

Little Ossipee Lake Association

PO Box 204 E. Waterboro, ME 04030

Little Ossipee Lake Association

2013 Annual Newsletter



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

Your 2013 LOLA Newsletter has arrived!

Visit us on the web at www.littleossipeelake.org

Join our Facebook group, Little Ossipee Lake

2013 Board of Directors:

President: Michael Taflas Vice President: Stu Lamont

Secretary: Karen Cummings Treasurer: Ed Doggett

Parliamentarian: Ross Dindio

Directors: Donna Taflas, Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle, Barbara Lamont, John Cyr,
Bob Thomas, Dave Raye, Kevin Cunniff, Frank Gilcreast

Alternates: Lindsay Taflas, Mariann Goff, Lori Penny, Nina Pralour



Photo: Roland Gendron



Top: Director Dave Raye holding up trash collected from the shoreline.

Middle: President Mike Taflas and volunteer Jason Cyr pulling a tire out of the water at lake clean up day 2012.

Bottom: Lake residents attend the 2012 Annual Meeting.



Save the Date!

Lake Clean-up Day:

Saturday, June 22nd 2013

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.

Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade:

Thursday, July 4th 2013

Theme "American 4th of July"

Parade commences at 11:00am

Annual Meeting:

Saturday, August 10th 2013 at

Camp Laughing Loon

Yoga with Molly at 8:30am

Meeting at 10:00am

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

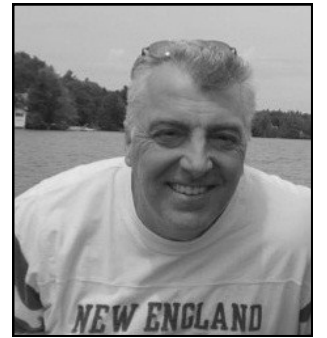
*Dance 6:00-10:00pm

*Bring your own beverage

Welcome Summer!

2013 Message from the President, Mike Taflas

For just a moment, imagine what it would be like if your Little Ossipee Lake Association did not exist. Imagine if we did not have the Invasion Plan Patroller team (IPP) who diligently survey the lake throughout the season for any invasive species. Believe it or not, the effort of your IPP team directly impacts your financial bottom line as a lake homeowner. Dismiss in your mind the 4th of July boat parade, the scholarship fund, the ongoing water testing that monitors the water quality and reports the findings to the state of Maine. Drop from your thoughts the efforts of the buoy committee and the work behind the lake clean up day every year in June. Forget about the erosion projects undertaken each year to support the overall lake health. Erase the multiple communication vehicles brought to you about the lake via newsletter, website, facebook postings, signs and posters to advertise lake events. Imagine if you can, if we did not have our annual August meeting at Camp Laughing Loon that incorporates morning yoga, the annual meeting, cookout, silent auction, and dancing to the band Mirror Image to conclude the day's events.



These activities are provided to you by a group of Officers, Directors and some volunteers that are dedicated to keeping Ossipee Lake a premier lake for many years to come. These folks strive to uphold the LOLA mission statement to Preserve and Protect Little Ossipee Lake through Education, Eradication and Erosion Control. If you had to put a price on all the activities that are provided, what would you say? The fact is, LOLA strives to accomplish all these efforts through your \$15 yearly dues. Sadly, only 50% of lake homeowners participate in funding these activities.

To me, a strong Lake Association is about a group of individuals that put the health of the lake in front of their own needs. Often times my family and the families of your Officers and Directors are working on a lake event while they are on vacation. Think about the last time you might have worked on a volunteer effort while on vacation!

If you caught yourself mumbling something like, "gee, maybe I should do more in some way" you are in luck! There are many ways to get involved: join the IPP team, volunteer to help on an erosion control project, or come to a LOLA meeting. Is time of the essence? You can still support the efforts of LOLA without giving up valuable family time by making a generous donation to the association. Towards the end of the 2012 season we introduced the "Lake Steward Program" and we are proud to announce three families have become lake stewards with a financial contribution. Our goal for 2013, is to have ten new families support us as lake stewards. By becoming a lake steward, you will be supporting the overall care and health of the lake, you will be investing in your association, and reaffirming its commitment to keeping the lake free and clear of invasive species, maintaining erosion control, and helping to protect the lake for generations to come.

To be honest, I was unsure about starting a Lake Steward program. How can we ask for money at a time like this? But then it hit me: the health of the lake is so important. We *must* invest in our lake in order to preserve it. Plus, when you become a Lake Steward you will receive a really cool Ossipee Lake flag for your boat (see www.littleossipeelake.org for more information)!

The real heroes in my tale are not the Officers or Directors—we will continue to protect the lake as best we can; rather the hero's are the folks who are able to get involved and participate with us. It is you the person that makes the difference. Our community is the type that develops the trust to support one another as we grow old together. The type of community that is remembered as the trendsetter long afterward. The community that dares to protect, and fiercely, the health of the lake. That's the kind of community we would like to grow with over the years.

I believe we can be the community that makes a difference. I believe that if you choose to get involved then all the rest—the health of the lake, the money, the success—will soon follow.

See you on the lake!

