

Little Ossipee Lake Association
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East Waterboro, ME 04030

First Name Last Name

Address I

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2025 Board of Directors

President: Lindsay Taflas

Vice President: Peter Schild

Secretary: Linda Presby

Treasurer: Karen Albert

Parliamentarian: Bob Maxfield

IPP Team Lead: Bruce Church

Directors: Steve Armstrong, Mark Houk,

Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle



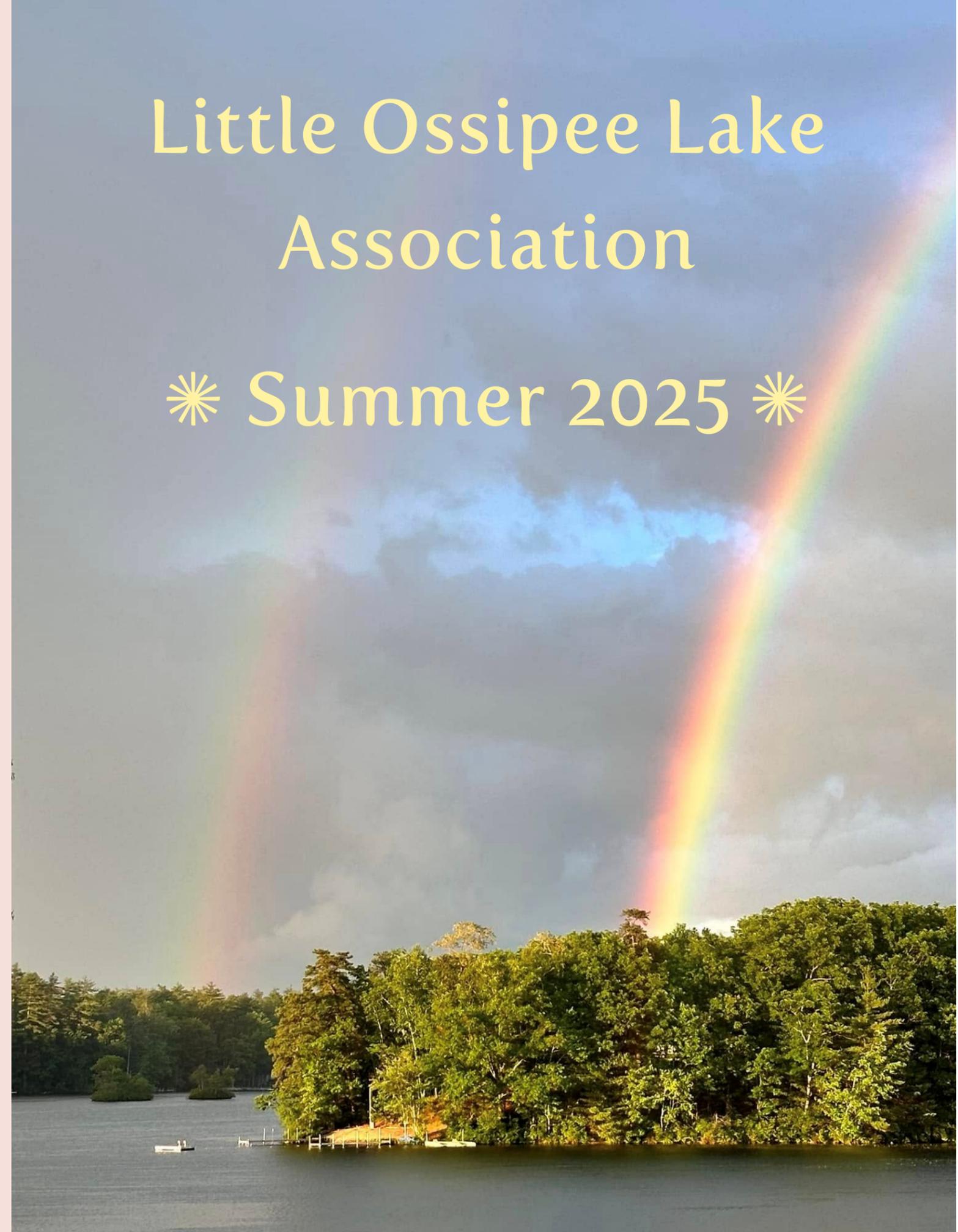
Members make it happen! Thank you for renewing your membership and investing in the health and protection of the lake.

If you haven't yet become a member, you can use the enclosed envelope, give online at Little-OssipeeLake.org, or via Venmo at LOLA-I0.

Together we can ensure the lake thrives both today and for future generations. **Thank you.**

Little Ossipee Lake Association

☀ Summer 2025 ☀



Message from the President

The invasive plant Swollen Bladderwort is still in our lake, but our collective response to combatting it is encouraging.

