

Little Ossipee Lake Association

2023 newsletter

Roland Gendron



YOUR Membership Makes a Difference!

Your membership dues significantly impact the health and beauty of Little Ossipee Lake. Your dues fund important programs such as:

- water testing
- paid, professional, invasive plant patrol surveys
- underwater drone plant patrol
- the courtesy boat inspection program in collaboration with the town of Waterboro
- building a reserve of funds to fight invasive species, should one be found

Thank you to everyone who paid dues last year. Please become a dues-paying-member this year and help us reach our 200 member goal! You can give by mailing back the enclosed envelope, via Venmo @LOLA-IO, or online at www.littleossipeelake.org

Lindsay Tafas

Financial Summary

Like most years, membership dues and donations comprised the majority of revenue in 2022. As an all-volunteer organization, our expenses are spent solely on programs that benefit the lake. Here's a breakdown of the Association's income and expenses for last year's 2022 season.

2022 Income

Membership dues	\$9,524.67
Stewardship donations	\$3,685.00
Event donations	\$1,664.31
Merchandise revenue	\$1,000.00
LOLA scholarship	\$120.00
Guy L'italien scholarship	\$950.00
Interest income	\$100.05

Total 2022 revenue:
\$17,044.03

LOLA also holds \$20,833.24 in savings, designated for combatting invasive aquatic species, should one be found.

2022 Expenses

Programs	\$6,598.99
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(Boat ramp inspection, underwater drone purchase, professional plant survey)

Administrative	\$4,924.06
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(website fees, mailings, postage, insurance, Lake Stewards of Maine charitable donation)

Event costs	\$1,486.26
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Merchandise	\$1,240.00
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Scholarship awards	\$500.00
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Total 2022 expenses:
\$14,749.31

President's Message

Welcome to summer 2023!

It's an exciting time to be on the board of the Little Ossipee Lake Association, as there is much renewed energy for advancing important projects. I'm so grateful for this board.

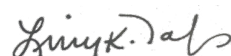
Last fall the Association purchased an underwater drone to aid in our plant monitoring efforts. (Read on to learn how you can get involved and even be a trained drone operator!) We are hopeful that the drone will increase our ability to survey large areas of the lake more efficiently.

This past winter, in collaboration with the town of Waterboro, LOLA directors identified, researched, and co-wrote a grant to support the Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) program. The town was awarded the grant and as a result, the CBI program will be collecting crucial data as part of the inspections. I urge everyone to cooperate with our inspectors, and encourage you to ask your friends and neighbors to do the same. The data the inspectors collect will be immensely valuable so that we can better learn what types of plants are entering the lake.

We continue to learn from our friends on other lakes who are fighting against invasive species. You can read on the following pages what Lake Arrowhead is doing. The biggest takeaway for me: prevention and early detection are the only tools we have to stop the spread of unwanted plants. If you want to help, this summer we're piloting a new program called Water-paddle Wednesdays. Each Wednesday in July and August there will be a paddle, led by IPP team lead Deidre Donovan. As you paddle you'll learn how to identify plants. I hope you'll join us! I promise our group is welcoming and you'll definitely laugh.

Do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at president@littleossipeelake.org. Best wishes for a safe, happy, and fun summer.

With gratitude for the lake and for you,



Lindsay Tafas

Lessons Learned from Lake Arrowhead

Lake Arrowhead has been fighting invasive plants for years. Thanks to dedicated members of their Conservation Council in collaboration with the Lake Stewards of Maine, they're doing their best to keep invasives under control. We reached out to Lake Stewards of Maine volunteer, Debbie Broderick, to learn more about their efforts.

“Lake Arrowhead has been fighting milfoil for at least 17 years and there are still areas of the lake that we can't get to. As long as boats are using the lake, milfoil is being chopped by propellers and re-distributed. We've ended up losing more and more areas to dense milfoil overgrowth, so without intervention, these areas become ideal nurseries to continue spreading throughout the lake. *It seems to me that early, vigorous action against invasives is key.*”

Najas Minor (Brittle Naiad) was discovered in August 2020, and by this summer we will be three years into fighting it manually, only to find it is spreading out of control at a rapid rate. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) now plans to administer herbicides in certain portions of our lake. This process is extremely expensive and is ongoing, taking up to 7-10 years (it is NOT a one-time solution), during which time we are required to monitor, survey, and map what we find.”

