

Little Ossipee Lake Association

PO Box 204

South Waterboro, ME 04030

First Name Last Name

Address 1

Address 2

Address 3

2020 Board of Directors

President: Michael Taflas

Vice President: Stu Lamont

Secretary: Barbara Lamont

Treasurer: Sandy Labelle

Parliamentarian: John Cyr

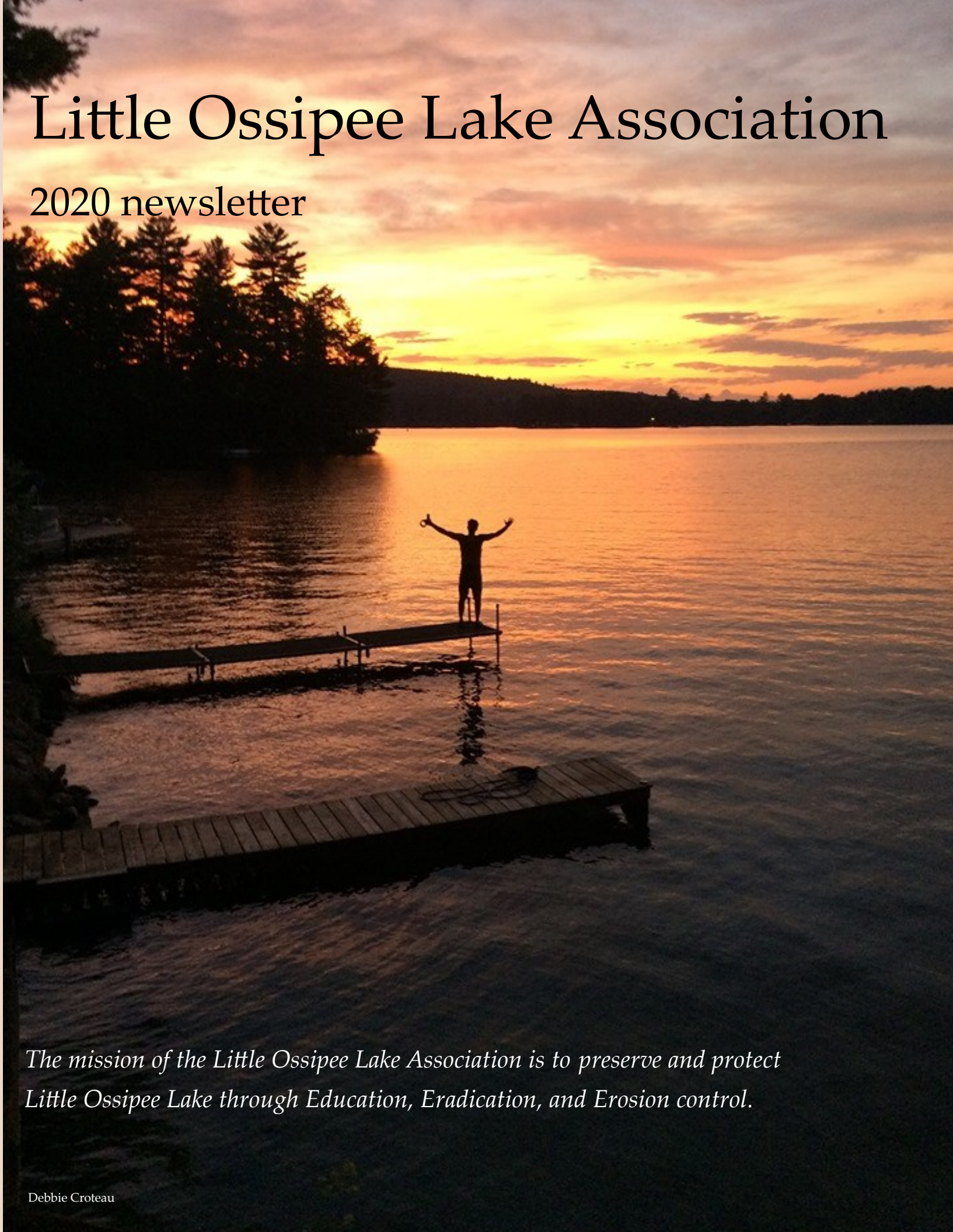
Directors: Dan Albert, Jim Chrzan, Kevin Cunniff,
Courtney DeRoo, Deidre Donovan, Bob Labelle,
Peter Schild, Lindsay Taflas, Bryan Wood, and Jay
Wood

Alternates: Karen Albert, George Harnois,
Chris Brassard



Little Ossipee Lake Association

2020 newsletter



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

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." - John Lubbock



Patricia Grigware



Paul Huot

Your Support Matters

Now, more than ever, people are finding a new or renewed connection to nature. Swimming, fishing, paddling, or simply relaxing near the shore are simple things that fill our days with excitement and purpose. Your \$20 annual dues payment has a direct impact on protecting Little Ossipee Lake. With your help, the Association can continue to undertake erosion control projects, invasive plant patrol surveys, and build up reserve funds should an aquatic invasive species be found. **Your support is essential.** As our community moves forward and finds a new normal, one thing will remain constant—Little Ossipee Lake will glisten proudly, welcoming us to enjoy her splendor. Please give today to support the lake that gives us all so much.