We are now in the second year of what the State of Maine’s Department of Environmental Services (DEP) calls their “Rapid Response” program. Board members from the Association have been advocating, tirelessly, for the state’s help to eradicate the plant. Our advocating is working. Together with the state, we have created a five-year lake management plan that outlines how we plan to control invasive Swollen Bladderwort. If you are interested in reading the management plan you can email me for a copy.

Swollen Bladderwort is a new invasive in the state of Maine and so it’s important to remember that methods for eradicating it are only just being tested. So far, actual removal of the plant by a dive team or with rakes seems to be the best method. At this time, neither the State or the Association are considering any herbicide treatments. Our hope is that aggressive, manual removal over the next few years will help get the plant under control or possibly, eradicated.

It’s important to share that the State of Maine is stepping up in a big way. The costs associated with hiring a dive team to manually remove the plant are quite high. On average, having the Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) team on the lake for one week costs approximately \$20,000–\$30,000. This summer the State has committed to covering the costs of the DASH team for a total of six weeks! That is not a cost the Association could fund on its own. We are grateful to the State for recognizing our lake as a priority. For more information on this year’s DASH efforts, please read the letter from our IPP Team Lead, Bruce Church, in this newsletter. We need volunteers to help with various activities while the dive team is here.

I’m also pleased to share that the Town of Waterboro has remained committed to funding the Courtesy Boat Inspection program. A boat inspector will be on site at the boat launch most days this summer. By asking boaters to submit to a simple inspection of their boat, we are dramatically reducing the chances of getting a more nasty invasive, like Eurasian Milfoil, in our lake. Please remember when launching any watercraft your boat should be clean, drained, and dry.

Most importantly, thank you to our members. It is because of people who care that LOLA is able to work with the state, help fund the Courtesy Boat Inspection program with the town, maintain no wake zone buoys, and conduct regular water testing. Thank you for giving so generously. Together, we can protect this lake we love.

Best wishes for a safe, pleasant summer.

-Lindsay Tafas, LOLA President
 president@littleossipeelake.org



On the left, a picture of the DASH team in action. The tube coming from the boat is a large vacuum. The plant is harvested and then put into totes and taken to the town dump.

Top image shows a large piece of Swollen Bladderwort, harvested by a volunteer with a garden rake.

On the right, a DASH team diver works to harvest the plant while leaving native plants alone.



Financial Summary

Membership dues and additional donations continue to comprise the bulk of our income. (THANK YOU, LOLA members!) Critical programming costs and general business expenses remain level from 2023.

LOLA holds money in savings that is designated for battling invasive species. It’s important to remember that money would likely not go far should we need to consider aggressive forms of treatment. Further building up of savings is important as the threat of invasive species is high.

Here’s a breakdown of the Association’s income and expenses for last season.

2024 Income

Membership dues	\$7,939
Stewardship donations	\$5,094
Merchandise revenue	\$220
LOLA & Guy Litalien scholarship	\$1,050
Other donations	\$1,907

Total 2024 revenue:
\$16,210

LOLA holds \$41,541.91 in savings, designated for combatting invasive species.

2024 Expenses

Programs	\$4,958
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(Boat ramp inspection, water testing equipment, quick keys, plant survey, informational mailings)

