

Little Ossipee Lake Association

PO Box 204

South Waterboro, ME 04030

First Name Last Name

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

2019 Board of Directors

President: Michael Taflas

Vice President: Stu Lamont

Secretary: Barbara Lamont

Treasurer: Sandy Labelle

Parliamentarian: John Cyr

Directors: Jim Chrzan, Kevin Cunniff,
Courtney DeRoo, Ross Dindio, Deidre Donovan,
Bob Labelle, Peter Schild, Lindsay Taflas,
Bryan Wood, and Jay Wood

Alternates: Dan Albert, George Harnois,
Molly Taflas



Little Ossipee Lake Association

2019 newsletter

*The mission of the Little Ossipee Lake Association is to preserve and protect Little Ossipee Lake through **Education, Eradication, and Erosion control.***



"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water." - Loren Eiseley

It takes a village ...

Every lake resident, fisher, paddler, visitor, and swimmer is vital to protecting Little Ossipee Lake. Your \$20 annual due payment directly supports erosion control projects, invasive plant patrol surveys, and educational programs put on by the Association. Your support is essential to maintain the quality of the lake in all its natural beauty.

Give today. Support the lake you love.



2019 Annual Dues

Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership by paying their dues. If you haven't yet, please use the enclosed envelope or go online at www.littleossipeelake.org

Thank you!

Shaping Our Future

A message from the president

Dear LOLA Members,

Have you noticed changes on our lake? Have you observed, like me, that our winters are wetter, our springs are warmer, and that our summers are drier? While I can't say for certain, it seems to me that the lake is warmer for swimming than it had been when I was a boy.

Like everywhere else around the globe, Little Ossipee Lake is changing in ways that will affect how we all enjoy the lake, now and in the future. Last summer the Invasive Plant Patrol team (IPP) saw an increase in invasive species, like Japanese Knotweed and Oriental Bittersweet around the shoreline. Luckily, after conducting a survey of the entire lake, no invasive aquatic plants were found in the water. Still, the challenge of keeping our lake free of invasive species is great, and the time is now for all of us to become dedicated stewards of the lake we treasure.

This summer, I invite you to think creatively about new solutions for mitigating changes in and around our lake. How best can we solve erosion issues, or further our fight of invasive species? How can we limit (or eliminate!) trash and pollution in the lake? How can we ensure native animals like loons and brook trout continue to thrive here? We need your voice and I am eager to hear from you. You can connect with me and the entire board of directors by commenting on the Little Ossipee Lake Association Facebook group, or by sending us an email at directors@littleossipeelake.org. Your opinions matter, and if we are going to tackle these big issues, your ideas are needed to help find solutions. If you want to do more than share your ideas, come join our team.

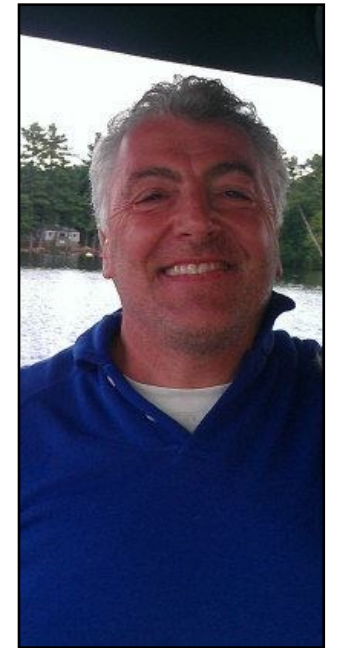
Like many of you, the water of Little Ossipee Lake runs in my veins and I will do everything I can to protect this precious natural resource. I hope you'll join me in shaping the story of the lake to one with a happy ending; an ending in which future generations will experience the lake as we do now.

See you on the lake,



Mike Taflas

P.S. If you're interested in learning more about the issues facing lakes throughout the state of Maine, I would encourage you to visit the Lake Stewards of Maine website (formerly the VMLP) at www.lakestewardsofmaine.org.



