

Little Sebago Lake  
Association



## **BOARD MEMBERS**

### **President**

Pam Wilkinson

### **Vice President**

Peter Gellerson

### **Secretary**

Diane Burnell

### **Treasurer**

Jim McBride

### **Accounting Assistant**

Sharon Lamontagne

### **Other Members**

Cheryl Alterman  
Rod Bernier  
Steve Davis  
Tim Greer  
Debra Lavoie  
Scott Lowell  
Kevin Murphy  
Tom Tobiassen

## **RESOURCE HELPERS & COMMITTEES**

### **Merchandise/Pirate Parade**

Deb Gellerson

### **Merchandise**

Laurie Murphy

### **Database Assistant**

Christine Godfrey

### **Water Quality**

Rick Sullivan

### **CCSWCD Liaison**

Carol Ann Doucette

### **Dam Committee**

Bruce Micucci  
Jim Theiss  
Jonathan Bernier

### **Loon Committee**

Dorothy Bates  
Sharon Young  
Betty Caton

# Little Sebago Lake Association Summer - 2016

*"Our mission is to protect, restore and improve our lake's water quality and fragile ecosystem. We will create and nurture a community of lake stewards, always mindful that human needs must be balanced with the needs of the natural environment."*

## *LSLA Annual Meeting*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

9:30-10:00 - Social Time • 10:00-12:00 - Meeting

St. Gregory Parish Hall on Crystal Lake  
24 North Raymond Road, Gray, ME

It is a perfect time to meet with those you yet do not know and to rekindle conversations with those you have missed over the year. Refreshments will be served and the LSLA Gift Shoppe will be open! The location is 24 North Raymond Road, Gray, ME. It is easy to find! If you have any questions on the location please feel free to contact the association at 207-809-4706 or email us at:

[info@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:info@littlesebagolake.com).



**Contact Us:**

Little Sebago Lake Association  
P.O. Box 912, Windham, ME 04062-0912 • 207-809-4706  
[info@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:info@littlesebagolake.com) • [www.littlesebagolake.com](http://www.littlesebagolake.com)

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## HELP WANTED

*Paid & Volunteer*

### Volunteer Positions

- Plant patrol coordinator
- Boat Ramp Milfoil inspectors
- Boat Ramp Coordinator

### Paid Positions

- Safety Patrol Captains: Qualifications  
Apply Application necessary  
Contact: Sharon Lamontagne:  
[slamontagne@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:slamontagne@littlesebagolake.com)
- Milfoil Captain/ Crew /Divers: Qualifications  
Apply Application necessary  
Contact: Pam Wilkinson:  
[pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com)

## DUES REMINDER

Your membership dues invoice should be arriving any day now. The amount due is still only \$25.00 but contributions over and above are greatly needed and appreciated. Your additional donation may also be considered as a tax deduction – please consult your tax accountant on this.

Included with it is your 2016 LSLA Sticker which you can proudly display on your boat. Also included will be raffle tickets for you to purchase. They are \$10.00 each or three for \$25.00. We are mailing out 12 tickets to each member household. Please consider buying them all and contributing in this way to help us preserve and maintain your beautiful lake.



## Message From The President

*Pam Wilkinson*

El Nino, the winter that wasn't and the earliest ice out ever is leading us into a very interesting spring and summer. Mother nature usually doesn't let go so easily and it will be interesting what she hands us in the spring and summer months ahead. March 20<sup>th</sup>, the first day of spring, the lake was active with 13 or more loons in one spot; 3 wood ducks; mallards; pileated woodpeckers; and eagles perusing the lake for their special spot to make nests for the summer. March 21<sup>st</sup>, the first full day of spring brought us a snowstorm!

During the winter months the board of directors and committee members have made preparations for your enjoyable summer. It was noticed over the past couple of years the complexion of the lake has changed. Day trippers are utilizing the boat ramp, more houses are now weekly rentals and more docks are sharing space with friends; all to experience what is treasured by us all. With the increase of usage comes the need to encourage all of us to be educated with the rules of the waters and commonsense practices that not only help to preserve the lake but make sure all are safe while having fun. Several articles in this newsletter will update you on programs that have been established to make sure

we are good stewards and set examples for generations to come.

It has been a pleasure working with such a group of dedicated and professional board members. We are blessed, as well, with numerous committee people who, along with the board members, spend countless hours volunteering their time to ensure that our ecosystem is protected and ensuring that the people who enjoy our gem of a lake have a safe summer and generate memories for years to come. I encourage you to become part of our team whether it is a board position or a committee position-there is always a new task that could use another hand. Mark your calendars for the annual meeting July 9<sup>th</sup>; a presentation on the Hopkins Dam and what makes it tick along with other interesting topics that affect you and your lake will be discussed. And join us for the Pirate Parade July 16<sup>th</sup>; lots of fun for the young and young at heart!



Kind Regards,

*Pam*

Pam Wilkinson  
*LSLA President*

### Plant Give Away at the Annual Meeting

**Once again** – with the help of O'Donal's Nursery we will be providing 100 large 10 inch potted native plants for you to improve your buffer with.

**First come** – first served to any dues paying member.

### Membership Address Updates

Please contact Cheryl Alterman via email at

[calterman@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:calterman@littlesebagolake.com)  
with corrections to addresses.



# *I Remember When...*

*We recently spoke with Mr. Malcolm Speirs about his family's camp on Little Sebago. Malcolm, 88, shared some fond memories of spending his childhood summers on the lake.*

## **Malcolm's Memories of Little Sebago Lake**

*by Cheryl Alterman*



Malcolm grew up in the Deering section of Portland. As a young boy, he remembers his friends stayed in Portland during the summer, but he spent his summers on Little Sebago. "My family was one of the first families to build a camp on Hall's Point. Between my Grandfather and my dad, it took a couple of years of planning and building. The camp was finally ready around 1928, I was just a baby. My family and I came out to the lake every summer."

"Every day was filled with plenty of activities like swimming and playing basketball. I didn't like to fish very much but I really enjoyed playing horseshoes on our beach. I became a really good horseshoe player! After a few hours of horseshoes, you couldn't beat taking an afternoon nap on the beach!"

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was the highlight of the summer. "We loved the fireworks! Also we grilled our food outside on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July- that was a big deal. At the time, most of the food was prepared inside- we didn't grill outside with the frequency we do now."

"Even though my parents 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary was earlier in the year, they waited until July so they could celebrate at the lake."

"When I was a kid, we used to bathe in the lake. And we used to walk around the lake by walking along the beach. People didn't seem to mind back then but I'm not sure that people would feel the same way today."

Malcolm also has fond memories of Aimhi. "During the war they had a hard time getting help, so I would help them open up in the spring. I loved playing ping pong there and I became friends with Aimhi guests and people that worked there as well."

"Now, I try to visit the lake every year, in September. I've also noticed that more people are choosing to live on the lake year round. If I weren't so happy living in San Antonio I would love to live here year round!"

Thanks for sharing your story, Malcolm. Hope to see you on the lake in September!

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Post on our website: [www.littlesebagolake.com](http://www.littlesebagolake.com) • Email us at: [memories@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:memories@littlesebagolake.com)

Mail us at: Little Sebago Lake Association, P.O. Box 912, Windham, ME 04062-0912

or you may even Call us at: (207) 809-4706 and we will come to you!



