westbrook, Maine Fire Department as their Captain. After retirement Stan took on the role of Firefighter Instructor where he mentored new recruits on fire safety, and fire fighting, throughout the state of Maine. As an honor to Stan and his commitment to not only saving lives, but also his strong belief in volunteerism, the Lake Association would like to name the **theme of the 4th of July boat parade as "The Firefighter"**. We are hoping that everyone who knew Stan will agree that this is a very fitting way in which to honor his commitment to life. For those of you who did not have the opportunity to know this fabulous individual, may this memory of Stan inspire you to get involved and join us as we work hard to preserve and protect Little Ossipee Lake. Stan was truly an inspiration to many and he is deeply missed.



Boat Parade Instructions

Before 11:00am: Pick up your number at Frank Salvo's dock down by the dam. (This is the usual location).

11:00am Parade Route: The path of the boat parade commences at Frank Salvo's dock. Once you have secured your number, your tour of the lake will take you to Bear Island (largest island on the lake) and you will see a barge anchored with a 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 beyond the camp you will see a blue star at the end of a dock. Show your entry number and the red star, and in turn you will receive a blue star. You must have both stars to be considered for a prize. Continue to the judges station at Weymouth Point and be sure to dazzle the judges with all the spirit you've got! Sing, dance, and be merry—it's the 4th of July! Please remember to respect boating laws, leave ample room between boats, stay safe, and have fun!

Scholarship Winners

LOLA would like to offer a sincere congratulations to North Waterboro senior, River Whitten who received a \$500 scholarship to study environmental science at the University of Vermont. In addition, Bethany White, of Waterboro will be attending the University of New England to study marine biology. She also received a \$500 scholarship. Best of luck River and Bethany!

Dam report 2011 – 2012

By Don Holden

Summer level is 6' 6" and winter level is 4'6". The reading is taken from a scale located on the dam.

This report begins in August 2011 and is a continuation of the report given at the annual lake association meeting.

Precipitation in August 2011 was normal, yet heavy rain in the late part of September caused me to open the gates to 70% in order to maintain the summer level. The Town Administrator requested that I start the winter draw down three days early so the long awaited repairs could be done. All three gates were opened on Oct 11, 2011 which started the winter draw down. Because of the wet fall and the high water table the lake dropped very slowly, and by the middle of November the lake was only down a foot which was to still too high to conduct the repairs. In addition, because the water was too cold the repairs were cancelled. The lake became completely frozen and stayed frozen on Jan. 15, 2012. Other than the major one foot snow fall in late October and another in March, there was not much snow to speak of. Ice out occurred on March 19, 2012 and all three gates were closed 100%. That date was the second earliest in our 20+ years of record keeping. With no spring run-off due to no snow melt and no rain since the gates were closed, the lake has come up very slowly. At the time of writing this report, the gates have been closed now for four weeks and the lake has only come up from a low of 4' 9 1/2" to 5' 6". I personally have never seen it recover this slowly. When we do get rain, the lake level will come up quickly.

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, 34 years of Secchi Disc Transparencies (SDT) and basic chemical information have been collected.

SDT's 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. Little Ossipee Lake transparency readings are typically between 5.9 and 11.9 with an average reading of 8.2 meters. Of the 26 lakes monitored in York County, only Great East Lake in Acton had a higher SDT 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 low.

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 due to pollution runoff resulting 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. For additional information you can visit the VLMP website at <http://www.mainevlmp.org/waterquality/>

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 2011 Maine Lakes Report, the annual report of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.

Message from the President, Mike Taflas

Welcome, everyone to the 2012 season!

I would like to offer a big thank you to our officers, directors, alternates, volunteers and association members for your contributions during 2011. Many of you do so much for this association and I am thrilled to be part of a group that respects one another and cares about our lake environment. I have great admiration for the time and energy you give to support and maintain the health of the Lake. I am truly lucky to lead this hardworking group and hope that I can live up to your expectations as we continue to evolve and strengthen our association throughout 2012.

This year we are embarking on new ground with the formation of the Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) team for Little Ossipee Lake. This team is managed by David Raye and made up entirely of dedicated volunteers who will monitor the aquatic lake environment. They will be looking for invasive species, which if gone undetected, could jeopardize the health of the lake. This first line of defense is a critical step entirely around awareness and education of what an invasive plant species looks like and what to do if one is spotted in Little Ossipee Lake.