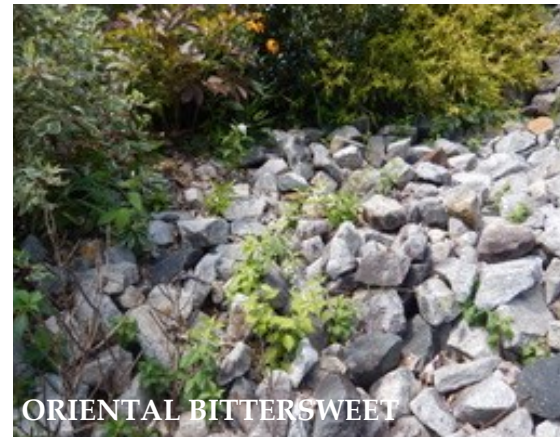
Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) Update

By Deidre Donovan

Last summer, the IPP team completed a level 3 survey of the entire lake over the course of two months. The survey, along with a compiled native aquatic plant list, gives LOLA and the state baseline information should any invasive species be found in the future. We had many volunteers who came together to survey, plus we had many more who monitored their own waterfronts. It was wonderful to have all of this help—thank you! All together the team spent over 200 hours on the water, which didn't even cover the work done on land. **The best part is that we did not find any aquatic invasive plants.**

But there are always challenges. Caring for the shoreline is just as important as caring for the water itself. Terrestrial (land) invasive plants can be harmful to the lake ecosystem as well. Because I spent time surveying in the littoral zones (area near the shore) of the lake, I was able to observe the shore closely. Japanese knotweed is a highly invasive plant and unfortunately, there is a lot of it surrounding our water. Two other invasive land plants I observed last summer were oriental bittersweet and purple loosestrife. Terrestrial invasive plants, like aquatic plants, change the ecology of an area and have the potential to harm wildlife. **If they are caught early, they can be stopped from spreading. If you need help eradicating an infestation, you can contact LOLA.**

Another challenge is the increasing amount of metaphyton (algae) in our lake. It is not harmful nor is it invasive, but it is most unpleasant to look at or swim through. A rise in temperature may account for some of the growth, but a rise in nutrients in the water accounts for most of it. Where do the nutrients come from? Decomposing leaves that get raked into or blown into the water deliberately, grass clippings from mowing, and most importantly, runoff from fertilizers used on lawns. **If you must fertilize, get a fertilizer without phosphorus,** though LOLA encourages you not to fertilize at all.

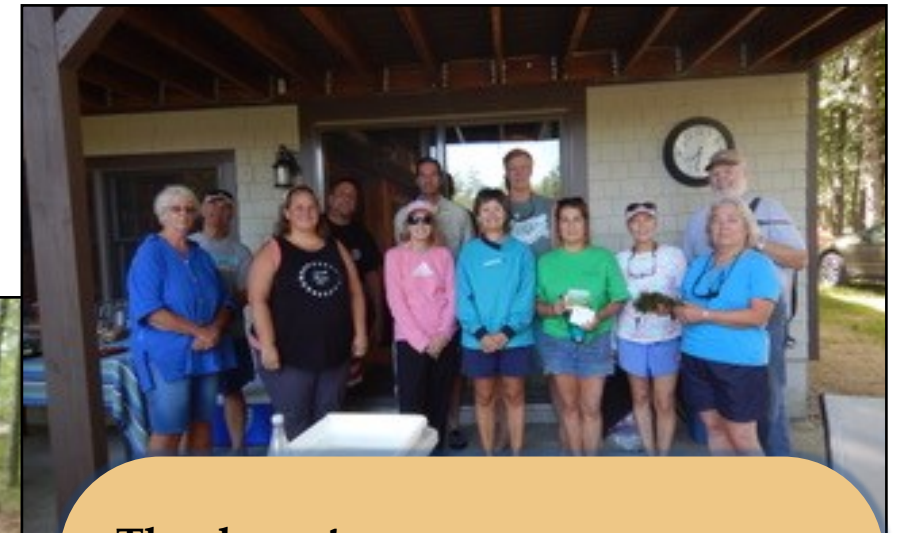


IPP continued ...

This summer, Lola the Lily, an artificial plastic plant, will once again be hiding somewhere in the lake starting July 1st. If you find the Lola the Lilly you win a prize! The intent of Lola the Lily is to make people more aware of invasive plants, to motivate observation, and to have fun.

