

Little Ossipee Lake Association

PO Box 204 E. Waterboro, ME 04030

Little Ossipee Lake Association

2015 Annual Newsletter



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

Open me!

Important information regarding

Little Ossipee Lake



Membership Drive

Have you become a member this year?

The money that is collected from the annual membership drive supports the ongoing care, protection, and health of the lake. Every penny collected is spent on lake projects that align with LOLA's mission statement. Currently, there are only 52 homes that have paid their membership dues out of 420 homes on Little Ossipee Lake. Please help to increase membership. Send in your dues and talk with your neighbors, ask them: "are you a member of LOLA?" Your support of time, treasure and talent will help to keep Little Ossipee clean for generations.

2015 Dues Form

In an effort to cut back on costs and environmental waste, this newsletter will be the only mailing about membership dues. (You will not receive the normal postcard.) We ask that you mail your dues using this form by July 30th.

NEW: You may also pay your dues online by visiting www.littleossipeelake.org

Please 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 towards the Lake Stewardship program, please check the appropriate box and mail with your dues. We appreciate your generosity.

THANK YOU!

\$50 \$135 \$250 other

Save the Date!

Lake Clean-up Day:

Saturday, June 27th 2015

Do your part to collect trash from around the lake.

Meet at public beach at 10:00 am for photos and to pick up your trash bags.



Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade:

Saturday, July 4th 2015

Theme: The Spirit of '45

Parade commences at 11:00 am



Erosion Project:

Date TBD—check website for more information 61 Betty Lane
(Brian & Jay Wood's house)

Begin work at 9:00 am

Bring a shovel and a smile

Annual Meeting:

Saturday, August 8th 2015 at
Camp Laughing Loon

Meeting at 11:00 am

Cookout/Social at 12:30 pm

Dance 7:30-10:00 pm

Bring your own beverage



Top: Volunteers gather for a photo before Lake Clean Up Day 2013

Middle: Lake residents participate in the boat parade

Bottom: Lake residents attend the Annual Meeting

Lake Stewardship Program

The LOLA Lake Stewardship program is growing in membership in its third year. By joining this group of financial investors, you will be supporting the overall care and health of the lake. Your donation allows LOLA to focus on mission statement related endeavors. Your generous contribution will help to fund these important LOLA projects and more:

- Training of volunteers to become part of the IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) team.
- Supporting the relationship between LOLA and the VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program) and the YCSWCD (York County Soil and Water Conservation District).
- Purchasing proper buoys for boating safety.
- Identifying problem areas on the lake that need erosion control assistance.
- Expanding awareness and participation through events such as lake clean up day & annual meeting.

Becoming a Lake Steward is about *protecting* Little Ossipee Lake which currently has no invasive plant activity, and where the water quality is in the top 15% of the state of Maine. For years all our families have enjoyed the benefits of a clean lake and we would like to continue on this path. Please join us. LOLA has developed a beautiful flag that you can fly at your camp to show your support of this program when you make a donation of \$135.00 or more this year. Please help to maintain our beautiful Lake Community.



Welcome Summer!

2015 Message from the President, Mike Taflas

“From little acorns mighty oaks grow” is an Old English proverb my wife Donna said to me this year when I needed some encouragement.

For Donna, being able to see great things from humble beginnings is typical for her. She has worked diligently for every achievement in her personal and professional life. Donna’s approach to life is to treat everyone she meets with compassion, and nurture those she loves. She gives her time to mentor junior employees at work and volunteers her time to our lake association. To Donna it’s easy to invest in others to help them succeed. For me on the other hand, this is not so easy! I certainly give my time, but I react quickly and take the easy route. Unlike me, when Donna invests to help someone, she listens to that person and thinks about that person’s individual needs and acts accordingly. When I listen to stories she shares from her job, she always ends with “how can I not help?” Her ability to understand others and offer support is what makes her a great mentor. Helping others learn, grow, and achieve their goals is a sign of a leader. She is a giver and gives of herself freely.