Adding to the enrichment of the IPP team and mainly due to the tireless efforts of David Raye, we (Little Ossipee Lake) have been selected to host the IPP 2012 Workshop in Waterboro. This is a very prestigious workshop put on by the Regional IPP Coordinators for York County. We are also fortunate to have our own Waterboro native Melissa Brandt as a co-sponsor from York County Soil & Water Conversation to support us in this event. Melissa's expertise and dedication to Little Ossipee Lake as well as other lakes in Maine have positively enhanced the lake experience; her efforts will help put Little Ossipee Lake on the map as one of the premier lakes in the state of Maine. This workshop will be completed in two phases, with the third and final phase resulting in certification. This is a rare opportunity to gain knowledge in lake preservation, how to understand what an invasive plant is, and what to do if one is found.

Please come and support this free workshop, or be part of this dynamic team of volunteers who will participate in the workshop and receive certification. Our current IPP heroes are: Dave Raye, Wayne Gauthreau, Nick DeRoo, Patty Mattos, Terry Hackett, Stu Lamont, Bob Thomas, Frank Gilcreast, Kevin Cunniff, Brian DesGrosseilliers, and Randy Brown. We expect a large turnout for this event from other associations, so it is extra important for as many of us to attend the workshop and support our lake association. I hope to see you all at this wonderful event in July.

As we look forward to all the challenges and projects that 2012 brings, we will continue to ask for your input on how we can improve. Personally, I would love to hear from each and every one of you. Do you approve of what the Association is doing? Does our mission statement make sense to you? Is there something that we could change to make better? Do we provide you with information you find valuable? All of you are our stakeholders and we want to make sure we are in-line with your needs and wants. I encourage all of you to come out and support us in our efforts. You can help in many different capacities: continue sending in your dues, encourage your neighbors who are not members to join, become a certified IPP'er or certified water tester, be a part of our erosion team, buoy team, lake clean up team, become a lake photographer, participate in the July 4th boat parade, come to our Annual meeting at Camp Laughing Loon, or participate on the board of alternates, directors and officers. Thank you again for your support and dedication in preserving Little Ossipee Lake.

See you on the Lake!

2012 Board of Directors:

President: Michael Taflas, VP: Stu Lamont,
Secretary: Karen Cummings, Treasurer: Ed Doggett

Directors: Ross Dindio [Parliamentarian], Donna Taflas,
Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle, Barbara Lamont, John Cyr,
Bob Thomas, Dave Raye, Kevin Cunniff, Frank Gilcreast

Virtual Alternate: Lindsay Taflas



STAMP

Little Ossipee Lake Association

E. Waterboro, ME 04030

PO Box 240

Your 2012 LOLA Newsletter has arrived!

Visit us on the web at

www.littleossipeelake.org

Membership Dues 2012

If you have already sent your dues, THANK YOU! If not, please send the completed form with your dues by June 25th. Make checks payable to Little Ossipee Lake Association.

Mail to: Little Ossipee Lake Association, PO Box 240, E. Waterboro, ME 04030

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Lake Address: _____ Map/Lot # (if known): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues per household: \$15.00 Scholarship Donation: \$ _____

If you would like to further support LOLA's mission with a tax deductible donation, please check the appropriate box and mail with your dues. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

THANK YOU! \$100 \$50 \$25 other

Little Ossipee Lake Association

2012 Annual Newsletter



E³ Preserve and protect Little Ossipee Lake through
Education, Eradication, and Erosion control

Save the Date!

Lake Clean-up Day: Saturday, June 23rd 2012

Do your part to collect trash from around the lake starting at 9:00am

Meet at the public beach at 9:00am for photos and to pick up your trash bags

IPP Training—Phase One: Tuesday, July 3rd 2012 at the Waterboro Fire Dep.

A 6 hour course, from 2:00 –8:00pm presented by the VLMP with food provided by Lakeside Market

Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade: Wednesday, July 4th 2012

Theme "The Firefighter"

Parade commences at 11:00am

IPP Training –Phase Two: Saturday, July 28th 2012 at 310 Webber Road

Held at the Taflas house from 9:00-12:00pm

Annual Meeting: Saturday, August 11th 2012 at Camp Laughing Loon

Yoga with Lindsay (CYT-200) at 7:30am *—no experience necessary!*

Meeting at 9:00am

*Cookout/Social 11:30-2:30pm

*Dance 6:00-10:00pm

*Bring your own beverage



Stay warm on those cool summer nights in a Little Ossipee Lake sweatshirt!

Proceeds support ongoing care for the lake.

Visit www.littleossipeelake.org
to check out all the latest gear and place an order!