## Little Sebago Lake Fish Stocking Reports 2002 - 2015



**Spring 2002:**

*18 Brown Trout 24"*  
*22 Rainbow Trout 16"*

**Fall 2002:**

*1500 Brown Trout 14"*  
*150 Rainbow Trout 14"*  
*30 Brown Trout 24"*

**Fall 2003:**

*1500 Brown Trout 14"*  
*150 Rainbow Trout 16"*  
*10 Brown Trout 24"*

**Fall 2004:**

*1200 Brown Trout 14"*  
*150 Rainbow Trout 14"*  
*75 Brown Trout 20"*

**Fall 2005:**

*1500 Brown Trout 12"*  
*500 Rainbow Trout 12"*

**Fall 2006:**

*1500 Brown Trout 14"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 8"*

**Fall 2007:**

*1500 Brown Trout 12"*

**Fall 2008:**

*1000 Brown Trout 13"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 14"*

**Fall 2009:**

*1000 Brown Trout 12"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 14"*

**Fall 2010:**

*1000 Brown Trout 14"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 14"*



**Fall 2011:**

*700 Rainbow Trout 14"*  
*1000 Brown Trout 13"*

**Fall 2012:**

*1000 Brown Trout 13"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 14"*

**Fall 2013:**

*1000 Brown Trout 12"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 14"*

**Fall 2014:**

*500 Brown Trout 13"*  
*500 Brown Trout 12"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 13"*

**Fall 2015:**

*500 Brown Trout 13"*  
*500 Brown Trout 12"*  
*700 Rainbow Trout 13"*

## Little Sebago Lake Association Functions & Finances

### WHAT WE DO

*Membership*

*Data Base Update*

*Financial / Budgets*

*By-Law and Policy Reviews*

*Fund Raising*

*Planned Giving/Endowments*

*Safety Patrol Program*

*Grant Writing*

*Public Forums*

*Town-State-Federal interactions*

*Road Associations Networking*

*Website*

*Newsletter*

*Merchandise*

*Lower Narrows Restoration*

*Task Force*

*CCSWCS-Watershed &*

*Erosion Control*

*Pirate Parade Day*

*Annual Meeting Planning*

*Milfoil Initiative Consortium*

*Operations of Organization*

*Water Quality Testing*

*Dam Monitoring*

*& Emergency Plan*

*Strategic Planning*

*Benthic Barrier Program*

*Milfoil Operations*

*Fleet Maintenance*

*Organize Educational Forums*



# Hopkins Dam Report

The Hopkins Dam on Little Sebago Lake has added another winter to its 120+ year history with no visible signs of age.

As I write this in early March we have reached our low water level point (-13" on 11/16/15) and the water level is on the rise. A mild but rainy winter is nullifying a fully open dam to bring the lake level up a bit early. The water level today is -10" below summer level, it makes me a little nervous to go into the spring without 15 to 18 inches of capacity. Our history is that spring rains cause most of our flooding problems.

Our Emergency Action Plan (EAP), which is required of all dam owners, is updated and filed with state every 2 years. Although our plan that was submitted in October 2015 was approved we have received notice from the state that an on-site review and full emergency drill that will be conducted on April 28, 2016.

Let me review briefly what is required to satisfy the state that we have developed and are able to execute an effective EAP. Following a 1991 storm that caused widespread flooding and the failure of a number of privately owned dams in Maine a law was enacted that required owners of Maine dams to follow a new set of guidelines. Under the guidelines we first had to determine how much water would be

released if our dam on Little Sebago Lake were to fail. Given the failure, how much would the water level in the water shed below Little Sebago Lake rise. Next a topographical inundation map must be created showing the expected areas that would be flooded and exactly what homes, businesses etc would lie in the flood zone. All homes and businesses are to be identified as to the owner, addresses and phone numbers. After a detailed inundation map is approved we must then develop a notification flow chart that would effectively get the word out to those in the line of the impending danger. Our dam committee (dam guys) have split into two teams that will hopefully allow overlapping responsibilities in the case of a dam failure. Checking the condition of the dam at least weekly under normal conditions and daily in heavy rain or storm conditions, any sign of possible failure of the dam will trigger an immediate call for the EAP members to begin emergency notification to the state, county and town officials, emergency response departments as well as people living in the inundation zone.

All of the dam committee members are authorized to declare an emergency and begin the process.



# Hopkins Dam Report (Cont.)

Our focus is primarily on good maintenance and inspection of the dam so that an event triggering an emergency event never happens.

Since we will have so many board members as well as government officials in house that day I have also asked State Dam Inspector Tony Fletcher to schedule us for a dam inspection on the same day. As owners of a dam classified by the state of Maine as a "Significant Hazard" it is important that state officials take note as often as possible the efforts of the Little Sebago Lake Association to maintain the 120 year old dam to the highest degree of integrity possible.

We will be installing the new catwalk above the dam in early April which will finish the planned repairs for 2015/2016. I will be putting before the board a funding proposal to address both short and long range dam maintenance issues at the March board meeting.

A proposal before the legislature

(LD 1566) "An Act Concerning the Establishment of Water Levels" was presented to the LSLA board by State Senator Cathy Breen. After reviewing the bill we recommended to the board that the LSLA oppose the bill on the basis that the DEP was shifting responsibility for managing water level disputes to a 3rd party mediation hearing. Failing a satisfactory agreement the DEP could then move the dispute to a adjudicatory hearing before a judge and impose costs up to \$20,000. Senator Breen has notified us that the legislation failed to pass but that continued rule making will ensue... Translation, its all about state departments developing new revenue streams. Thanks to Senator Breen for keeping us up on this.

***LSLA Dam Committee:  
Bruce Micucci, Rod Bernier, Chris Micucci, Jim Theis, Jonathan Bernier***



# Little Sebago Lake Association 2015-2016 Budget

	Budget 2015	Actual 2015	Difference 2015	Budget 2016	Notes:
<b>Revenue:</b>					
Donations	\$ 32,500	\$ 30,402	\$ (2,098)	\$ 31,100	
Membership Dues	\$ 18,750	\$ 18,625	\$ (125)	\$ 19,000	
Fundraising	\$ 10,500	\$ 12,870	\$ 2,370	\$ 10,500	
Grant Revenue	\$ 24,625	\$ 24,625	\$ -	\$ 27,571	
Interest & Dividends	\$ 4,000	\$ (3,989)	\$ (7,989)	\$ 2,000	a
Merchandise Revenue	\$ 10,000	\$ 14,143	\$ 4,143	\$ 12,500	
Miscellaneous	\$ 300	\$ 530	\$ 230	\$ 400	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 100,675</b>	<b>\$ 97,206</b>	<b>\$ (3,469)</b>	<b>\$ 103,071</b>	
<b>Disbursements:</b>					
Bank Charges & PayPal	\$ 300	\$ 158	\$ (142)	\$ 200	
Boats	\$ 11,000	\$ 17,525	\$ 6,525	\$ 11,800	b
Dam Maintenance	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,090	\$ (910)	\$ 2,000	c
Equipment Purchases	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,019	\$ 1,019	\$ 500	d
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,711	\$ (289)	\$ 1,800	
Gas	\$ 1,750	\$ 964	\$ (786)	\$ 1,400	
Insurance	\$ 8,600	\$ 6,850	\$ (1,750)	\$ 7,044	
Legal & Accounting	\$ 500	\$ 405	\$ (95)	\$ 500	
Licenses/Permits	\$ 200	\$ 73	\$ (127)	\$ 100	
Loon Protection	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ (500)	\$ 500	
Merchandise Purchases	\$ 8,300	\$ 14,026	\$ 5,726	\$ 11,300	e
Milfoil supplies etc.	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,878	\$ 678	\$ 1,900	
Miscellaneous	\$ 600	\$ 161	\$ (439)	\$ 500	
Office, Gifts/Donations	\$ 750	\$ 190	\$ (560)	\$ 800	
Payroll (milfoil/boat ramp/dredging)	\$ 48,500	\$ 27,412	\$ (21,088)	\$ 35,500	f
Postage	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,981	\$ (219)	\$ 2,200	
Printing	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,642	\$ 1,142	\$ 6,200	
Public Forums/Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,424	\$ 424	\$ 1,300	
Safety Patrol Program, supplies & wardens	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,650	\$ 150	\$ 11,200	g
Sandy Narrows Restoration	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)	\$ -	
Scholarships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	
Watershed	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,000)	\$ 5,000	h
Website & Database	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,184	\$ (816)	\$ 4,500	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 108,400</b>	<b>\$ 92,340</b>	<b>\$ (16,060)</b>	<b>\$ 107,244</b>	
<b>Total Income less Expense</b>	<b>\$ (7,725)</b>	<b>\$ 4,867</b>		<b>\$ (4,173)</b>	i

