

Little Ossipee Lake Association

2026

A Caring Lake Community

Dear Little Ossipee Lake Community,

As the days grow longer, boats are back in the water, docks are out, and Little Ossipee Lake is buzzing again. So too is our commitment to protecting and caring for Little Ossipee Lake.

We are entering our third season of working with the State of Maine and the Department of Environmental Services to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant, Swollen Bladderwort. I'm thrilled to report that our ongoing efforts show real, measurable progress. Thanks to the tireless dedication of volunteers, and a paid Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) team, our treatment program is working. Far fewer flowering Swollen Bladderwort plants have been found this year and there is overall less plant material for the DASH team to harvest. This is very encouraging! Thank you to everyone who has surveyed the lake, monitored shorelines, and disposed of the invasive plant. Please know that your efforts are making a difference. We will continue to work with the State for another two years and then evaluate the success of our collective efforts and determine next steps.

As we head into the height of summer, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of a few simple habits that make a big impact on the health of the lake. Before launching your boat, please inspect and clean your hull, trailer, and any equipment. Even a small fragment of aquatic plant material can introduce a new, and possibly invasive species. Drain all water from your boat, motor, and gear before leaving the landing and never dump bait or water from another body of water into our lake. You should even wash your bathing suit that is worn in one lake before jumping in another! These steps take minutes but protect something truly irreplaceable. And be sure to let the Boat Inspectors do their job when launching watercraft at the public boat ramp—they are only here to help.

Beyond the boat ramp, I encourage everyone to take ownership of our shared shoreline. Pick up litter when you see it, keep speeds in check in no wake zones and swim areas, and look out for your neighbors on the water. Be mindful of large wakes and their impact to our shoreline. Little Ossipee is special because of the people who care for it.

Together, we are proving that a community that shows up — consistently, joyfully, and with purpose — can protect what matters most.

Most importantly, thank you to the people and businesses who become members of the Association each year. With your financial support our all-volunteer group completes annual water testing (including testing for e. coli at public swimming spots), supports the boat inspector program managed by the town, installs the state-sanctioned buoys, and monitors wildlife such as our beloved loons.

Thank you for being part of this community.

With gratitude,

Lindsay K. Taflas

Lindsay Taflas, LOLA President

president@littleossiipeelake.org



Financial Summary

In 2025 overall income was up because of additional money received from LOLA members and money raised from the LOLA Day fundraiser at Salmon Falls. Critical programming costs and general business expenses remain level and relatively unchanged from 2025.

LOLA holds money in savings that is designated for battling invasive species. Please remember that LOLA’s funds would not go far should we need to consider aggressive forms of treatment against invasive species. Further building up of savings through new LOLA members is **critical** as the threat of invasive species is high. Please encourage your friends to become members today.

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

2025 Income

Membership dues	\$8,902
Stewardship donations	\$6,817
LOLA Day Fundraiser	\$1,930
Merchandise revenue	\$491
LOLA & Guy Litalien scholarship	\$1,048
Total 2025 revenue:	\$19,188

LOLA holds \$42,538 in savings, designated for combatting invasive species.

2025 Expenses

Programs	\$3,606
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(Boat ramp inspection, water testing equipment, quick keys, plant survey, informational mailings)

Education & Administrative	\$4,502
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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 2025 expenses:	\$9,108
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Year Three in the Fight Against Swollen Bladderwort

By Bruce Church, IPP Team Lead

The IPP team had a busy year in our efforts to eradicate Swollen Bladderwort (SWB) from our beautiful lake. Over the winter of 2025 we were able to negotiate 5 weeks of Diver Assisted Suction Harvest (DASH) boat assistance by New England Milfoil paid for by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We are on a 5 year Rapid Response plan with DEP since we first found SWB in August of 2023. The focus last year was to continue to work in Eon Cove where we have found the largest concentration of SWB. We harvested 7700 gallons of plants from the cove. We also received from the DEP buoy markers at the mouth of Eon Cove that we installed last year to alert boaters to an invasive plant infestation. According to residents in the cove, boat traffic was significantly reduced.

We conducted a survey in August of last year with the help of many volunteers from Little Ossipee Lake and friends from Lake Arrowhead to see if we could locate SWB in other areas. Thanks to everyone who helped survey! We found some SWB in the coves located off of Silas Brown Road and Ricker Cove.

For 2026, we have received another 5 weeks of DASH boat harvesting. The focus this year is to try to initially concentrate on the outlying areas where SWB was found last year and work back to Eon Cove. New England Milfoil (NEM), the professional company who is contracted to complete the DASH work, started on June 1 and has observed Eon Cove to have a significant drop in SWB concentrations. At this time of year, it is difficult to observe SWB without being in the water since it hides laying on the bottom. They have found many small pockets of outlying areas from Bob Fay park to the dam. We are very fortunate to have NEM as a partner. They are a very dedicated and professional team. It appears we are making headway in our eradication of SWB.

