

Little Sebago Lake
Association



BOARD MEMBERS

President

Pam Wilkinson

Vice President

Peter Gellerson

Secretary

Diane Burnell

Treasurer

Jim McBride

Assistant Treasurer

Sharon Lamontagne

Other Members

Cheryl Alterman

Rod Bernier

Steve Davis

Tim Greer

Debra Lavoie

Scott Lowell

Kevin Murphy

Andy Mayo

Arnie Rosario

RESOURCE HELPERS

Pirate Parade Organizer

Deb Gellerson

Water Quality

Rick Sullivan

CCSWCD Liaison

Carol Ann Doucette

COMMITTEES

Dam Committee

Bruce Micucci

Jim Theiss

Jonathan Bernier

Chris Micucci

Loon Committee

Sharon Young

Dorothy Bates

Betty Caton

Island Committee

Wendy Pickett

Carol Ann Doucette

Little Sebago Lake Association Summer - 2017

"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, educate users on lake safety, and always be mindful that human needs must be balanced with the needs of the natural environment."

LSLA Annual Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, July 8th, 2017

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

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



Refreshments will be served. The LSLA Gift Shop will be open. Join us for a fun and educational time!

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.

Contact Us:

Little Sebago Lake Association
P.O. Box 912, Windham, ME 04062-0912 • 207-809-4706
info@littlesebagolake.com • www.littlesebagolake.com

What's inside...

LSLA Board members.....	1	LSLA Scholarships.....	14
Annual Meeting	1	Boat Ramp & Courtesy Boat Inspection.....	15
Plant Give Away.....	1	Help Wanted -Merchandise Coordinator.....	15
Contact Us.....	1	Need Something to Do?.....	15
LSLA Dues Reminder.....	2	LSLA Endowment Fund.....	16
Message from The President.....	3	Milfoil Militia Polk-A-Dot Legend.....	16
I Remember When.....	4	Membership / Address Updates.....	16
Little Sebago Lake Fish Stocking Reports.....	5	18 th Milfoil Summit.....	17
LSLA Functions & Finances.....	5	2016 Milfoil Militia.....	18
Hopkins Dam Report.....	6	Some Thoughts About Fireworks.....	19
Boating Education Courses.....	7	Maine Lakes Navigation Legend.....	19
LSLA 2016-2017 Budget.....	8	11 th Annual Pirate Parade.....	20
Treasurer's Report.....	9	Staying Put.....	21
Membership Update.....	9	Thank You To Our Supporters.....	22
2017 LSLA Fund-Raiser Raffle.....	10	Lake Safety "Cut & Post".....	23
Safety Patrol Program.....	11	Closing Message.....	24
Little Sebago Loonacy.....	12-13		

DUES REMINDER

You all should have received a good size packet from us by now explaining the new guidelines for supporting the lake association. Included in the packet is a letter from our President Pam Wilkinson, 12 raffle tickets and a form with your member number on it. If you haven't yet, please fill out this form, edit any information necessary and return it along with raffle stubs and your payment. Upon receipt of your payment we will mail you out a receipt for your tax records and your 2017 LSLA sticker.



As you can see from the budget which is printed in this newsletter- it takes approximately \$100,000.00 to follow our mission statement each year. Please do your part to help us with our mission. The future of our lake depends on you to contribute – not just assuming that enough of your neighbors will take care of it.

Please be a proud supporter and look for your name in next year's newsletter!