**Notes:**

- a) 2015 reflects investment losses due to market conditions. 2016 growth in reserves help cover op costs.
- b) Extensive repairs needed to several of our boats in 2015 including new motor for safety patrol
- c) Minor maintenance planned but almost twice as much as 2015
- d) Purchased new boat ramp signs in 2015; 2-way boat comms in 2016
- e) Merchandise purchases higher to build inventory & support sales in 2015
- f) Payroll in 2015 reflects reduced milfoil removal and shorter season
- g) Safety program increased to provide extra patrol coverage
- h) Watershed costs for remediation efforts on priority sites
- i) Although the budget is not 'balanced' any funds needed at year-end will be drawn from Reserves

**Little Sebago Lake Association -- Balance Sheet as of Year-end**

Assets:	12/31/14	12/31/15	Difference
Endowment	\$ 13,164	\$ 16,616	\$ 3,452
Operating Account	\$ 22,946	\$ 27,716	\$ 4,770
Reserves	\$ 137,954	\$ 134,598	\$ (3,356)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 174,064</b>	<b>\$ 178,930</b>	<b>\$ 4,867</b>
Liabilities:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Net Worth:</b>	<b>\$ 174,064</b>	<b>\$ 178,930</b>	<b>\$ 4,867</b>





## Little Sebago Lake Assoc. – Treasurer’s Report

*A summary financial report showing 2015 results compared to budget is attached. It also shows the proposed budget for 2016. With a few noted exceptions, we ended up the 2015 year in **good financial shape**. Here are a few highlights:*

- Total 2015 income was \$97,206 which was behind 2014 and below budget. Although dues and donations were down slightly, the primary driver was interest & dividend income due to market timing on our non-operating reserves and endowment investments. Those investments have largely bounced back in the first quarter of 2016.
- Our budget for 2016 shows total income of \$103,071 reflecting slight increases in donations, grant revenue and interest & dividend income.
- Total 2015 expenses were \$92,340 which was below 2014 and well below budget. The biggest savings was in payroll which was somewhat offset by higher costs for boat repairs and merchandise purchases.
- Our budget for 2016 shows total expense of \$107,244 reflecting higher payroll costs and a significant increase in our boating safety program.
- Total Income Less Expense: We ended 2015 with positive cash flow and a net surplus of \$4,867. Our 2016 budget shows a slight deficit of \$4,173.
- Net Worth – At year-end 2015 we had total assets of \$178,930, almost \$5,000 higher than last year.

## Membership update

- At year-end 2015 we had 1,379 names & addresses in our LSLA membership database.
- During the year 740 members paid the annual dues of \$25. This reflects 54% of total members, a slight increase over last year. Conversely, 639 members or 46% of total did not respond to several dues requests.
- Of the 740 members who paid dues, 397 or 54% gave more than the \$25 dues. This includes members who made additional donations, bought raffle tickets or contributed to the endowment.
- Those additional gifts and the raffle totaled over \$43,000. We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of those members who contribute more than the dues.... Thank you!





Department of

# Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

## ME INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

### BOATING SAFETY COURSE

{THIS IS A NASBLA  
(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SMALL BOAT LAW ADMINISTRATORS)  
APPROVED COURSE}

This course is a repeat of the very successful one that we offered last years. The date, time and place will be determined, please check our website later this spring.

Little Sebago Lake Association is sponsoring the event and it is free to the first 20 dues paying members who register and all young adults under the age of 20.

*Interested persons should contact Sharon Lamontagne at:  
[slamontagne@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:slamontagne@littlesebagolake.com)*

Students 10-12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during the full program.

*Maximum capacity: 40 students*

**Authorized instructors are donating their time to  
the cause of greater outdoor safety.**

*If special accommodations are required due to disability, please contact me no later than 1 week prior to program date.*

The Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife programs and activities are operated free from discrimination in regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.



# Safety Patrol Program

Over the last several years, it is becoming more and more apparent that our lake is changing. It is becoming a very desirable and popular destination. The public boat ramp is full most every Saturday and Sunday with day trippers. There are more homes being rented out weekly, which means a new group of boaters each week that need to learn the lake and may not have a lot of boating experience. The size and speed of the boats is increasing. The number of kayaks and paddle boards has increased dramatically.

These are just some of the reasons for the concerning changes that many are seeing. The board of LSLA has noticed these changes and we have fielded many complaints from members. We hear things like, "I can't go out anymore on a Sunday afternoon – it is just too dangerous". Or, "Speed boats are not respecting the 200 foot rule; coming way too close to shore and my frontage is eroding."

So, in response to these concerns, we have decided to increase the Safety Program to include the following:

- **We are working with the State of Maine Inland Fisheries Department, and have a contract for additional patrols on our lake with Wardens.**
- **We have doubled the Cumberland County Sheriff Patrols.**
- **We have added a paid position to our crews and will have the LSLA Patrol boat out every Saturday and Sunday.**

It is our hope that with this additional diligence on our part to have law enforcement on our lake, we will not only all be more able to enjoy ourselves but will keep us all safe while doing so. Our goal is to be proactive – and not wait to react after a horrific accident or the loss of life on our lake.

Be aware that with this additional coverage – diligence on your part will be necessary. Be sure that your boats are registered, have the proper number of life jackets, and that you are obeying the boating laws of the State of Maine at all times.



# *Little Sebago Loonacy...*

**By Sharon Young**

As I gather my thoughts to write this article I am enjoying a beautiful sunny spring day. It is March 11, 2016.

March 11, 2015 was also a beautiful sunny day but outside my window still sat two feet of snow and a lake completely ice and snow covered. What a difference a year makes. Today the lake is partially open and my lawn is already greening. Within days the lake will completely open up and the loons will return to their summer home.

With open water we will see male loons return to claim their territory. Within a few days to a week, the females will return as well. Then the party begins. The males will have selected a nesting site (there is sometimes some competition over sites and maybe even a bit of aggressive posturing between males) and will be attempting to attract a female to join them. During this period of claiming a site, and attracting a female partner, there is likely to be an abundance of daytime and nighttime “music”. That “music” being the beautiful yodels’ and tremolos’ we love to hear.

Copulation typically occurs during the day, and is precipitated by a mating ritual that may include tandem diving, preening, and bill dipping. One or the other will come up on the shore and “call” to the other. The mating call is somewhat like a mew – a soft and quiet ‘come get me’ call, quite distinct from the loon calls we typically hear. When copulation is completed the male immediately returns to the water and awaits the female. She will remain quietly cooing for a few minutes then join with her mate and begin nest building together. Nests are frequently found on islands on the shore side protected from prevailing winds. The nest will usually be within one to two feet from water’s edge. The nest materials are whatever happens to be available. Construction is minimal – just a mounding with a hollowed out center. A few days after the nest is built the female will lay her eggs (usually two), and an incubation period of approximately 28 days will begin.

During incubation both male and female take equal turns sitting the nest. Where we are accustomed to seeing our loon friends in pairs, during this period we will see not two, but one loon, on the lake searching for food, while the other is occupied tending the nest. This is how we come to locate nests, by watching these patterns we see the probable area where the nest is likely to be. Last summer I had the good fortune of watching one loon return to the nest while the sitting partner left the nest. The loon that is not on the nest stays in close proximity as sentinel and loudly discourages any folks or foul that come too near. If you are out in watercraft and have a loon display loud cry’s and flapping wings – take heed – you are violating their territory and should retreat quickly and quietly. Loons could be pressured to abandon their nest if it is violated or frequently disturbed. If you see boaters or swimmers approaching an area where a nest is likely, and you feel able to, politely discourage them.