The same traits Donna exhibits are also prevalent in your LOLA board members as well. April 2015 kicked off our monthly meetings and for the first time in the ten years our board is full to capacity. We have more officers, directors and alternates than ever before. Each person on the board will invest their summer days to ensure we have the ultimate lake experience! The board will support our mission statement (see the tagline on the front of this newsletter), ensure we identify and eradicate any invasive plant or animal, monitor the lake water quality, work a lake property erosion concern, and keep you informed about events such as Ossipee cleanup day, the July 4th boat parade, and our annual meeting.

With this year’s energized influx of directors and alternates, I’m also excited to meet the new volunteers that will step forward and join our efforts. Being involved with LOLA is not an easy endeavor – it requires involvement and dedication. I encourage you to become involved any way you can.

Donna is right. “From little acorns mighty oaks grow.” I can’t wait to see what our oak tree will look like!

See you on the lake,
Mike



Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Team—We need YOU!

By Dave Raye

The IPP Team completed four Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey reports for a total of 45 hours last season. These surveys were done almost exclusively on the shallow end of the lake (dam end). **We are in dire need of volunteers to survey the remainder of the lake this season.** This year's annual Introductory to Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification session in partnership with York County will be hosted by Melissa Brandt of York County Soil & Water Conservation and Laurie Callahan of the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project and LOLA. The exact location, date & time have yet to be determined, but it is being planned for late June. Please check our website for updated information. I urge anyone who is interested in learning about plant identification to attend. Please use my contact information below with questions.

Your LOLA association is part of a group of several York Count Lake Associations who meet regularly in order to talk about different successes and failures of what works and what doesn't in our IPP programs. This also allows us to schedule collaborative lake monitoring surveys on various water bodies in York County.

LOLA IPP team member Frank Gilcreast is coordinating with a teacher from Massabesic Middle School, Mr. Parent, and his students to collaborate with our IPP team. The goal of the collaboration is to bring the local student body and the community together to survey our lake. Mr. Parent's students have won acclaim for the development of underwater robots affixed with lights and cameras for underwater surveying. This is very exciting news because we need younger folks involved in surveying if we are to stay successful. Remember, the LOLA IPP team is only a very small part of the solution. Every lake resident must help survey (even if you are not "officially" on the IPP team) in order for us to be successful. Each year we are getting more calls asking us to identify a suspicious plant in front of someone's property. We fully encourage this activity because you know best what plant changes happen year after year in front of your property. To date, no invasive plants have been found in Little Ossipee Lake. We hope you will help us keep it that way.

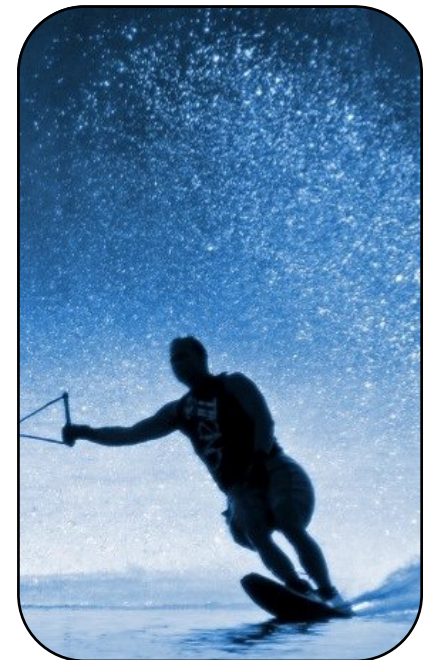
Please help the LOLA IPP team in its effort to monitor Little Ossipee Lake to ensure that we preserve the pristine condition of the lake for future generations to come. It does not take much time to perform a survey—you can start by surveying your own property.

For more information please contact Dave Raye @ raye@sacoriver.net or 407-247-8338



Top: Director Dave Raye and LOLA President Mike Tafas venture on an IPP surveying mission. No invasive plants found!

Photos from around the lake



Do you have photos for next year's newsletter? Add them to the LOLA facebook group page! Your photo could be famous.

Photo credi:: Roland Gendron, Bob Labelle and Nick DeRoo

Volunteers wanted for the 2015 LOLA Erosion Project

By Mike Taflas

Erosion of the shoreline is a natural process that happens over the years. Slowly, mother nature takes her toll on the rocks and sand that make up our shoreline. This wearing away of the shoreline can be caused by storms, the continuous lapping of water against the bank, or by the wake from your boat. Often wakes slam against the shore with great force. However, the way in which our properties are excavated, planted, and maintained can speed up or slow down the process of erosion. Battling waterfront erosion takes constant effort and sometimes a considerable amount of money. Ultimately, our individual actions as homeowners can impact positively or negatively Little Ossipee's shorefront. Erosion awareness is everyone's responsibility and working on a shoreline erosion project will help you understand how to spot a potential problem on your own shoreline.