Message From The President

Pam Wilkinson

Did you ever notice how many people wish winter was over the first of March; forgetting that the first day of spring is not until March 20th? Rarely do we have the guarantee that it automatically turns warm that day. This year March was in like a lamb with temps in the forties and fifties for a couple of weeks; then, low and behold we had a 20 inch snow storm on the 14th that kept us in shape shoveling. This is all good, you know, because the feeder springs get a few weeks of slow melt and then we have more precipitation to fill our lake for summer. While nature takes its twists and turns, the Board of Directors have been busy preparing for another wonderful summer of warm days and nights like last summer. Our major focuses are our dam and its maintenance, milfoil mitigation, water quality, watershed protection, boating safety, and how we can have better communication welcoming our existing and new members to become participants and stewards. Last year you may have seen clouds of green algae in the shallow areas of the lake. It is believed that low precipitation combined with a sunny hot summer days was the catalyst for this occurrence. We will keep a watchful eye but we cannot do it all. I ask that you be our scouts, educate yourself on what is invasive and report anything suspicious in your area. It is important that you are our patrollers since we are not in every nook and cranny of the lake. It only takes a moment to look down while boating to check the landscape on the bottom of the lake. It is a great education for the young to learn and become involved.

I will end by thanking our tireless board of directors who tackle administrative tasks and projects with such professionalism. The board, committee members and individual volunteers roll up their sleeves, get the job done and actually have a sense of pride that our tasks do make a difference and propel us into the future with reassurance that our lake continues to be protected for generations to come.

Throughout this newsletter there are articles that will expound on each of these topics and more! Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting July 8th and the Pirate Parade July 15. If you have any questions or wish to become involved it is an easy step; contact us through our website www.littlesebaolake.com or simply call 207-809-4706.

May you enjoy each sunrise and sunset and everything in between,

On behalf of the Board of Directors,



Pam Wilkinson
LSLA President



I Remember When...

Family Time on Little Sebago Lake

by Ray Walsh

In 1971 our family moved back to Maine after my father retired from the U.S. Coast Guard. Even though we settled in the Deering area of Portland, my Dad had always wanted to live on a lake – but that was not in the cards at that time in our life. As luck would have it, our Portland neighbor was renting a camp for two weeks on Little Sebago Lake and while talking with my Dad he learned of my Dad's dream. Since our neighbor really only wanted to spend one week renting at the lake, he offered his second week to our family. How fortunate for our family!

This became our first vacation at LSL. We arrived with wiffle balls and bats to play home-run-derby, basketballs, baseball gloves to play run down, and plenty of towels for drying off after swimming. Check-in was on Saturday at 3:00 PM and we were swimming by 4:00 PM after we unloaded the car. Our typical day would start with a good swim at 7:00 AM, breakfast after the swim, outdoors all day long regardless of whether it rained or not, and after sunset all the renters and the neighbors would collect on the beach and play cribbage until 1 AM ... and of course there was a little refreshments going around for some as well.

For a few years we were only able to rent for the one week but that one week created longtime friendships with the other renters and summer neighbors and of course with the owners Dot and Paul....that lasted for years. Eventually, our camp renting changed from one week to two weeks, which then became three weeks... and as some of the other renters got older and started renting less we were able to rent one of the cottages for the whole summer. At the same time, we began helping Dot and Paul with opening the camps and

property in the spring and closing the camps and property in the fall. And as they got older and their health declined, we started taking care of Dot and Paul year round.

Paul's health declined quite a bit and after he died Dot offered to sell her property to our family ... we were able to purchase it in 1991 and thus my Dad finally was able to realize his dream. We continued to care-take for Dot and provided her life tenancy until she died years later.

In the meantime, we converted the camp we had always rented into a year round home which is where my wife Carol and I and our 9 month old puppy Stella live. We also updated one of the other cottages on the property and that is where my Mom lived, after my Dad died in 2003, until she passed away last October. And we updated the third cottage as well which one of my brother's use in the summer.

My two brothers and I and our families recognize that we are very fortunate to have such a unique family property to enjoy year round - where we swim, boat, kayak, and paddle board from May to October (no more water skiing), watch the recovery of the loons and eagles and the decline of milfoil, walk the frozen lake in the winter, enjoy too many gatherings of friends and family to count, had our wedding for 160 people on a spectacular sunny in September of 2001, and enjoy the life of living on a lake for all four seasons. Wow For 46 years Little Sebago Lake has been quite a place for our family to first visit and now live and enjoy all year long. And we are hoping for many more years to come.