Another frequent problem arises when water levels fluctuate after the nest and eggs cycle is complete. When the lake level rises the nest may be flooded, or may be so close to the water line that boat wakes may cause the eggs to roll out of the nest and into the water. When the level lowers too far it can cause the nest to be too far from the water. Loons are not built for foot journeys. Their feet are far back on the body making walking on solid ground quite difficult. If the water’s edge is too far from the nest they won’t be able to make passage to sit the eggs. Even if they do manage to maintain the nest, and the chicks do hatch, they will have a long journey to water and are most susceptible to predators during their journey to the safety of the lake.





Last season Little Sebago was blessed with eight new chicks who successfully matured!!! Unfortunately, through the efforts of Lee Attix of the Biodiversity Research Institute, we also recovered five eggs that did not hatch. Two of these had rolled into the water in Hayden Bay. (The Island in Hayden Bay is almost always home to a loon nest, yet boaters circle that island pulling tubes and water skiers. When boaters are either ignorant of, or disrespectful of, NO WAKE zones, wake can, and will, disturb the loon nests, and that is exactly what happened to those two eggs.) Two of the other unhatched eggs recovered came from a nest that had successfully hatched one chick. Seeing that there had been three eggs in one nest is very uncommon and of great interest to the research teams.

Biodiversity Research Institute has been studying loons on Little Sebago as well as other lakes throughout New England, and have banded loons to study their patterns since 1997. Research has shown that contrary to popular belief, loons do not remain with the same partner for life. Some are seen returning with the same partner and some with new mates. Likewise, banding has allowed us to see that the loons do not necessarily return to the same nest year after year. One pair banded in 97 near Horse Island had a new male with the returning female in 1998 and brooded to the south east corner of the island, then the original male and female returned in 2000 and brooded on the north side of the island.

Biodiversity Research takes blood and feather samples when banding the birds, as well as testing the contents of failed eggs to help determine the overall health trends and factors contributing to reproductive failures. When they have an opportunity to retest the same bird in subsequent years they are able to monitor increases or decreases of mercury levels. Mercury is known to be a killer of loons. Elevated levels are also known to cause reproductive failures. The good news is that the testing on Little Sebago has not shown any high mercury levels as yet, despite the fact that overall Maine is historically higher than any other state.

Last year was a banner year for chicks through the states Biodiversity monitors (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont & Maine). Let's hope for a successful 2016 as well.

I hope to see you all at the annual meeting in July and look forward to reporting successful loon reproduction for 2016. Meanwhile you will likely see me on the lake in my pink Loon kayak monitoring the majestic loons we have the honor of hosting each summer. Feel free to reach out with any loon questions or concerns via text at 207-632-0075 or email [syoung0252@gmail.com](mailto:syoung0252@gmail.com).





# LSLA \$500.00 SCHOLARSHIPS



## *Caroline Verrill*

Hi everyone! My name is Caroline Verrill. I was honored to receive the Little Sebago Lake Association 2015 Scholarship. I am currently a freshman at University of Southern Maine, and I am majoring in biology. I have a passion for the environment and plan to either receive a degree in biology or environmental science/management. I am an avid outdoors woman, I absolutely love being outside. This scholarship meant a lot to me because I was recognized in pursuing a career in protecting our environment, plus Little Sebago Lake is close to home for me. I want to thank the Board of Directors, everyone from the Little Sebago Lake Association, and the members for this scholarship. **-Caroline Verrill**



*Caroline Verrill, \$500 GNG Scholarship Recipient*

## *Eri Martin*

We live in a time where nature is often taken for granted. But through small steps, we have started a revolution to save and preserve what we have. I would like to thank the LSLA board and the members of the Little Sebago Lake Association for your scholarship gift that is helping me further my education to teach others about the natural wonders of Maine. I am excited to finish my freshmen year at Unity College with a dual major of Adventure Therapy and Outdoor Environmental Education. I think that through people like you and your association, we can really make a difference, and protect what we have so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the stunning beauty of nature. **-With many thanks, Eri Martin**



*Eri Martin, \$500 Windham Scholarship Recipient*

## Boat Ramp & Courtesy Boat Inspections

*Pam Wilkinson*



Jim and Jackie Fitzgerald attend the VLMP seminar in February to keep abreast of any changes and gather new information to pass on to those entering the lake. They worked long hours on weekends and holidays in order to inspect for milfoil and educate as many visiting watercraft as possible. Although no suspicious fragments of milfoil have been found for years, our inspectors also help raise awareness of the invasive species, policies of the lake and other information that makes their boating experience safe. Brochures are handed out along with the milfoil inspection for each boat checking for invasive plant fragments coming into and out of the lake. If you would like to become a volunteer during the uncovered hours please contact Pam Wilkinson [pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com) or 207-809-4706.

The Jim and Jackie team are efficient and communicate well with the people using the boat ramp. They are quite the characters who truly have the best interest of the program and the lake in mind. They take pride in their job and it shows with the comments we receive.

<b>2015 boat count</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>2013 boat count</b>	<b>2102</b>	<b>2011 boat count</b>	<b>2190</b>
<b>2014 boat count</b>	<b>2089</b>	<b>2012 boat count</b>	<b>2110</b>		

The new construction of the new boat ramp and addition of the dock by MDIFW lead to different challenges regarding loading and unloading of boats. The MDIFW assessed some of the difficulties and will be making some enhancements for easier access and regress. New signs will be posted in no parking areas to allow for trailers to park or leave without having to jockey several times. It is expected that this summer/fall MDIFW will:

- ***Review the current riprap height adjacent to plank as the installed 2' of level riprap appears to be settling and may require additional riprap application sooner instead of later.***
- ***Investigate the possibility of an additional section of float to allow for more maneuvering room.***
- ***Look at the 2 areas immediately adjacent to the right and the left of the ramp at the water line to improve "friendliness" for hand-carry craft users (i.e. install small stone over larger riprap).***

Little Sebago Lake Association constructed a new sign at the boat launch to point out various features and protections for the lake during visits.

**Please remember that islands are private** and if you are visiting the lake for a day we ask that you develop the policy of "carry in, carry out" **ALL WASTE**. If you are preparing to spend the whole day on the lake, please either use the porta potty at the boat ramp or bring a portable device on your boat and discard appropriately.



# LSLA Endowment Fund...

## What is an endowment?

Merriam-Webster defines the word endowment as “the act of providing money to create or support a school, organization, etc.” In simple terms, it is a great way to fund ongoing operations with a self-sustaining revenue stream. Many non-profits strive for large endowment funds so that the interest from the funds can be used to fuel their operations while leaving the principal alone for dire emergencies.

For the Little Sebago Lake Association, this is why we established our endowment fund. Our “dire emergency” would be the Hopkins Dam if it ever became damaged or in need of extensive repairs. That dam is what keeps our lake at the height it is today. Without it, our lake could be reduced to a river, not to mention the tragedy that could happen downstream from the dam. We hope to build that fund up for the day the dam does need an expensive overhaul.

As for the interest from the endowment, we still fight milfoil every year pulling hundreds of bags using our specialized boats and all the equipment needing maintenance. Without the association, that weed could overtake the lake reducing motor boating and all the fun activities that go along with it. Think about the loss of good memories for years to come.

We also try to provide piece of mind while out on the lake by maintaining a safety patrol boat. It is used to meet as many folks on the lake as possible, educating about how to protect and preserve our resources. We are out there as much as possible encouraging safety. It’s all about educating safety and preservation, protecting those good memories.