All in all, we're blessed that Little Ossipee Lake has no aquatic invasive species at this time. We still must remain vigilant, however, in our fight against unwanted plants and critters. I am hopeful for the future of our lake though, as more and more people are willing to get involved and awareness of the risks is on the rise. If you're concerned about something you see in the water, reach out to the Association at directors@littleossipeelake.org or on our Facebook page. And should you want to get involved with IPP please don't hesitate! Together we can care for our lake and enjoy it for generations.

In summer 2018, over 200 hours were spent looking for invasive species by these dedicated volunteers (plus others not pictured). You too, can be a hero for our lake. Join the IPP team today and give as much of your time as you're able over the course of the summer. To get involved contact Deidre Donovan, LOLA director, at DDonovan89753@gmail.com.



Thank you!

This winter a Go Fund Me campaign successfully raised \$1,600 for the IPP team to purchase a clear bottom kayak. The kayak will be used this summer to survey the lake for invasive species—making peering into the water a bit easier! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the campaign. Please be on the lookout for the IPP team in the clear kayak this summer.

Thank you, Dam Man!

After more than 25 years, Don Holden, the 'Dam Man', is retiring from his volunteer duties. Don leaves behind a great legacy of caring for the dam and lake. The LOL Association will always be grateful for the time Don has given. Before he officially retires, we caught up with Don to ask him a few questions about what it's been like to be the Dam Man.



When did you first assume responsibilities for the lake level and dam?

I purchased property on LOL in the early 90's and immediately joined the LOL Association. Between attending LOLA meetings and having a wife who worked in the town office, I became aware of the constant issue of the lake level being too high or too low. I soon learned that the gates were only ever adjusted twice a year, spring and fall. The town office received so many calls from concerned land owners that I decided to meet with the selectmen and asked them, "what if you give me the key to the gates and I'll make adjustments according to the weather. I'll see if I can bring some harmony to the water level". The selectmen agreed. The phone calls to the town office stopped, and I've had the key ever since.

What has been your favorite part of being the dam man?

The kind words of support from many of the lake owners over the years.

What is one thing you wish lake goers would know about the dam?

We must never forget that it's really Mother Nature who is in control. Over the last 25 years many LOL homeowners have moved away and past issues have been forgotten. Folks today give little thought as to why the lake level stays fairly consistent. 'It must be magic' people think. Folks need to realize that the current dam and gates are quite small for our lake. The lake level will change considerably if adjustments are not made.

What was the earliest and latest ice-out you can recall ?

Earliest was March 15 and the latest was April 17.

Dam Man continued ...

Do you have a story to share about a particularly memorable storm?

The Patriots Day storm of April 14, 2007 was an unbelievable event. Ice-out had occurred a week before and I had closed the gates to bring the lake back to summer level. The lake was down 12 inches at the time when we realized the storm would hit the lake directly. I opened the gates 100%. After the storm passed I went to the dam and could not believe my eyes. The dam was under water. The lake had come up 17 inches in 24 hours.

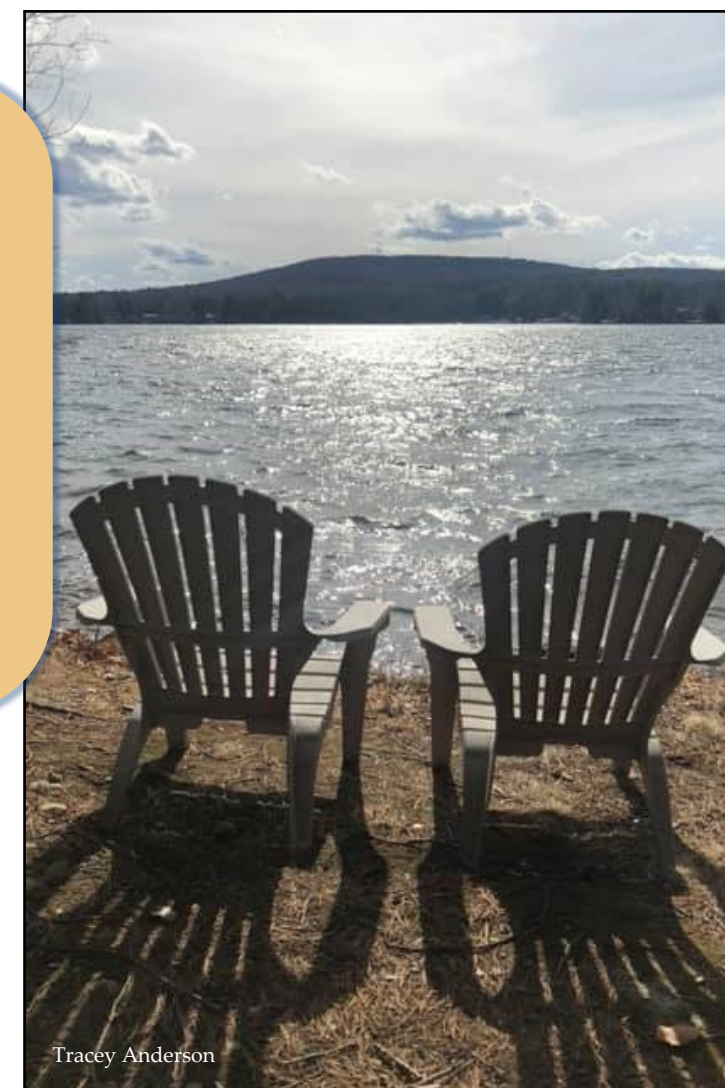
Anything else to share?