2020 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!

Coming Together at a Pivotal Moment

A message from the president

Dear LOLA Members,

In times of crisis, the community that makes up Little Ossipee Lake pulls closer together. I know this to be true firsthand, as lake friends and acquaintances have supported me through difficult moments in my life. The coronavirus is testing that strength right now – when the best thing we can do for ourselves and families is to create physical distance. It's a challenge for all of us, and one I know we will overcome.

I am grateful, especially now, for the lake and all its cleansing, restorative properties. Water is nourishment, it is sacred, and it is life. We depend on Little Ossipee for recreation, maintaining mental health, connecting to nature, and having fun.

The coronavirus is forcing many of us to slow down, stay closer to home, and learn new ways of living in the world. While this can be difficult, it also presents an opportunity. As we move forward together this summer and better understand our new reality, I hope we will consider ways in which we can better serve the lake. This moment in time is a chance to change habits and make better choices for the health of our community, wildlife, and water. The question I keep asking myself is 'how will I give back to this precious resource?' Answers to that question for me, include things like: paying for staff check for invasive plants at the public boat launch, coming together to survey the entire lake for invasive species, building rain gardens on our individual properties where runoff occurs, and doing our part to remove trash from the lake. Most importantly, I hope we will find a renewed sense of gratitude for the lake that gives us all so much.

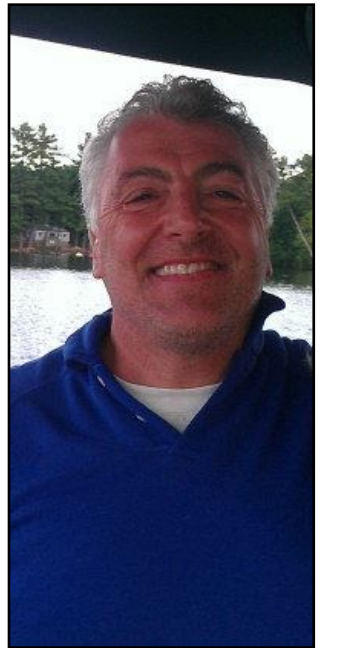
These are big ideas, but not radical ones. They can be achieved if we come together once more, not only to stay safe from the pandemic, but also to enrich our lake and community. The Little Ossipee Lake Association always welcomes your thoughts and ideas. You can connect with me and the entire board of directors by commenting on the Little Ossipee Lake Facebook group, or by sending us an email at directors@littleossipeelake.org.

I wish you good health and peace over the weeks and months to come.

See you on the lake,

Mike Taflas

P.S. Thank you to all the nurses, first responders, doctors, grocery store clerks, postal mail carriers, and all other essential workers. The Association is deeply grateful to you!



2020 Invasive Plant Patrol Efforts

Invasive plants and animals continue to be the number one threat to the health of Little Ossipee Lake. Reasons for this include: a changing climate, the lake's proximity to route 5, and the unattended boat launch. Should an invasive plant such as milfoil be found in the lake, the negative consequences can be profound. Loss of property value and difficulty swimming or boating are just some of the unwanted issues.

Even with this high level of threat, recruiting individuals to join the IPP team remains an ongoing challenge. The Little Ossipee Lake Association was unable to complete a formal survey of the entire lake last summer because we did not have enough helping hands.

However, there does seem to be an awakening. Our fearless leader of the IPP team, Deidre Donovan, received nearly one call per summer month last year, from property owners who noticed unfamiliar plants in their waterfronts. Fortunately, after a thorough investigation, none of the plants were found to be invasive. The word is getting out.

The Association now owns a clear kayak that can be used to monitor shorelines. If you are interested in using this tool to check your own waterfront, please be in touch. The more eyes on the water the better chance we have of early detection. After all, knowledge is power. Due to Covid-19, there will not be a formal survey in partnership with the Lake Stewards of Maine group, so it is especially important that we remain vigilant in checking on our own shoreline. Please remember to clean, drain, and dry your boats and equipment, and should you have a question about a plant in the water, you can reach out to Deidre via email at DDonovan89753@gmail.com.

Join Us!

The IPP team is *always* welcoming new members. Training to be a monitor is easy and efficient with guides and identification tools that will be provided. In the era of physical distancing, monitoring in your own kayak or boat is the perfect activity. To join the team, please email Deidre at DDonovan89753@gmail.com, or send us a message on our Facebook page.

LOLA to Award Four Scholarships

In light of Covid-19, LOLA wanted to do a little more to help local high school seniors. This year, LOLA decided to award all four scholarship applicants with scholarships to help them attend college in the fall. Congratulations to seniors Matthew Pooler, Mitchel Blair, Braden Baigneault, and Connor Souliere who are all pursuing degrees in various fields of environmental studies.