SBW is not the only plant we are concerned about, there are many nasty invasive plants and animals that we are constantly watching out for. I am available to help identify any suspicious plants you come across. **Please do not remove any suspect plants until we have identified them.** If you are interested in learning more, the Lake Stewards of Maine group has many valuable resources available for free on their website: www.lakestewardsofmaine.org.

As always, we are accepting new members to join our Invasive Plant Patrol team. If you'd like to join or have questions please reach out to me at: bruce7157@gmail.com or 207 752-4905.

May you all enjoy a beautiful summer at the lake!

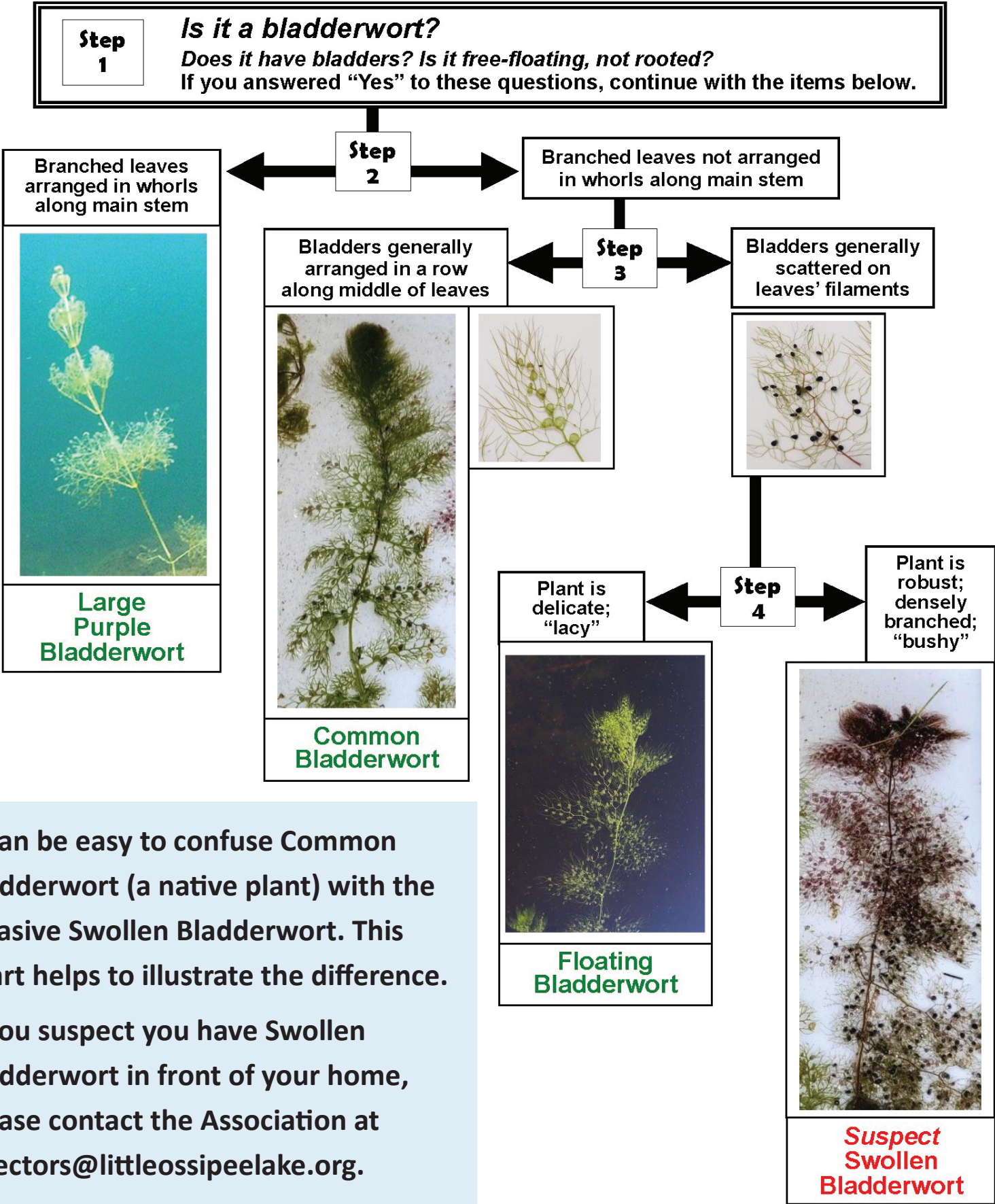


The NEM team harvesting SBW (there is a diver under the water using a vacuum to suck up the plant.) LOLA hauls away a truck load of SWB and brings it to the town dump.

If any LOLA member would like to receive a "Quick Key", a waterproof chart that helps you quickly identify invasive plants, please let us know! They are great to keep in your kayak or boat.