Post on our website: www.littlesebagolake.com • Email us at: 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 - 2016



Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife fish stocking numbers for Little Sebago Lake. Includes the date of stocking as well as the species, quantity, and size of fish released.



2002:

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

2003:

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

2004:

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

2005:

1500 Brown Trout 12"
500 Rainbow Trout 12"

2006:

1500 Brown Trout 14"
700 Rainbow Trout 8"

2007:

1500 Brown Trout 12"

2008:

1000 Brown Trout 13"
700 Rainbow Trout 14"

2009:

1000 Brown Trout 12"
700 Rainbow Trout 14"

2010:

1000 Brown Trout 14"
700 Rainbow Trout 14"

2011:

700 Rainbow Trout 14"
1000 Brown Trout 13"

2012:

1000 Brown Trout 13"
700 Rainbow Trout 14"

2013:

1000 Brown Trout 12"
700 Rainbow Trout 14"

2014:

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

2015:

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

2016:

1000 Brown Trout 12"
500 Rainbow Trout 9"

Little Sebago Lake Association Functions & Finances

WHAT WE DO

Membership Data Base Update
Financial/Budgets
By-Law and Policy Reviews
Fundraising
Planned Giving/Endowments
Safety Patrol Program
Courtesy Boat Inspections
Grant Writing
Public Forums

Town-State-Federal interactions
Road Associations Networking
Website
Newsletter
Merchandise
Lower Narrows Restoration
CCSWCD-Watershed
& Erosion Control
Pirate Parade Day

Annual Meeting Planning
Operations of Organization
Water Quality Testing
Dam Monitoring
& Emergency Plan
Strategic Planning
Milfoil Operations/Removal
Fleet Maintenance
Organize Educational Forums



Hopkins Dam Report

As this report is penned on the last week of March 2017, we wonder how much relevancy it will have when published.

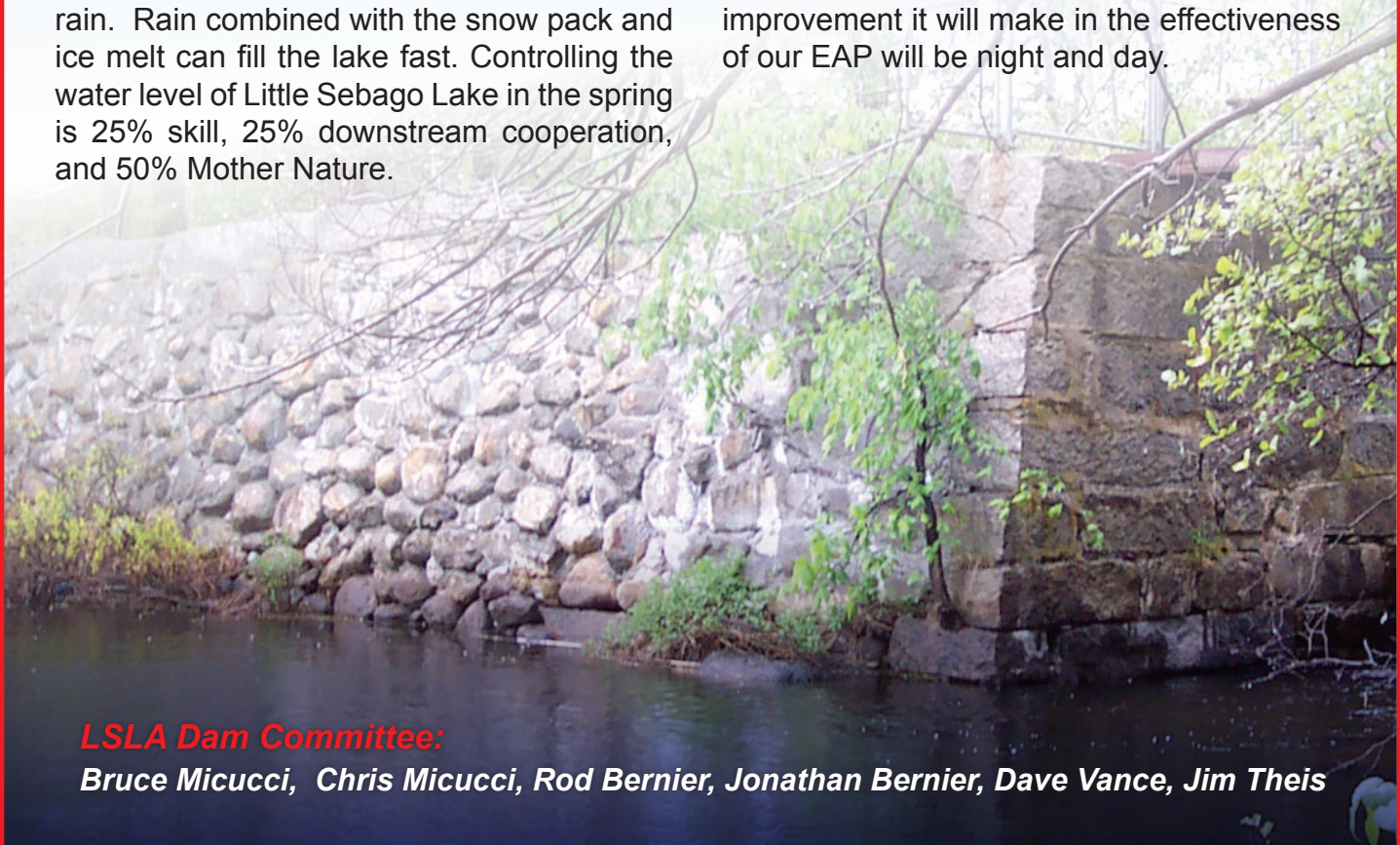
Little Sebago Lake is 17" below the summer high level but we are still deep into winter with a two foot plus snow pack still on the ground. We are very hesitant to start the dam closing procedure on the April 15th date required by the DEP with that much snow and a lake still covered with ice.