We also work to keep the lower narrows open every spring by utilizing expensive suction dredging equipment to take away all the new sand that builds up from the previous season. Without this effort, only a few very small vessels could go between the lower and middle lakes.





# ...And Its Vital Role

Those are just the major tasks the association undertakes every year. Other ongoing tasks include, but not limited to:

- ***The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program***
- ***Watershed and Erosion Control Program***
- ***Water Quality Testing***
- ***Dam Maintenance and Emergency Planning***
- ***Educational Forums such as the Boating Safety Course***

## **Why does Little Sebago Lake Association want one?**

The primary reason is to build up a fund in the event our dam ever failed. The expense would be huge and the more we can put away, the easier it will be to react if needed. The secondary reason is to help fuel our daily operations by utilizing the interest from the fund as needed.

You would think that the dues and other donations would be enough, and we usually break-even year after year, but having a cushion we can depend on would certainly help keep up all of our activities. We only have participation from about 50% of the folks on the lake, and many of them only send the \$25 for the annual dues. Why such a low number baffles us too with all the work our volunteers do every summer.

## **What will the Board do with all that money?**

As previously stated, we are looking to build up the fund for that day when the dam will need serious attention. Whether it's five years from now or 50 years, the fund will be there for the board to use if needed. As a side benefit, having the revenue stream to offset operating costs would be a huge help. If we don't need it, then the money will roll back into the fund.

## **How can you help?**

Think about giving or leaving your legacy behind with a major donation to our endowment fund. Your kindness will keep giving in perpetuity for the preservation and protection of our lake for many generations to come. After all, isn't it about the good memories and ensuring new ones will continue to be made? Absolutely!



# Milfoil Militia Report 2016 - Success each year!

*Pam Wilkinson*

Milfoil was first identified in 1999, analyzed and verified it was variable milfoil in 2003, hand pulled until we developed the first suction dredge (HIPPO-short for hydraulic invasive plant processing operation) in 2004 and second in 2006. The HIPPO's need constant attention and upgrades due to it being a work boat. The suction harvest program has continued and will continue so that managing the beds we will keep the cycle of the lake balanced and usable for all species. Our major accomplishment last year was that we halted operations at the end of August because we could not justify the expense of our operation versus the amount of milfoil being extracted. We hope to continue to beat down the milfoil beds so our operation can convert all areas from weekly, to semi-weekly, to monthly re-grooming. We need to always be on guard, keep assessing existing beds and look for other areas that the milfoil may have taken hold. Our efforts this year will be to survey, prioritize, extract and improve our mapping system to better quantify our efforts. Our last challenge was in the lower basin where it had taken more time to reduce the dense beds. Last year the operation in this area too had to halt because of low quantities extracted. We would like this area to become a biweekly extraction similar to the upper basin and narrows. If we can find the crews to place benthic barriers in the shallow coves we have targeted three areas in the upper basin that this will be a secondary method after hand pull. It

is important not to stop scouting and extracting in order to keep the milfoil conditions from going back to dense bed conditions. The boat ramp activity has increased day tripper usage and there are several fishing tournaments on the lake. It will always be a challenge when boats from infested lakes visit and it is important to make sure the variable milfoil from our lake is not transferred. It is important to have the Courtesy Boat Inspection program to educate those who want to use the lake, of the impacts of milfoil. It is important to become familiar with your shoreline and report any suspicious plant. We respond to requests to come and identify if the plant in your area is native or invasive. You can email [pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com) or call 207.809.4706 to report suspicious plants. There are classes that you can take to know the difference and the importance of keeping native vegetation to discourage the invasive from taking over your area. Visit [vlmpme.org](http://vlmpme.org) for more information. It is also important to know what is fueling the growth of invasive and native vegetation. Good vegetative buffering, eliminating fertilizers around the lake, discouraging sand that contains phosphorous from being used on the beaches and erosion control measures are ways each of us can lessen the impact and growth of variable milfoil. Please review the following chart to measure our accomplishments which has maintained property values and keep our lake usable:

YEAR	UPPER BASIN GRAY	TWIN BROOKS GRAY	BEAVER COVE GRAY	MUMFORD COVE GRAY	LOWER BASIN WINDHAM	BEAN ISLAND	BAG TOTALS	AMOUNT SPENT	VOLUNTEER TIME	TOTAL
2007	271	55	91	133	710	-	1,260	67,296.36	9,255.00	76,551.36
2008	215	62	63	97	1,332	-	1,769	55,651.90	9,260.00	64,911.90
2009	390	58	9	296	967	-	1,778	51,580.26	13,786.00	65,366.26
2010	187	54	2	47	1,491	-	1,889	67,265.60	17,046.42	84,312.02
2011	178	17	7	16	500	-	735	48,350.18	12,466.32	60,816.50
2012	86.5	50	16	20.5	954	3	1,180	46,253.82	13,300.68	59,554.50
2013	314.5	25.75	49	33.5	760.75	3	1,202	51,507.84	13,909.84	65,417.68
2014	180.25	54.5	15	28	353	-	740	45,326.10	7,459.14	52,785.24
2015	63	11	50	71	164.5	-	366	31,762.73	9,748.50	41,511.23
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,885.25</b>	<b>387.25</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>7,232.75</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10,545.75</b>	<b>\$464,994.79</b>	<b>\$106,230.90</b>	<b>\$533,856.55</b>

*Each bag equals approx. 20 pounds dry weight.*

*2014 less than one ton removed.*

*2015 less than ½ ton removed.*

*To date approx. 105.5 tons removed over a 9 year period.*

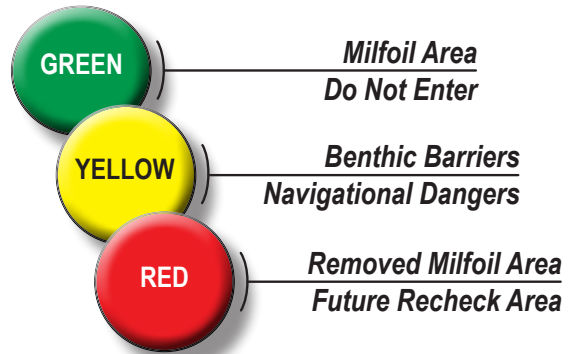


# Milfoil Militia Noodle Markers

Help us watch for milfoil in Little Sebago Lake and keep the natural vegetation in it's place to discourage milfoil growth.

For any questions or to report milfoil sightings in your area, call Pam Wilkinson (LSLA) at: 428-3732, or email her at: [pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com)

Stop Sign "Polk-A-Dot" Campaign  
Noodle Markers ~ What do they mean?



## Maine Aides to Navigation System

For boating safety...learn to recognize these aides to navigation

**MARKS CENTER OF CHANNEL** - Boat may pass either side.

**MARKS LEFT SIDE OF CHANNEL** - Boat should pass to right of buoy.

**CONTROL!** Type of control is indicated within the circle such as HEADWAY SPEED ONLY, SAFETY SLOW ZONE, ETC.

Boat should not pass between buoy and nearest shore.

**RACE COURSE MARKERS**

**NO BOATS!** Diamond with cross indicates areas where boating is prohibited.

**MARKS RIGHT SIDE OF CHANNEL** - Boat should pass to left of buoy.

**INFORMATION!** Tells distances, locations, other official information.

**Diving Flag!** Stay at least 100 feet away.

**Mooring Buoy**

**DANGER!** Warns of rocks, reefs, dams or other hazardous areas.

**MILFOIL AREA**

*\* CAUTION: Not all hazards are marked. Especially within 200' of shore.*

For more information or Questions Call Rod Bernier (LSLA) at: 809-4706 or Email him at: [rbernier@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:rbernier@littlesebagolake.com)



## Erosion, Sediment, and Water Quality

### Understanding the connection, Ongoing projects, and how you can help.

Starting back in 2002 LSLA, Cumberland Country Soil and Water Conservation District, and Maine DEP began a long term collaborative effort to protect water quality in Little Sebago. To date these agencies, using grant funds available through the federal clean air and water act in combination with work and funding by private individuals, road associations, the towns of Gray and Windham, and a host of others have accomplished over \$500,000 worth of work reduce the introduction of sediment into Little Sebago. Conversantly calculating the reduction of sediment entering the water body based on the results of known Best Management Practices we have kept well over 600 tons of sediment out of Little Sebago in the last decade.