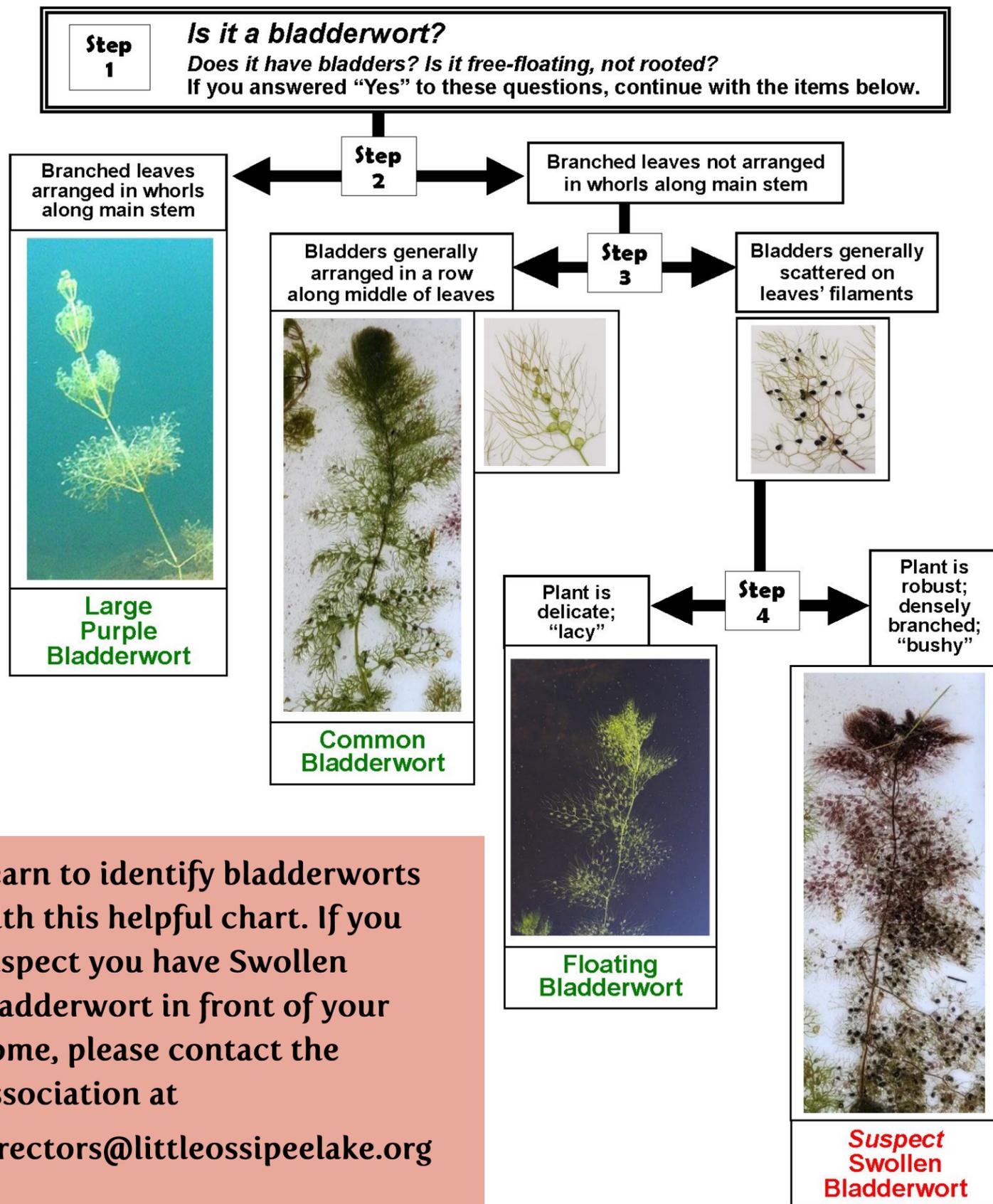
Administrative	\$3,397
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(website fees, postage, insurance, PO Box rental, charitable donations to partner organizations)

Scholarship awards	\$1,000
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Total 2024 expenses:
\$9,355

4 Steps to determine if your plant sample is **Swollen Bladderwort***



Learn to identify bladderworts with this helpful chart. If you suspect you have Swollen Bladderwort in front of your home, please contact the Association at directors@littleossipeelake.org

Continuing the Fight Against Swollen Bladderwort

By Bruce Church, IPP Team Lead

As many of you know, we found our first invasive plant species in Little Ossipee Lake in August of 2023. After completing a survey shortly after discovering Swollen Bladderwort (SWB), we found it was mostly isolated in a cove off of Eon Lane, on the West Shore of the lake. We did find small outbreaks in other parts of the lake.

When finding a new invasive plant, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) creates a Rapid Response Plan. We now have a five year plan in place to remove SWB from our lake. In 2024, we had a dive team from New England Milfoil (NEM) harvest 1,600 pounds from Eon Cove in one week. They use a Diver Assisted Suction Harvest boat (DASH), to vacuum the bottom of the lake, trying to be specific for SWB. We also performed a full lake survey in May of 2024, with the help of volunteers from Little Ossipee Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Mousam Lake, Lake Stewards of Maine and DEP. We found some plants floating out along the coastline near Eon Cove into the center of the lake.

In 2025, we plan to be much more aggressive with eradication of SWB. We have the New England Milfoil Team here for six weeks of DASH boat harvesting. Since we only covered about 12% of Eon Cove last year, we are hoping to cover the majority of the cove this year! DEP is also providing signage at the mouth of the cove to deter any boat traffic into this area. SWB spreads by fragmentation, so it is important to stay out of this cove that is currently infested. We are also planning another survey of coves around the lake where SWB could thrive.

We could use any assistance possible! We are planning a survey of susceptible areas on Saturday, June 14th. Beginning time 9 a.m. at the town boat launch. DASH boat harvesting starts on June 9th and continues for two weeks. NEM will also be back for two weeks in September and October. There are many activities to help the dive team succeed.