The spring goal is always to start retarding the flow on April 15th and then controlling the flow to achieve a full lake by Memorial Day. Every spring presents a different set of conditions to deal with. The only condition we can count on is that April will bring warmer weather and rain. Rain combined with the snow pack and ice melt can fill the lake fast. Controlling the water level of Little Sebago Lake in the spring is 25% skill, 25% downstream cooperation, and 50% Mother Nature.

Starting April 15th the current lake level will be posted weekly on the Little Sebago Lake Facebook page so that those putting in docks know at what height to set them.

The Hopkins Dam remains in good condition. We have some tree cutting planned for this summer along with normal maintenance.

The Hopkins Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is complete. We are working now to get it into the new software format required by the state. We will then submit the EAP to the State and, once it is approved, will start work on adapting our manual notification procedure to the Cumberland County "Red Alert" program otherwise known as Reverse 911. This is a MUST do for this summer; the improvement it will make in the effectiveness of our EAP will be night and day.



LSLA Dam Committee:

Bruce Micucci, Chris Micucci, Rod Bernier, Jonathan Bernier, Dave Vance, Jim Theis



Boating Education Courses

Participation in a boating education course will teach how to properly operate and maintain a boat. Laws, responsibilities, and personal safety will also be covered. Passage of a final exam is required. Every state has their own laws and each state offers courses.

MAINE - LSLA SPONSORED COURSE

This course is a repeat of the very successful one that we have offered in years past. It is a nationally recognized course that meets the National Boating Education Standards and is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

The date, time and place will be determined, please check our [website](#) later this spring. This class 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](#).

Inland Fisheries courses are also offered throughout the State. More information can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/education/safety/boat>.