The control of erosion and resultant flow of sediment into a water body is important from many aspects. Not only does the sediment reduce water depth and clarity, the fine material gives us muddy coves and smothers fish habitat and nesting sites. In addition the sediment carries with it Phosphorous, a limiting nutrient that when present in high volume promotes the growth of plant life such as milfoil and makes conditions ripe for algae blooms. As the algae proliferate and then die they release the phosphorous back into the water starting a revolving cycle that tends to get worse. This also causes a depletion of oxygen in the water column reducing available fish and aquatic creature habitat.

At the beginning of this erosion control effort in 2002 and 2003 a complete study of every property, Right of Way, and private road in the Little Sebago Watershed was conducted including photos, site evaluation, and recommendations for each property. The information was reviewed and graded by DEP and CCSWCD engineers who created spreadsheets of low, medium, and high priority sites based on observed erosion and projected soil transport to the water body. This information was used to determine properties to be addressed as the work of writing grant requests was developed. Many of you probably remember this process as over 150 of you to date have been involved in projects on your personal properties to cure erosion issues and reduce run off and sediment flow to the lake. Additionally there have been countless projects on private roads and ROW's around Little Sebago including culverts, stone armoring of ditches, rubber razors, regading, and tarring. A big Thank you with appreciation goes out to all of you who have been part of the efforts to date.

At this time it's important to let all of you know that we are presently in the fourth and probably final round of grant funding to help cut erosion and reduce sediment flow to our lake. The CCSWCD has been successful once again in procuring federal 319 clean air and water act funds to use as a match to our own funds and work to help us maintain our Little Sebago water quality. The grant was initially to run through February of 2016 but the work time has been extended through Dec of 2016.

This present project as it is defined under the grant is expected to do almost \$170,000 worth of work on roads and at residences which will reduce sediment transport into the lake by 60 tons/year. This will bring the total dollar value of erosion and sediment control work done in the Little Sebago watershed to nearly \$700,000 and potentially keeps over 250 tons of sediment annually out of our lake.



The thrust of this grant will be to address at least 12 medium and high priority private road sites with a 50/50 match of grant funds to road association work and financial contribution. Several projects are already determined but there are still some spots open for additional requests. In addition CCSWCD is working to develop a cooperative of road associations that could work together as a buying group to get better rates on materials and contractors for the regular year to year maintenance. CCSWCD will also help road associations develop long term operation and maintenance plans based on Best Management Practices and proven road care methodology.

This grant also addresses residential issues of erosion. CCSWCD will provide about 30 full property assessments looking at all property aspects to develop a plan for the homeowner noting the erosion issues and needed BMP's to help cure the problem. A report will be provided with prioritized recommendations including materials, methods, possible contractors, etc. There is also free technical assistance available to help property owners determine the best course of action for self directed erosion reduction projects. LSLA has determined that they will help residential property owners accomplish the needed work by providing a limited 50/50 cash match program with a maximum of \$500/project. Additionally CCSWCD will help homeowners with projects by making plants for buffer zones and rain gardens available at a discount from local greenhouses. They also have a program this year for homeowners to be able to buy erosion control mulch at a reduced rate.

For those of you who think you might have an erosion or sedimentation issue on your property or road nearby and would like some help determining how to proceed; now is the time. There are still opportunities to get involved in this initiative, improve the looks and performance of your property, repair your road, have plans and permits provided, and get part of your costs covered as well. The request forms and requirements are very straight forward. Much of the work to reduce erosion, especially on residential properties, is simple to understand and often can be done with hand tools. It is in the best interest of all of us and birds, animals, amphibians, and fish that we share Little Sebago with to take care of the lake that is part of our front yard. Please; get in touch and ask some questions. All of us at LSLA, DEP, and CCSWC will be happy to provide guidance and direction.



Thanking you in advance for your participation,  
Scott Lowell  
LSLA  
[salowell@maine.rr.com](mailto:salowell@maine.rr.com)

Project Coordinator  
Heather True  
CCSWCD  
35 Main St Suite 3, Windham, Maine 04062  
[htrue@cumberlandswcd.org](mailto:htrue@cumberlandswcd.org)  
207-893-4700



# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pirate Parade



Our LSLA Pirate Parade is held each year the Saturday after the annual meeting, with a rain date of Sunday. This has become an event that hundreds of folks look forward to each year. Children of all ages love this event! The parade participants meet up at the sandy narrows at noon and proceed up the lake to Pirate's Cove for lots of water fun including volleyball for all ages!

**A friendly Pirate reminder!** We need everyone to use safe boating practices, including:

Be sure your registration numbers are visible.

**DO NOT** throw water balloons or anything else! They hurt, and they are bad for the lake.

**DO NOT** throw buckets of water onto another boat. People have small children and cameras on board. Please be respectful of others.

Please watch for updates on our Facebook page. If the Parade has a date or time change, it will be posted on Facebook. If you do not have Facebook and have questions about the parade, please e mails Deb Gellerson at [sales@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:sales@littlesebagolake.com).



# “2016 LSLA FUND RAISER”

Help Raise Funds to Fight

MILFOIL

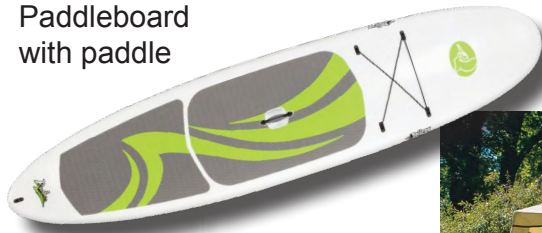
and win **Great Prizes**  
by sending in your raffle ticket stubs  
with your dues payment!

**TICKETS ARE \$10<sup>00</sup> EACH  
OR 3 FOR \$25<sup>00</sup>**

Raffle tickets will be coming in your annual dues bill. Please show your support for the Lake Association by buying as many as you can, and you could be the winner of one of our three great prizes shown below. Winners to be picked at the annual meeting!

***Thanks!***

11.6' Stand-Up  
Paddleboard  
with paddle



9' Old Town  
Kayak with  
paddle



Coolaroo Steel Post Gazebo

**Help our fund raising efforts by contacting us to purchase  
more raffle tickets, by calling 207-809-4706 or emailing us  
at: [info@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:info@littlesebagolake.com)**



## Some thoughts about Fireworks

I don't know about you, but when I was a kid, the 4th of July meant only one thing- fireworks! That's the only time of year we saw them and the experience was pretty special. These days, fireworks are used on many more occasions, year round. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks seem to get more spectacular every year as well.

I know how everyone is looking forward to warm summer nights and watching fireworks (especially on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July) around the lake. As you know, the sale of consumer fireworks is legal in Maine. While we all enjoy the fireworks, please keep in mind the following:

If you love the lake, please remember that fireworks do pollute the water. We don't really need the toxic fallout from fireworks in our lake.

If you love the lake, then love the loons. Help our loons by keeping your fireworks show to a minimum. It's no secret, loons hate fireworks.

Be considerate of others. Just because you're on vacation all week it doesn't mean your neighbors are. I know many of us would appreciate fireworks use on weekends only. Also, fireworks are permitted for use until 10 pm (except for July 4<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> ☺). After 10 pm, you are breaking the law!

Keep it safe and have a great summer!