Caring for Our Lake ... and Each Other

This year's official Lake Cleanup Day has been cancelled, due to the social distancing measure we all must observe for our safety. But, our lake still needs constant care to maintain its health and beauty. This year it will be more important than ever to steward the lake as we enjoy the season. Please remember the following:

- If you see trash, whether it's yours or someone else's, please pick it up and dispose of it properly.
- Respect our wildlife. Please enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not offer food. If it's plant life, leave it where it is for everyone to enjoy.
- Keep it clean. Inspect your boat, personal watercraft, and all fishing gear *before* you use it in the lake to make sure no invasive plants have hitched a ride from another body of water.
- If you see something, say something. Should you notice the strange behavior of an animal, a plant that has suddenly shown up in or around your shoreline, or an abandoned watercraft floating by, the directors of your Little Ossipee Association are always available to help provide guidance.
- Respect your neighbors. The past few months have taken their toll on everyone's patience; try to be the bright spot in someone's day.

Treat the lake as it were your own... because in so many ways it is.

Lake to be Lowered this Fall

Residents and shoreline property owners take note: This fall the water level of the lake will be lowered more than usual to allow for shoreline maintenance. The lower level presents an opportunity to restore any rock erosion barriers you may have, repair docks, and make other shoreline improvements. A permit by rule is required though, so please be sure to secure a permit in advance from the state office in Portland. The address is 312 Canco Rd # 4, Portland, ME 04103 and phone is (207) 822-6300.

Remember, too, to pull your boats in time to avoid issues at the boat launch.



Tracey Anderson

2020 Annual Boat Parade

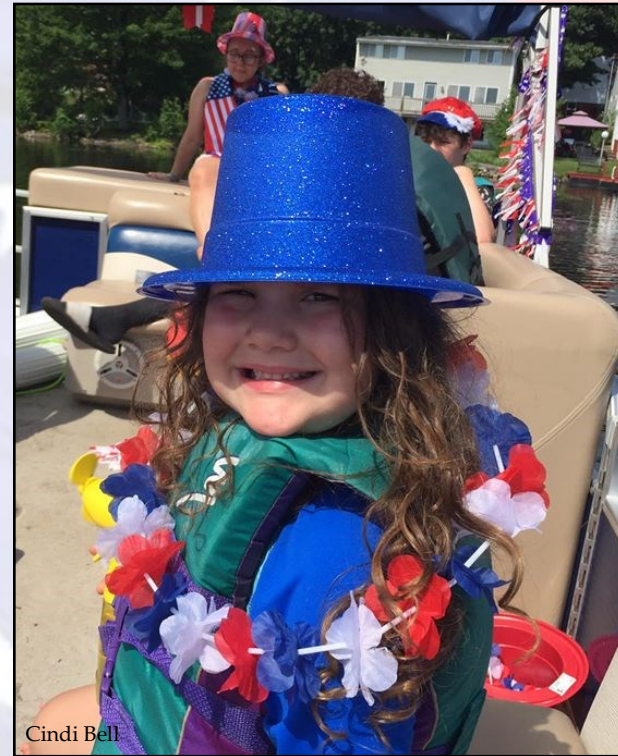
The Fourth of July Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade will happen this year, but may look a bit different. The Association is thrilled to be able to continue this tradition, despite the ever-changing world we live in.

There are two themes to choose from this year.

Theme 1: Maine's Bicentennial, reflecting on the history, beauty and nature of the state of Maine on its 200th birthday, or;

Theme 2: Messages of Hope, asking participants to display kind, uplifting messages to help us through this challenging time.

- Follow the lead boat (a green and tan pontoon boat with the statue of liberty mounted to the front) to be sure you drive by all areas of the lake.
- The winning boat will be announced immediately following the parade in front of Weymouth's Point. Only the Best of Show trophy will be awarded. (Cash prizes are no longer being given out.)
- Please drive safely and maintain proper space in between boats, move at headway speed, and watch for swimmers. Please also ensure that none of your boat decorations accidentally fly into the water.
- Questions? Ask us on the LOLA Facebook page.



Water Testing

Each year members of LOLA monitor lake water quality from spring to fall. Volunteers have been collecting this data since 1977. Testing is done every two weeks on water temperature, water clarity, and phosphorous monitoring. Test results show water quality in the lake is considered to be in excellent within the state of Maine.

Ice Out

This year the official Ice Out date was March 27, 2020. Ice out is determined by the ability to navigate a boat from one end of the lake to the other without being impacted by ice. This was an early ice out date compared to past years.

Annual Meeting, August 8, 2020

At the time of publication, it is not known whether a traditional in-person meeting and cook will be possible, but, please save the date! A virtual meeting or some variation of the meeting will take place on the second Saturday of August per the Association's by-laws. A final decision will be made in July and shared on the Little Ossipee Lake Facebook page.