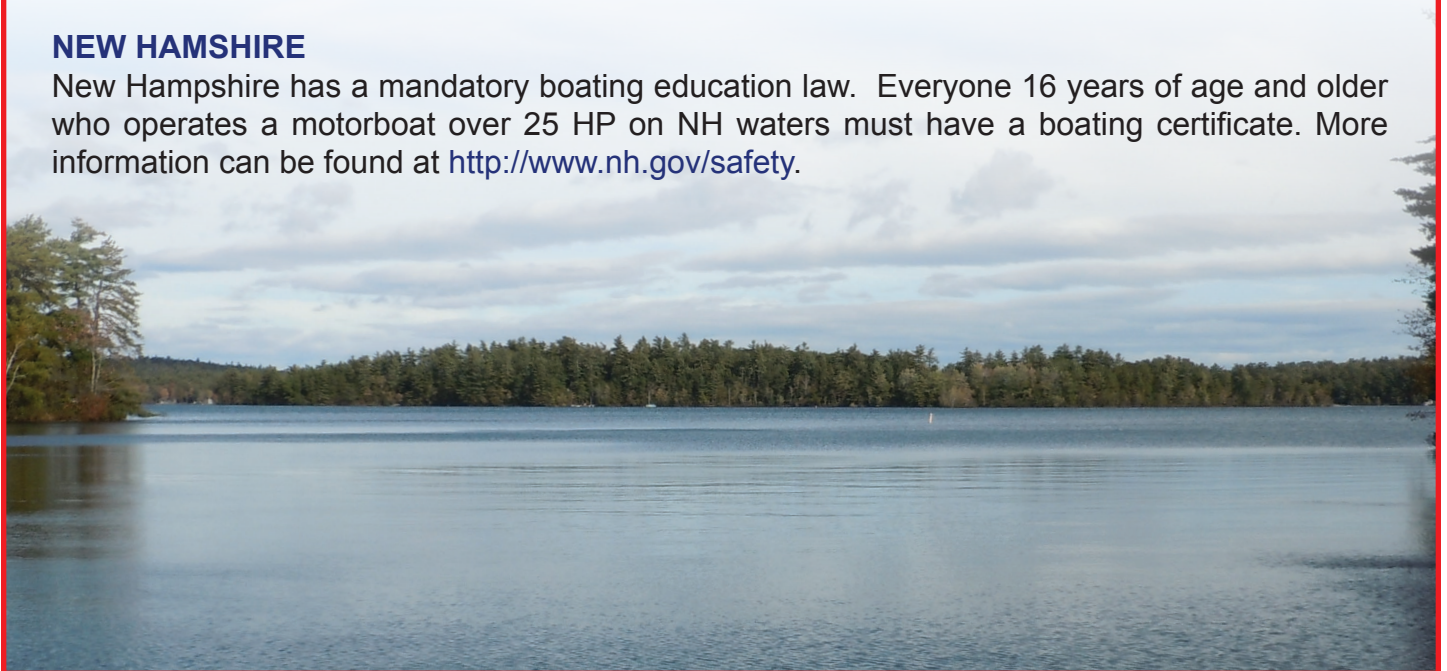
MASSACHUSETTES

Boat Massachusetts is a nationally recognized course that also meets the National Boating Education Standards and is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

All graduates in the 12 through 15-year-old age group will be issued a safety certificate allowing them to operate a motorboat without adult supervision, as required by state law. The same is true for 16 and 17-year-old youth who wish to operate a personal watercraft. More information can be found at <http://www.mass.gov>.

NEW HAMSHIRE

New Hampshire has a mandatory boating education law. Everyone 16 years of age and older who operates a motorboat over 25 HP on NH waters must have a boating certificate. More information can be found at <http://www.nh.gov/safety>.