The Association has them in stock and would like to get them out to as many people as possible. Email info@littleossiipelake.org to request one.

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



Enjoy the Lake. Protect the Lake. It's That Simple.

By Peter Schild, LOLA Vice President

It's lake season again! Fishing with the kids, floating in a tube on a sweltering afternoon — these are the things we love about Little Ossipee. While we're enjoying ourselves, let's remember that we share this lake with our neighbors, wildlife, and future generations. A little consideration goes a long way. Please remember to...

- Choose lawn fertilizers wisely. Not all fertilizers are lake-friendly — in fact, most do serious long-term damage. Better yet, skip the fertilizer and embrace the rocks, pine needles, and natural landscape.
 - ⇒ N (Nitrogen) feeds your lawn, but runoff into the lake fuels algae blooms that deplete oxygen and harm aquatic life.
 - ⇒ P (Phosphorus) accelerates the growth of algae and weeds, which choke out native plants and disrupt the lake's ecosystem. If you're fertilizing you're likely to see larger weeds in front of your shoreline.
- Shoreline erosion is one of the most damaging and often overlooked threats to lake health. When the natural vegetation along the bank is removed or worn away, soil washes directly into the lake, clouding the water, smothering fish habitat, and raising nutrient levels. Here's what you can do:
 - ⇒ Maintain a natural buffer strip of at least 10–15 feet along the water's edge. Avoid mowing or clearing this area. Plant native plantings — deep-rooted native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs act as a natural buffer, absorbing runoff before it reaches the lake.
 - ⇒ Avoid foot traffic and lawn equipment right at the water's edge, which compacts soil and breaks down the bank over time.
- Be respectful on the water. Observe no-wake zones, maintain a safe distance from the shoreline, and watch your speed. Consider the volume of your music and be mindful of others who are near.
- Keep a trash bag on board and bring your garbage home with you.
- Respect the wildlife. Loons, egrets, eagles, and ducks all call this lake home. Observe them from a distance and give them space, especially during nesting season.
- Use only the Gobeil Park boat launch off Route 5, where your boat will receive a complimentary inspection for invasive aquatic plants.

A little respect and care go a long way toward making sure everyone — neighbors, wildlife, and generations to come — enjoys their time on Little Ossipee Lake.

If you are concerned about any boating behaviors or wildlife issues, please call the Maine Game Warden at: (207) 287-8000.



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. (In fall 2025 is this reading even reached 11.2 meters!) You can read a full report on the Lake Stewards of Maine website. The Association also tests for E.coli at the town beach and will notify swimmers if levels are elevated and considered unhealthy. Notifications would be posted on our LOLA Facebook page.

THIS YEAR the Association needs a volunteer who is interested in joining our water testing team. This person would need to become a certified water tester, and be available every two weeks from May to October, for about an hour, to conduct the testing. We can offer a stipend. Are you the person we are looking for?! Email us today! info@littleossipeelake.org

2026 Events

- 6/1/26—6/19/26 DASH Team on-site
Staff from New England Milfoil will be on the lake to harvest Swollen Bladderwort, primarily from Eon Cove. The team will likely be back in September, dates TBD.
- 7/4/26 4th of July Terry Hackett Memorial Boat Parade, 11am
"Celebrating 250 years of the United States of America" 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.
- 8/15/26 LOLA Day Fundraiser, Salmon Falls Country Club, and The River Tap & Grill, Hollis, all day
Thanks to the generosity of Salmon Falls Country Club, we are hosting our second LOLA Day fundraiser! Support a local business and LOLA at the same time! More information below.
- 8/9/26 Annual Meeting, Camp Laughing Loon, 10am
The annual meeting will feature a review of LOLA's latest projects, financials, and water quality data. Come and ask your Association your burning questions, learn about invasive plants, and stay for refreshments. LOLA merchandise will be on sale. (LOLA merch can also be found for sale this summer at the Blues Fest and Waterboro's Old Home Day!)



Support LOLA at Salmon Falls!

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

On Saturday, August 15th, proceeds from each person who plays golf will be donated to LOLA. In addition, 5% of all food & drink purchases 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 while supporting a local business.

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!



THANK YOU Salmon Falls Country Club and River Tap & Grill for your continued support of LOLA!



Little Ossipee Lake Association

PO Box 204

East Waterboro, ME 04030

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Matt Bors
Town of Waterboro Admin & Fire Chief
24 Townhouse Road
East Waterboro, ME 04030

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Parliamentarian: Bob Maxfield

IPP Team Lead: Bruce Church

Directors: Steve Armstrong, Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle, Denise Vitagliano, Patti Wersackas



We couldn't do it without members! Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership and helped improve the health of the lake.

If you haven't yet become a member, you can use the enclosed envelope to mail a check, give online at LittleOssipeeLake.org, or via Venmo at LOLA-10.

Together we ensure the lake thrives both today and for future generations.

Thank you.