After some 25 years and over 1000 trips to the dam I have decided to retire. I nominated Chris Brassard as the next keeper of the key, and the selectmen have agreed. Chris lives on the lake, is a member of the Association, is an outdoors enthusiast, and understands what Mother Nature is capable of. I'm presently working with Chris each time I go to the dam and will do so until June 30th. Hopefully you can meet Chris soon. Thank you for your support over the years.

Feeling inspired by Don?

LOLA has open seats on its board of directors. Meetings are held monthly from April to October on Saturday mornings. Directors share in the effort to protect and preserve Little Ossipee Lake all while having a real good time!

If you're interested in joining, please email info@littleossipeelake.org for information.

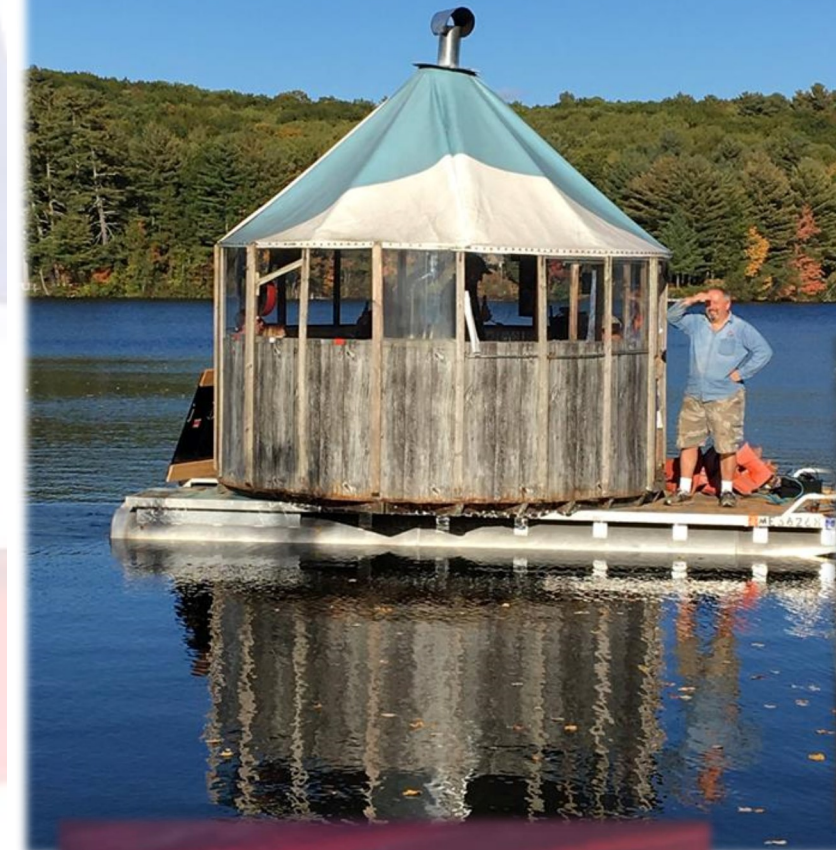


2019 Annual Boat Parade

- The 2019 Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade will be held on July 4th at 11:00 am.
- This year's theme is "Upta Camp." (If you're not sure what that means, google "Upta Camp" and be ready to laugh.)
- Begin by collecting a number for your boat at the Taflas camp in the small section of the lake.
- Follow the lead boat to be sure you drive by all sections of the lake.
- Drive safe: maintain proper space in between boats, move at headway speed, and watch for swimmers.
- Be alert: please ensure that none of your boat decorations accidentally fly into the water.
- Winning boats are announced immediately following the parade at Weymouth's Point. Cash prizes are given out at the Annual Celebration in August.
- Questions? Ask us on the LOLA Facebook page.