Debbie shares that people in the Lake Arrowhead community are regularly frustrated when milfoil gets tangled up in motors, restricts boating routes and impinges on swimming. It is a costly and ongoing battle to fight back against invasive species.

In addition to Milfoil and Brittle Naiad, Lake Arrowhead also has invasive Large Swollen Bladderwort. Debbie shares that once these plants are established, removing them entirely is an ongoing fight that seems to have no end.

Debbie's lessons learned:

- Act early; a wait-and-see approach is fatal!
- Avoid infestations by diligent, careful monitoring of boats being launched, and fishing gear.
- Get as many residents informed about identifying aquatic plants as possible; the more eyes on the water, the better.
- Survey and monitor regularly.



Close up of a milfoil pile.



A variable milfoil "mat".

Get Involved Today!

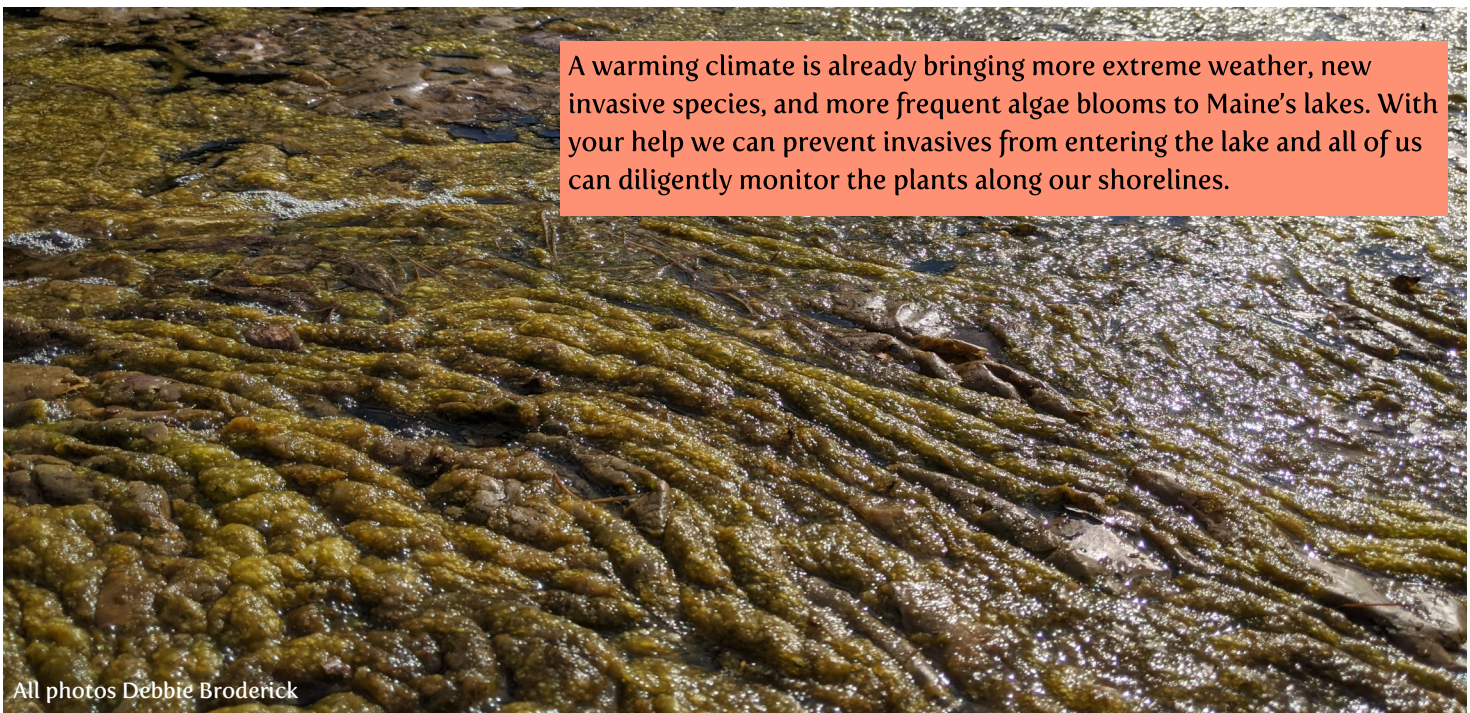
So far, there are *no known invasive plants or animals in Little Ossipee Lake!* Prevention is our best and only line of defense. If Debbie's words are inspiring you to take action, here are ways you can help prevent an invasive plant or animal from taking over our lake.