Brian and Jay Wood, stewards of Little Ossipee Lake, have identified an erosion issue on their property which is being caused by storms. Collectively, Brian, Jay, LOLA, and York County Soil and Water have agreed to tackle the erosion issue on their property in 2015. LOLA considers their erosion problem so great that this project will be a main focus for the association this summer.

However, based on the size of this erosion project, LOLA cannot do it alone. The only way to be successful in stopping this erosion issue is if volunteers, lake neighbors, friends of the lake, and those folks who want to make a positive impact, join together. Remember, it's our lake and we are all responsible for its health together.

As I stated in my 2013 Presidents message: It is you the individual that can make a difference. But as a community that joins together and fiercely protects our lake, we can be more successful together.

Join me, the entire LOLA board, and the Wood family and join the battle to fight erosion on 61 Betty Lane.

Date: TBD—check the website and facebook page for more information!

Time: TBD

Location: Please visit our website for directions to 61 Betty Lane

What you need: Bring a rake, shovel, good spirits, and a willingness to get dirty

Notice about water level

As decreed by the Town of Waterboro, every fifth year including this year (2015), the gates will be opened on October 1st with intent to draw down to a level of 3'. This gives residents additional time and access to work on shoreline erosion control projects once they have obtained the necessary permitting and approvals. If you have a project in mind, we urge you to apply as soon as possible by contacting Waterboro Code Enforcement and Maine DEP.

Congratulations!

Each year LOLA awards two scholarships to seniors who will be heading off to higher education. This year Johnathon Theriault and Jacqueline Murray are our award recipients! Best of luck in your studies!

Annual Boat Parade

- The 2015 boat parade will be held on July 4th at 11:00 am.
- This May marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and in honor of the sacrifice that American men and women made for our country, the theme for our parade this year will be "The Spirit of '45".
- It is important to note that we have some survivors of WWII on the lake.
- Instead of prize money being given to the winners of the parade, LOLA will be donating the money to the American Legion-Brown Emmons Post which supports heating assistance for veterans.
- The coveted trophy will still be awarded!
- For detailed instructions on how to participate in the boat parade please visit the LOLA website at www.littleossiipelake.org



Lake Clean Up—Saturday, June 27th

Will you be helping with lake clean up this year, or will you be the one to sit and watch? If you haven't participated before, now is the time! Join LOLA board members and other lake residents in picking up trash in and around the lake.

- Meet at the boat launch at 10:00 am for a group photo
- Bring a trash grabbing device if you have one
- Trash bags will be provided
- Kayaks, small boats and paddle boats work best for getting trash that collects close to the shore
- Come for an hour or help all day
- We appreciate your willingness to help!



LOLA Apparel

Will you be sporting LOLA gear this summer? Hats, tote bags, sweatshirts, beach towels and t-shirts, and more are available.

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

Limited quantities of various items will be available for purchase at the annual meeting.



LOLA Online

The LOLA website has undergone an extensive renovation recently. Have you checked it out?

Visit www.littleossipeelake.org to see new features. You can now order LOLA apparel and pay your dues online.

Please consider joining the Little Ossipee Lake Facebook group to stay up-to-date on lake happenings.

This is an opportunity to connect with you fellow lake friends, share your photos, ideas and concerns.

A representative from the LOLA board will check the group regularly.



2015 Board of Directors

President: Michael Taflas

Vice President: Stu Lamont

Secretary: Karen Cummings Treasurer: Ed Doggett

Parliamentarian: Ross Dindio

Directors: Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle, Barbara Lamont, John Cyr, Bob Thomas, Dave Raye,

Kevin Cunniff, Lindsay Taflas, Nina Pralour and Jim Chazrn

Alternates: Brian Wood, Jay Wood, Brad French, Deidre Donovan and Jody Lincoln

We enjoy serving Little Ossipee Lake!