Scenes from the lake



Notice about Fireworks

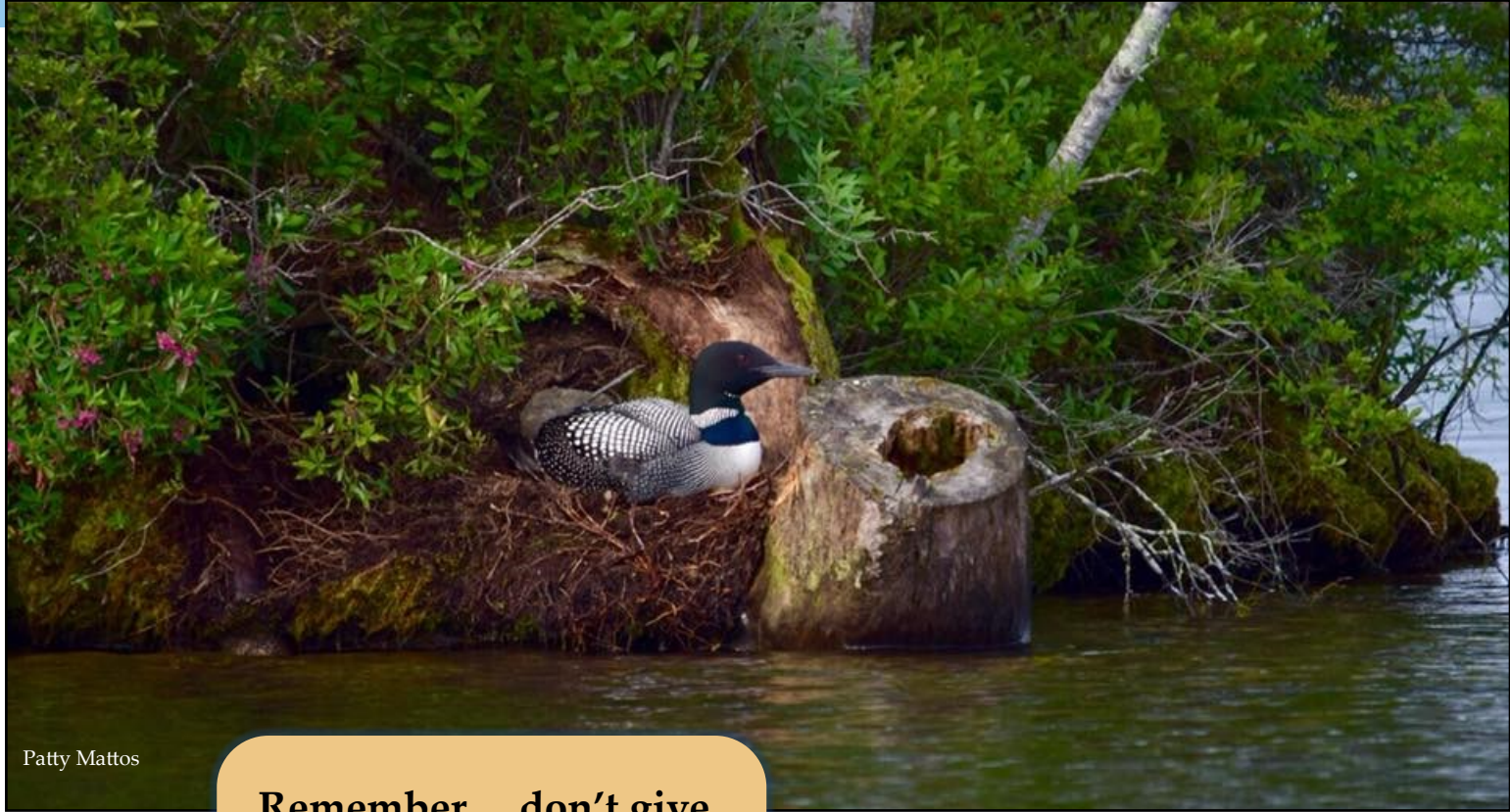
Aahh.... fireworks. Who doesn't enjoy the beauty displayed on the Fourth? Firework displays are truly spectacular. But with this beauty comes a price at the bottom of the lake. The tubes, plastic sticks, residues, and chemicals used to make explosives are left behind. The lake is often heavily polluted the next day. Not to mention fireworks terrify wildlife, too.