## Display your decal with Pride!



*All of you should have recently received your LSLA Membership Decal along with your annual dues letter. The decal should be located on the exterior of your boat, anywhere above the water line. This will identify you as paid active member of the Little Sebago Lake Association. This decal will also help you to identify other members as well. We are looking forward to seeing you out there on the lake with your decal this summer!*





## House & Mailbox Numbering Saves Lives

*Carol Ann Doucette*

In 1988, Maine voters approved the statewide deployment of Enhanced 9-1-1 service. This improved emergency communication system automatically displays the address of a caller at an emergency call answering center. To provide the location of a caller, a telephone number must be linked to a physical address that clearly identifies the location of that telephone. The creation of physical addresses is the responsibility of municipalities to direct residents about the requirements for their own safety and protection of their property. Even though this has been done, tragedies still occur that might have been avoided. Emergencies happen day and night. Could a rescue, fire, or police vehicle find you at night? Below are the Public Safety Recommendations from the Town of Gray and the Town of Windham.

1. **Post your numbers on both sides of the mailbox.**
2. **Use 4" reflective numbers.**
3. **If you have a PO Box or your home is not easily visible from the road, post numbers on a post close to the road.**
4. **If your mailbox is clustered with others, post coinciding numbers on your home also.**
5. **Post numbers on your home where they are closest and most visible to the road.**
6. **Brent Libby, Windham Fire Chief had the following additional suggestions:**
  - **Place house numbers under a light so they can be more easily read.**
  - **If your property is rented, make sure that the house address, what town it is located in and fire and police department numbers are clearly posted in case of an emergency.**

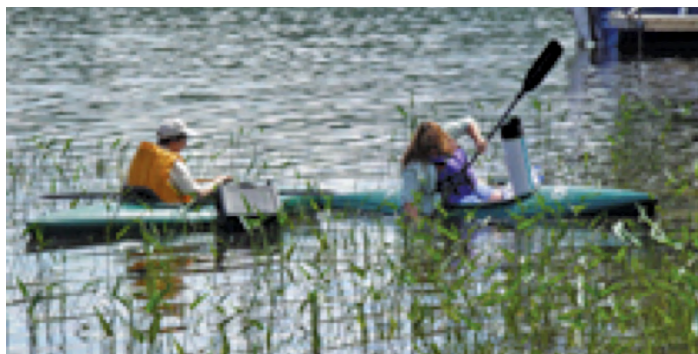
If you know someone who is in need of having their home number posted or you have questions, please call central station in Gray at 207-657-3931 Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

In Windham, please contact Chief Libby or his assistant at 207-892-1911 for more information.



## Plant Patrol Program

*Pam Wilkinson*



In the ideal world everyone would mow their lawns and then put on their suits to check the vegetation beyond their shoreline. I think the latter option sounds like much more fun. At last year's annual meeting several people volunteered to start this program by taking a section of their lake and periodically checking to see if milfoil has started to grow. It would be nice to have more coverage and it is easy and fun. All that is required is a brief training and a bit of time to check the bottom of the lake in your area. At the end of last year there were noticeable increases in algae. This is sometimes due to seasonal conditions. In order to be vigilant we should also have patrollers and reporter for this as well; perhaps a combined effort with the invasive plant patrol program. Little Sebago Lake along with two area lakes will be hosting a training session in August on how to lead a plant paddle. If interested please call Pam Wilkinson 207.809.4706 or email [pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com) or visit Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program for more information: [vlmpme.org](http://vlmpme.org).

The Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) program promotes prevention, early detection and rapid response at the local level by providing training, educational materials, resources and technical support to groups and individuals across the State of Maine. To date thousands of individuals (volunteers, state agency personnel, professionals, teachers, students and others) have participated in IPP workshops. IPP Introductory Workshops teach participants how to recognize the invasive aquatic plants on Maine's "eleven most unwanted" list, and to distinguish these

invaders from their native Maine look-alikes. A variety of advanced training opportunities are also offered which cover advanced native plant identification, manual control methods for dealing with infestations, and other helpful and informative workshops.

Invasive Plant Patrol workshops are offered free of charge to participants, and made possible through the generous support of Maine Department of Department of Environmental Protection the Maine Lake and River Protection Sticker program, foundation grants, businesses, lake and watershed groups, and individuals. Though anyone interested in learning about aquatic invaders is welcome to participate the workshops, we encourage those who wish to become active members of Maine's early detection team to make a formal commitment to the statewide endeavor by becoming a Certified IPP Volunteer. The goal of the IPP Certification Program is to encourage and support individual and group commitment to annual collection and submission of invasive aquatic plant screening survey data. To become a Certified Plant Patroller you must have participated in at least one **IPP Introductory Workshop** (or equivalent training), complete the **application** and sign a statement of commitment. The VLMP provides all certified patrollers with standardized field sheets, an ID card and a bucket scope.



# Little Sebago Lake Association

## Evolving to Meet Our Changing World

All of us on the Board of Directors truly appreciate the trust that all of you have shown us to manage and facilitate all of our responsibilities associated with the well being of our lake, and none of us take this responsibility lightly. This being said, we always take great pride in doing all that we can to make the best decisions possible, based on what our heart tells us, as well as using good common sense. Keeping this in mind, we have recently made some new decisions regarding the biannual Little Sebago Lake Newsletter, that we would like to bring to your attention.

Moving forward, our newsletter will now be printed annually, instead of biannually at roughly the beginning of May each year. This decision has been implemented for a variety of different reasons. First, we have come to realize that the vast amount of information that needs to be shared primarily applies to the spring and summer months. Next, Since conservation of our natural resources is one of our primary objectives, we have come to realize that the extra unnecessary printing, means that we are unintentionally wasting our natural resources, which we pride ourselves on conserving. Lastly, we feel that the extra dollars associated with the printing of our newsletter twice a year instead of annually, could be much more wisely spent on the preservation and future preservation of our lake.

The fall/winter newsletter will still be created, but will

only be available online on our website, and can be viewed there. Help us "Go Green", by reading our newsletter online!

We have also decided that our annual newsletter will now be printed in black instead of a different color for each publication. This decision has also been made for a couple of different reasons as follows.

First, it has been brought to our attention that black ink on white paper has a much higher contrast value than any other color on white paper. This means that the images in the newsletter will be much sharper and more pleasing than they have been previously, and the type will be much easier to read as well. Realizing that as we get older our eye sight gets worse, we would like to make it as easy as we can for our seniors to enjoy reading our newsletter each year. The other reason for this change is once again about controlling our costs without sacrificing our services. After researching this issue, we have discovered that there will be a substantial cost savings by printing the newsletter in black instead of in color.

**Little Sebago Lake Association**  
**Summer - 2016**

"Our mission is to protect, restore and improve our lake's water quality and fragile ecosystem. We will create and nurture a community of lake stewards, always mindful of the natural environment."

**LSLA Annual Meeting**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
9:30-10:00 - Social Time • 10:00-12:00 - Meeting  
St. Gregory Parish Hall on Crystal Lake  
24 North Raymond Road, Gray, ME

It is a perfect time to meet with those you yet do not know and to rekindle conversations with those you have missed over the year. Refreshments will be served and the LSLA Gift Shoppe will be open! The location is 24 North Raymond Road, Gray, ME. It is easy to find if you have any questions on the location please feel free to contact the association at 207-809-4706 or email us at: [info@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:info@littlesebagolake.com).