Invasive Plant Patrol Team

By Dave Raye

The invasive plant patrol training that LOLA hosted last summer was a huge success. We had thirty plus participants from many surrounding lakes and ponds in York County. As a result we were able to add more team members to the Little Ossipee Lake Association IPP team. This a great start for what we consider paramount to protecting our lake from a non-native invasive aquatic plant (aka, MILFOIL).

Still, this lake is not yet being adequately monitored for milfoil. We need more members to assist our effort in monitoring the entire lake. To date we have enough members to monitor approximately one third of the lake. It only takes one fragment of milfoil to start the colonization of the plants. If this type of invasion is not detected in one to two years it could get out of control very quickly and overtake the native aquatic plants. We cannot let this happen.

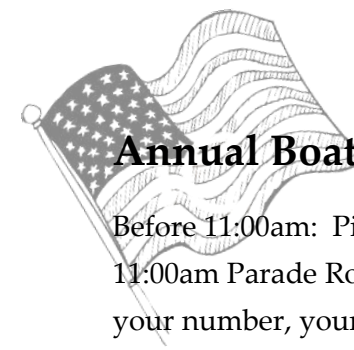
The threat is very near. Last summer my granddaughter, Alexa, and myself joined a paddle group on Lake Arrowhead headed up by Laurie Callahan. Laurie is a regional biologist who assists all IPP teams in Southern Maine and New Hampshire. We observed the operation of the D.A.S.H. boat. D.A.S.H. stands for "Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting". This is a modified pontoon boat outfitted with a gas engine driven industrial water pump. The pump takes suction from the lake and discharges through an educator. The educator creates a suction on a four inch hose. Scuba divers manually pull the milfoil up by the root ball and then it is sucked up by the hose and discharged into a metal mess cage. The water flows out of the cage back into the lake. The milfoil filled cages are off loaded at the dock and empty cages are loaded onto the boat for the next day's harvest. Lake Arrowhead operates two DASH boats and harvests about 20 tons of milfoil during one summer season. This comes at a cost of \$75,000 plus annually. We also observed the installation of a "bethnic barrier". This is tarp-like blanket that is anchored to the lake bottom over the milfoil. This barrier prevents sunlight from reaching the milfoil. In four to five days the milfoil is dead and the barrier is moved to another location. This is extremely labor intensive and it kills the native aquatic plants as well. We also observed numerous floating milfoil fragments that will eventually settle back to the lake bottom and create yet another colony.

The key to this threat is early detection and immediate eradication. Remember our mission statement: Education, Eradication, and Erosion Control.

Please help protect our lake and join our IPP team. It's does not consume very much of your time and you will learn a lot about what native plants are in the water in front of your property. Remember, if you notice an aquatic plant that is suspicious, or something you have not seen before, call us and we will help you identify it. To join our IPP team, please email me at raye@sacoriver.net

Stay warm on those cool summer nights in a Little Ossipee Lake sweatshirt! Proceeds support ongoing care for the lake. Hats, tote bags, and t-shirts are available too.

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



Annual 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!



Participants in last year's 4th of July Parade.

Dam Report 2013

By Dan Holden

This report starts August 2012 and is a continuation of the report given at the Annual Meeting. Summer level is 6' 6" and winter level is 4' 6". The reading is taken from a scale located on the side of the dam.

Last fall was the start of the much needed repairs to the dam that would stop a significant leak at the gates. The selectmen/road commissioner requested that the winter draw down start the day after Labor Day which was a month and a half early. During last summer it was decided since the lake was going to be down extra in order to repair the dam, it would also be best to repair the concrete ties at the boat launch. Work began on both projects at the same time, but the lake was not dropping fast enough to get the work done. It was decided that a 3 foot hole needed to be cut into the side of the dam so the lake would drop faster. That hole only allowed another 6" of drop and brought the lake down it's greatest amount of 38" on 10/16/2012. At the time the old aluminum gates were pulled off to replace the gaskets behind the gates, it was found that the gates were in such poor shape that new stainless steel gates were ordered. Also it was decided that with the lake being down an extra amount, it was a good time to epoxy 3 feet of the dam both inside and out to stop erosion. Once the boat launch was pulled apart, workers made the launch steeper and twice as long as the old one. That would stop large holes that get formed from those who power load their boats. All in all, the work at the dam work is complete and I must say the gates work excellent. The newly constructed boat launch with the extended bed is also very nice.

Ice-in occurred on January 22, 2013 and ice out occurred April 12 coming up at a rate of 1.0 inch a day. If normal conditions occur the lake should be at summer level on around May 1st.

Water Quality Testing 2013

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, 35 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. 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. Testing proved 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.

Scholarship Winners

LOLA would like to offer a sincere congratulations to Daniel Welch who received the \$500 Little Ossipee Lake scholarship. Daniel has not yet decided which school to attend. In addition, Courtney Couture, received the \$500 Guy Litalien scholarship to study at St. Joseph's College. Best of luck Daniel and Courtney!

Lake Stewardship Program

LOLA has begun a Lake Stewardship program. By getting involved and joining this group of financial investors, you will be supporting the overall care and health of the lake, by allowing LOLA to focus on mission statement related endeavors. Your generous contribution will help to fund these important LOLA projects:

- 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.

Membership Dues 2013

If you have already sent your dues, THANK YOU! If not, please send the completed form with your dues by July 15th.

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 in the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your generosity.

THANK YOU!

\$50 \$135 \$250 other