- Removing SWB from shoreline locations.
- Removing flowering plants
- Picking up fragments
- Emptying full totes and transporting to the Waterboro Transfer Station

I am available to help identify an suspicious plants. Please do not remove until we have identified Swollen Bladderwort. You can use the chart to the left to help you distinguish between native and invasive bladderworts. We have native species of Bladderwort that look similar but are important to our lake ecosystem.

Please let me know if you are available to help with any of these projects to keep our lake pristine for many years to come! Whatever amount of time is greatly appreciated, from one hour to one day or more! Please contact me at: bruce7157@gmail.com or 207 752-4905.

Water Quality

Each year from May to October, members of the LOLA board conduct water testing. Little Ossipee Lake remains in the top tier of healthy lakes in the state with an average Secchi reading of 8.2 meters. You can read a full report on the Lake Stewards of Maine website where data from all lakes across the state is published.

<https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/volunteer-programs-tools/surveyI23/wq-survey-data/>

Lookout For Loons

By Bob Maxfield, LOLA Parliamentarian

Spring is finally here. Hooray! This means we will be putting our docks and boats in soon. This season, I wish to remind everyone of the state-wide program Look out for Loons. Yes, I am the little Ossipee Lake representative for the program again this year. I have personally seen two loons and have heard a few others this season already. We are very fortunate to have these beautiful birds on our lake to watch and to hear, but as a reminder we need to give them space- especially at this time of year when they're nesting. Please be mindful of them so our population will thrive and grow. These loons are also letting everyone know that we are good stewards of our lake because they would not be here if our lake was not up to their standards.



LOLA loves loons so much that the 2024 boat parade theme was "Loon-a-tics", an ode to our beloved bird friends.

A Lakeside Wedding

Wedding bells could be heard on the lake last summer as Ann and Todd Hackett got married lakeside. In lieu of wedding gifts, the couple asked their guests to make a donation to LOLA. Congratulations, Ann and Todd, and thank you for giving back to the lake in such a thoughtful way.

LOLA welcomes gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones. Please get in touch with the Association if you are considering such a gift.
directors@littleossiipelake.org



Be A Good Neighbor

In an ongoing trend, Little Ossipee Lake is seeing an increase in boat traffic year over year. Increased traffic can lead to a higher risk of boating accidents and shoreline erosion. Please remember that...

- you should not travel more than headway speed when 200' (or less) from shore,
- those operating a stand-up paddle board must wear a life jacket,
- when boating at night use docking lights only for docking,
- it is illegal to operate a watercraft while intoxicated.

LOLA cannot enforce these regulations, but a Maine Game Warden can. If you are concerned, anyone has the right to call the Maine Game Warden at: (207) 287-8000. For a full list of boating laws visit <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf>

2025 Events

6/14/25

Lake-wide Invasive Plant Survey, 9am

The focus of this survey will be to locate where Swollen Bladderwort is found to assist the DASH team. Meet at the boat launch at 9am for a quick tutorial and lake area assignments. Those new to identifying and surveying most welcome!

6/9/25—6/19/25

DASH Team on site

Staff from New England Milfoil will be on the lake for two weeks in June to harvest Swollen Bladderwort, primarily from Eon Cove. Please stay out of the cove and remain far away from the dive team as they work. Volunteers are needed to help with transporting harvested plants to the town dump as well as volunteers to pick up floating fragments during harvesting. Please contact Bruce Church, bruce7157@gmail.com, if you can help. The team will be back again for two weeks in September and October, dates TBD.

7/4/25

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

"Lots of Love for Little Ossipee Lake" (or LOL for LOL) is the theme of this year's parade. Begin in 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. Rain or shine.

8/9/25

LOLA Fundraiser, Salmon Falls Country Club, and The River Tap & Grill, Hollis

Join LOLA and support the Association and a local business for a day of golf, yummy food, and great drinks. Need we say more?! See below for details.

8/10/25

Annual Meeting, Camp Laughing Loon, 9am

The annual meeting will feature a review of LOLA's latest projects, financials, and water quality data. Dues paying members may vote. LOLA merchandise will be on sale. Note this is a SUNDAY.



Support LOLA at Salmon Falls!

Salmon Falls Country Club and The River Tap & Grill are hosting a LOLA day!

On Saturday, August 9th, \$5 from each person who plays a round of golf will be donated to LOLA. In addition, 5% of all food & drink purchases that day will also be donated. A day long 50/50 raffle and prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive will be available. Join LOLA friends for golf, good food, great drinks and give back to the Association. For golf reservations please call 207-929-5233 or book online at www.salmonfallscountryclub.com. For reservations at the restaurant please call 207-298-9620 or easily book online at www.rivertapandgrill.com Hope to see you there!