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
President Pam Wilkinson  
Vice Presidents Peter Gellerson  
Secretary Diane Burrell  
Treasurer Jim McBride  
Accounting Assistant Sharon Lamontagne

**Other Members**  
Cheryl Altman  
Rob Bernier  
Steve Davis  
Tim Grier  
Dora Lavoie  
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**RESOURCE HELPERS & COMMITTEES**  
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Merchandise Lauri Murphy  
Database Assistant Christine Godfrey  
Water Quality Rick Sullivan  
CCSWCD Liaison Carol Ann Doucette  
Dan Committee Bruce Micucci  
Jim Theriault  
Jonathan Basher  
Loon Committee Dorothy Bates  
Sharon Young  
Betty Colton

**Contact Us:** Little Sebago Lake Association  
P.O. Box 912, Windham, ME 04062-0912 • 207-809-4706  
[info@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:info@littlesebagolake.com) • [www.littlesebagolake.com](http://www.littlesebagolake.com)

We are all in hopes that all of you agree with our logic in response to this issue, and appreciate our efforts to utilize your dollars in the wisest manner possible.

Please feel free to contact Pam Wilkinson with any questions or concerns in regard to this article at: [pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com).  
**Thanks in advance for your understanding!**  
-Your LSLA Board Members.

## What's In My Lake?

Rick Sullivan

### ICE OUT! March 14<sup>th</sup>

That's right, ice out on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Can you believe that? Now we can get an early start on summer and boating on the lake. But... **WHAT'S THAT GROWING IN MY WATER?**

Early ice out also gives an early start for evasive plants to take root in the lake. Over the years the Lake Association has done a spectacular job clearing the lake of milfoil; but we may now have a new evasive species blooming.

In recent years, reports of new algae, "metaphyton", has been reported in increasing abundance in Maine lakes as reported by the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP).

Metaphyton is a green, stringy, filamentous algae that grows in shallow areas of the lake. These colonies of algae vary in size and may move around with changing waters as it does not attach to the lake bottom.

Though the exact cause and effect of the algae growth in the lake has not yet been officially determined, contributing factors such as groundwater runoff containing phosphorus and nitrogen have been found to contribute to the growth of other types of algal blooms. The VLMP is expanding efforts to gather information on the algae growth and its effects  
What can you do?

Please do not use fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorus. Protect the lake by stopping ground water runoff. If you have pets, scoop up your pet's waste immediately. We all can contribute to maintaining the health of our lake by being more vigilant about protecting our lake.

If you live in a shallow water area, keep a look out for this cloudy invader. You can take pictures and report your sightings to the Lake Association. The VLMP is also looking for volunteers to monitor the metaphyton algae. You can contact the Lake Association or VLMP for further details.

For more information on metaphyton algae, visit VLMP's website:

<http://www.mainevlmp.org/volunteer-info/other-monitoring-opportunities/metaphyton/>



## Little Sebago Lake Merchandise

Little Sebago Lake Merchandise is available for sale at our Annual Meeting held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. We accept cash, checks, and credit cards at the sale.

Throughout the year we hold tent sales and Holiday sales so that you can enjoy our Little Sebago Lake products. Please watch postings for dates and times.

How can you hear about our sales? The LSLA will send out occasional e mail blasts to those who have shared your e mails with us. Be sure to check our Facebook page frequently as we post new items and events there. We have many wonderful gifts including jackets, t-shirts, calendars and holiday ornaments.

Please check out our website and our Facebook page to view items for sale. We do not provide web sales, so please plan ahead and get your orders in soon to be sure that you have those special gifts in time! To order or for inquiries, please email Deb Gellerson at: [sales@littlesebagolake.com](mailto:sales@littlesebagolake.com).



# A Very Special Thank For All of Your Support to The Following:



To Saint Gregory's Parish for hosting our annual meetings.

To O'Donal's Nursery for the buffer plants we gave out at the Annual Meeting.



To the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department for educating and patrolling this year.

To the Cumberland County Soil and Water for managing the grant program.



To Gray Public Library for the use of their facility for monthly board meetings.

To the Pizza Hut in Windham for their generosity with the coupons for safe boating.



To the Town of Windham for your financial support for the milfoil remediation.

To the Subway in Windham for their generosity with the coupons for safe boating.



To the Town of Gray for your financial support for the milfoil remediation.

To Sharkey Graphic Solutions for their great service & expertise in putting together our newsletters!



To the Ice Cream Dug Out in Windham for their generosity with the coupons for safe boating.

*And to all who have supported the goals of LSLA to keep Little Sebago Lake safe for all to enjoy!*

# Welcome to Little Sebago Lake!

If this is the first time you will be enjoying this lovely lake, a brief description of its characteristics will help you to navigate its waters safely. The lake is 1,898 acres in size comprised of 3 water bodies. They are separated by a sandy narrow, between the lower and middle lake, and a rocky narrow, between the middle and upper lake. The Department of the Interior has positioned marker buoys to help ensure safety in regards to rocks and navigating in shallow areas. Not all rocks are marked. Please take a moment to review information on our website before entering the lake to help prevent serious accidents.

For more information please visit our [website at www.littlesebagolake.com](http://www.littlesebagolake.com) or call 207-809-4706  
More informative sites: [mainevlmp.org](http://mainevlmp.org); [mainelakessociety.org](http://mainelakessociety.org) ; Warden Service 207-228-0857


## The Islands, Loons & Wildlife

- All islands are private property and should not be trespassed upon.
- Discarding litter, pet and human waste in the lake or on the islands is prohibited. A porta-potty is provided at the boat launch for your convenience or provide your own on board facility.
- Islands are also nesting areas for loons from May to July. Approaching them will cause loons to be frightened and abandon their eggs. Binoculars are the safest way to view.
- Please also be respectful of the loons and babies in the water. Babies cannot dive to avoid injury.
- When fishing, never use lead sinkers. They are lethal when swallowed by loons!
- Birds and wildlife are not to be harmed or harassed!

## Other Important Information

- Little Sebago has a milfoil infestation which the lake association is actively addressing. Please maintain a 200 ft. distance from Milfoil Boats to ensure diver safety.
- Milfoil is marked with green, red and yellow colored foam markers on the lake to assist with the removal operations. Please stay away, propellers fragment and carry milfoil to other places in the lake.
- When exiting and entering the lake, please check your boat for any hitchhiking fragments so that you do not bring invasive plants into the lake, or taking them to another water body on departure. More information is available at the boat launch.
- When traveling through the narrows, the boat that arrives first has the right of way.
- Maintain headway speed within 200 feet off the shoreline. Waves cause shoreline erosion and damage to boats tied to docks. Refrain from using powerful boats in shallow areas; nutrient laden bottom sediments churn into the overlying water supporting increased algae and cyanobacteria growth decreasing transparency in the lake.
- Avoid dumping grass clippings or leaves into the lake; this too adds nutrients for plant growth.
- ALL boats including canoes, kayaks and paddle boards need to display proper lighting after sunset.
- Do not swim in the narrows, it is not safe with all the boat traffic!
- There are many shallow areas with rocks that may not be marked. Water levels diminish towards the end of the season. Using caution can avoid damage to propellers.
- Slalom courses on the lake are private and should be used to slalom through, not race through.
- Do not bathe shampoo or wash boats, pets or other objects in the lake. This creates phosphorus, promoting algae and/or cyanobacteria blooms. This can lead to decreased oxygen for our fishery and smelly decay on the shoreline.
- Do not feed duck or other waterfowl; there is plenty of natural food available. Discouraging increased waterfowl populations will reduce fecal matter which can reduce the risk of swimmers' itch.
- Maintain septic system regularly. Follow recommended pumping per usage; especially if renting.

***In conclusion, the Little Sebago Lake Association has a Safety Patrol boat to help promote safety on the lake. The boat is manned with volunteers and law enforcement officials. The Department of Inland fish and Wildlife also provide Wardens that patrol the lake throughout the summer. The ultimate goal of all is to make sure that your visit is a safe and enjoyable experience; creating memories for years to come!***

A scenic view of a lake with trees in the foreground and a forest in the background under a blue sky. The image is framed by a red border. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

*Open your heart to discover the  
beauty and magic of what  
the lake can bring to you,  
And you may soon discover the  
beauty and magic that others find in you.*

*~Craig Sharkey*