Consider moving your firework display far from the water or going to see fireworks in a public park. At a minimum, please remove debris from the water when it is safe to do so.



Congratulations to high school senior, Sofie Irons, on being the recipient of the 2019 Guy L'Atalien scholarship. Best of luck in your studies!

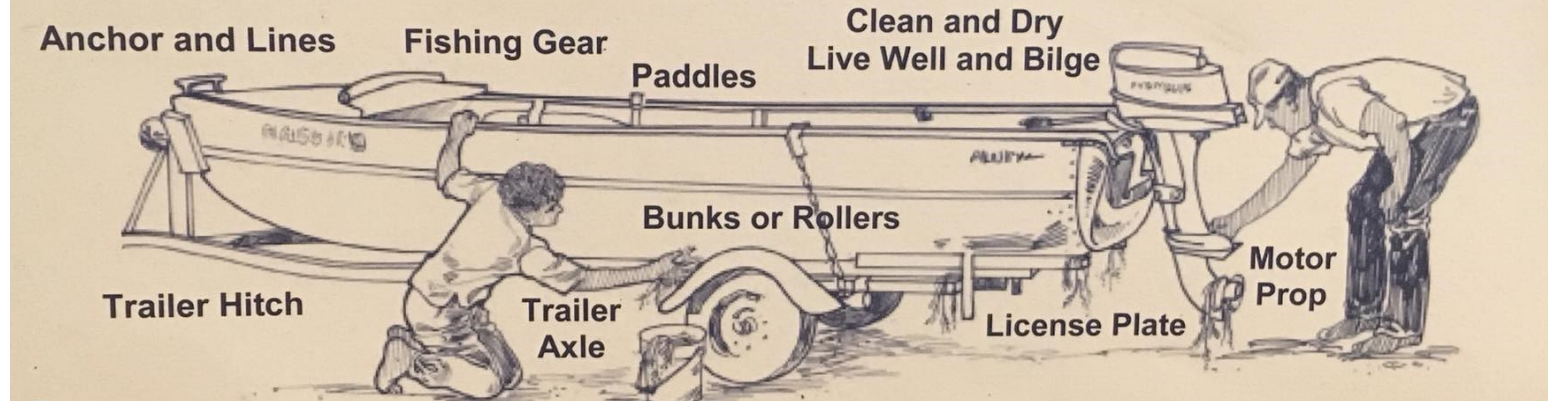
Do you know a graduating senior? LOLA awards scholarships each year to students pursuing an education in environmental studies. Visit www.littleossipeelake.org for information on how to apply.



Patty Mattos

Remember... don't give invasive plants and animals a free ride.

CLEAN boat, trailer, and gear, **DRAIN** all water, and let it **DRY**.



Upcoming Events

6/28/19, IPP 101—Plant Identification Workshop

Alfred Parish Chapel, 8 Kennebunk Road, Alfred ME

10:00am—4:00pm

Register with the Lake Stewards of Maine (formerly VLMP) by visiting www.lakestewardsofmaine.org. LOLA is a co-sponsor of this event.

7/4/19, Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade

Parade commences at 11:00am.

7/13/19, Lake Clean Up Day

Trash bags will be given out individually to lake residents by the LOLA directors.

Clean the shoreline, shallow water, and any other place you find trash.

Call director Jim Chrzan at 614-581-4898 when you're done, & LOLA will collect your full bag.

8/10/19, Annual Celebration & LOLA Fest

Camp Laughing Loon

Annual Celebration (formerly known as the Annual Meeting), 10:00am

LOLA Fest kicks off at 11:00am and includes lunch, beer tasting, live music from Hip Anonymous (jazz and funk band), and other family-friendly activities. This is a FREE event!

LOLA

FEST



New this year!