1. Make sure any boat you launch is clean, drained, dried, and free of all organic matter. Best practice is to remove any plant you see regardless if it is invasive or not.
2. Don't fertilize your lawn. Fertilizer runoff encourages plant growth not only on land but in the water, too. Green lawns = green lakes.
3. Download the Lake Stewards of Maine iPhone app called "Field Guide to Aquatic Phenomena" and start identifying aquatic plants in and around the lake. This app provides reliable information for identifying plants.
4. Join LOLA's Invasive Plant Patrol team for Water-paddle Wednesday and help identify plants in the water. No commitment or experience necessary. Paddle information will be posted weekly on FB.
5. Become a member of LOLA! Your membership supports ongoing monitoring programs.

Invasive swollen bladderwort as shown below. The flower may look pretty but this carnivorous plant can cause big trouble!



A warming climate is already bringing more extreme weather, new invasive species, and more frequent algae blooms to Maine's lakes. With your help we can prevent invasives from entering the lake and all of us can diligently monitor the plants along our shorelines.



All photos Debbie Broderick

2023 Events

7/4/23

4th of July Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade, 11am

Flaunt your best red, white, and blue in this year's parade. The parade begins on the small pond, near the dam. Please follow the Statue of Liberty boat around the entire lake. The trophy will be given out in front of Weymouth's Point immediately following the parade.

7/22/23

Invasive Plant Survey, 9am

Calling all paddlers! Many hands needed to help survey areas of the lake that have high threats of invasive species. No experience necessary, but please register with LOLA director Deidre Donovan at DDonovan89753@gmail.com.

8/12/23

Annual Meeting, Camp Laughing Loon, 9am

The meeting will feature a review of LOLA's latest projects. LOLA merchandise will be on sale.

July & August

Water-paddle Wednesdays, 9am

New this summer! Every Wednesday morning in July and August, join IPP team lead Deidre Donovan, for a friendly, leisurely paddle in various sections of the lake. During the paddle you will look for invasive plants. No experience necessary. Watch the LOLA facebook page for paddle information or email Deidre at DDonovan89753@gmail.com to find out where the group is meeting.



Vice President, Mike Taflas, tries out the underwater drone last fall.

Have you ever wanted to play with a drone?! Calling all drone operators—experienced and novice!

LOLA has purchased an underwater drone to help with monitoring plants in the littoral zones around the lake. We are looking for volunteers who would like to learn to drive the drone and identify plants late this summer.

If you'd like to get involved, please email directors@littleossipeelake.org for more information.

Keep an eye out on the LOLA facebook page for pictures taken by the drone later this summer.

"This lake exceeds anything I ever beheld in beauty."

– Percy Bysshe Shelley

Roland Gendron



Karen Albert

Your Support Matters—Thank You!

In 2022 there were 18 households that went above and beyond for the lake by becoming Lake Stewards. We're especially grateful to these supporters! In 2023, money collected from Lake Stewards will support the Courtesy Boat Inspection program.

Anonymous

Jane & Claudio Alemann

Binette Family

Dick & Sue Boissonneault

Joan Casaletto

Bruce & Joanne Church

John Cyr

Ronald Demaio

Deidre & Michael Donovan

Carl Goodwin

Mike Haun & Molly Taflas

Diane Hubisz & David Smart

Lawrence & Donna Jacobsen

Lois Knight

Steven & Louise Morris

Dale & Carol Ober

Frank Pellegrino

Ron & Rebecca Sevigny



Lindsay Taflas

We are grateful for all donations and dues received last year. This list has been prepared with care. We sincerely apologize if your name was incorrectly noted or omitted in error. Please contact Lindsay Taflas, LOLA president, at president@littleosipeelake.org if you have any corrections or questions. Thank you.

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2023 Board of Directors

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Vice President: Michael Taflas

Secretary: Peter Schild

Treasurer: Karen Albert

Parliamentarian: Dan Albert

Directors: Jim Chrzan, Deidre Donovan, Mark Houk, Bob Maxfield,

Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle, Linda Presby, Rebecca Sevigny, Molly Taflas

Alternates: Bruce Church