Little Sebago Lake Association ~ 2016 Actual & 2017 Budget

	Budget 2016	Actual 2016	Difference 2016	Budget 2017	Notes:
Revenue:					
Donations	\$ 44,600	\$ 41,309	\$ (3,291)	\$ 43,225	
Endowment Fund	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,551	\$ 51	\$ 5,500	
Fundraising	\$ 10,500	\$ 13,880	\$ 3,380	\$ 12,000	
Grant Revenue	\$ 27,571	\$ 27,571	\$ -	\$ 21,911	a
Interest & Dividends	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)	\$ 3,500	
Merchandise Revenue	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,176	\$ (324)	\$ 5,000	b
Miscellaneous	\$ 400	\$ 350	\$ (50)	\$ 500	
Total Income	\$ 103,071	\$ 100,836	\$ (2,235)	\$ 91,636	
Disbursements:					
Bank Charges & PayPal	\$ 200	\$ 185	\$ (15)	\$ 200	
Boats	\$ 11,800	\$ 13,796	\$ 1,996	\$ 11,000	c
Dam Maintenance	\$ 2,000	\$ 838	\$ (1,162)	\$ 3,000	
Equipment Purchases	\$ 500	\$ 460	\$ (40)	\$ 3,500	d
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,588	\$ (212)	\$ 1,400	
Gas	\$ 1,400	\$ 614	\$ (786)	\$ 1,000	
Insurance	\$ 7,044	\$ 4,826	\$ (2,218)	\$ 5,844	
Legal & Accounting	\$ 500	\$ 425	\$ (75)	\$ 500	
Licenses/Permits	\$ 100	\$ 74	\$ (26)	\$ 100	
Loon Protection	\$ 500	\$ 37	\$ (463)	\$ 500	
Merchandise Purchases	\$ 11,300	\$ 7,370	\$ (3,930)	\$ 4,100	e
Milfoil supplies etc.	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,149	\$ (751)	\$ 1,800	
Miscellaneous	\$ 500	\$ 132	\$ (368)	\$ 500	
Office, Gifts/Donations	\$ 800	\$ 500	\$ (300)	\$ 800	
Payroll (milfoil/boat ramp/dredging)	\$ 40,300	\$ 28,978	\$ (11,322)	\$ 36,200	f
Postage	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,387	\$ (813)	\$ 2,000	
Printing	\$ 6,200	\$ 4,601	\$ (1,599)	\$ 6,000	
Public Forums/Annual Meeting	\$ 1,300	\$ 909	\$ (391)	\$ 900	
Safety Patrol Program, supplies & wardens	\$ 6,400	\$ 4,403	\$ (1,997)	\$ 8,000	g
Sandy Narrows Restoration	\$ -	\$ 263	\$ 263	\$ 500	
Scholarships	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	
Watershed	\$ 5,000	\$ 691	\$ (4,309)	\$ 5,000	h
Website & Database	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,090	\$ (3,410)	\$ 2,500	
Total Expense	\$ 107,244	\$ 75,317	\$ (31,927)	\$ 96,344	
Total Income less Expense	\$ (4,173)	\$ 25,520	\$	\$ (4,708)	i

Notes:

- Town of Windham reduced watershed grant support in 2017 by \$6k
- Changing leadership and approach to selling merchandise for LSLA
- Extensive repairs & improvements needed for safety patrol boat in 2016
- Anticipate new 2-way boat/diver communications needed in 2017
- Merchandise purchases reduced due to leadership changes in 2017
- Payroll in 2016 reflects reduced milfoil removal; higher safety patrol cost in 2017
- Safety program increased to provide extra patrol coverage
- Watershed costs for remediation efforts through matching grant program
- 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:	12/31/15	12/31/16	Difference
Endowment	\$ 16,616	\$ 21,254	\$ 4,638
Operating Account	\$ 27,716	\$ 49,762	\$ 22,045
Reserves	\$ 134,598	\$ 143,674	\$ 9,076
Total Assets	\$ 178,930	\$ 214,690	\$ 35,759
Liabilities:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Worth:	\$ 178,930	\$ 214,690	\$ 35,759



Little Sebago Lake Assoc. – Treasurer’s Report

*A summary financial report showing 2016 results compared to budget is shown on the previous page. It also shows the proposed budget for 2017. With a few noted exceptions, we ended up the 2016 year in **very good financial shape**.*

Here are a few highlights:

- Total 2016 income was \$100,836 which was below budget by \$2,235. Although donations were lower than expected, that was offset by the fundraising raffle which did very well. We did not need to transfer interest & dividend income from our non-operating reserves and endowment investments.
- Our budget for 2017 shows total income of \$91,636 reflecting a slight increase in donations. Our grant revenue drops by \$6,000 due to reduced support from the Town of Windham. We also expect a drop in merchandise sales due to changing leadership and approach to selling LSLA merchandise.
- Total 2016 expenses were \$75,317 which were well below budget by almost \$32,000. The biggest savings was in payroll but we also had lower costs than expected in insurance, merchandise purchases, watershed and database costs.
- Our budget for 2016 shows total expense of \$96,344 reflecting higher payroll costs and increases in our boating safety program. We expect lower costs for merchandise purchases.
- Total Income Less Expense: We ended 2016 with positive cash flow and a net surplus of \$25,520. Our 2017 budget shows a slight deficit of \$4,708.
- Net Worth – At year-end 2016 we had total assets of \$214,690, almost \$36,000 higher than last year, partially due to the operating surplus. Our invested funds in endowment and reserves also grew due to favorable market conditions as shown on the balance sheet.

Membership update

- During 2016, we reduced our mailing list by removing addresses that were not on the lake. At year-end, we had 1,188 names & addresses in our LSLA membership database.
- During the year 766 members paid the annual dues of \$25. This reflects 64% of total members, a slight increase over last year. Conversely, 420 members or 35% of total did not respond to several dues requests.
- Of the 766 members who paid dues, 419 or 55% 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 almost \$41,000. We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of those members who contribute more than the dues.... Thank you!
- For 2017, we are changing the strategic membership approach and will not ask for dues payments, but encourage annual donations at several categories of sponsorship. Please help support your lake association!



“2017 LSLA FUND RAISER”



Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets and send in the stubs with your dues payment!

THREE GREAT PRIZES!

TICKETS ARE \$10⁰⁰ EACH OR 3 FOR \$25⁰⁰

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



Two beautiful hand made adirondack chairs
Winner to be picked at the annual meeting!

Help our fund raising efforts by contacting us to purchase more raffle tickets, by emailing us at: info@littlesebagolake.com



Safety Patrol Program

A wise Greek philosopher once said "change is the only constant in life." We are all witnessing our lake life changing, some say for the better and some say for the worse. Regardless of how you see it, the dedicated members of our board are doing everything in our power to change with the times and to keep us safe and educated.

Last year at the annual meeting we received unanimous support to continue and grow the Safety Patrol Program. We will do that this year by increasing both the Inland Fisheries Wardens and our own Safety Patrol Boat presence on our lake. "Captains" John Bernier and Roger Leblanc will be out many Friday nights, every single weekend day this summer and through the week of the Fourth of July. Their main focus is education, promotion of the lake association and as a gentle reminder for us all to be cautious and courteous boaters. Wardens will be out every weekend as well enforcing the laws of the State of Maine. Last summer we contracted with them to be on our lake 7 days. They checked a total of 365 boats, issued 21 summonses and 27 warnings. These numbers say to me that around 90% of us are obeying the law and are cautious and courteous! Thank you!

Our goal this summer is to educate the remaining 10%.

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, Spring 2017...

By Sharon Young

Last spring, on March 11, as I wrote the spring Loon report before me sat an exposed lawn free of snow and a partially open lake, and I was thinking “YEAH – the loons will be back soon”. Today, March 15, I sit looking out over lawn and lake covered with 18-20 inches of newly fallen snow, thinking “NO Way – our friends will have a while to wait for open water to return to”. It’s hard not to love the seasonal variety that Maine offers, but we certainly do look forward to the signs of spring like green grass, open water, and loons. Hopefully soon folks.

For those of you who may have missed the fall newsletter here is a brief recap of summer 2016 loon monitoring. It was not a very successful reproduction year for our loon families. Weather and predators destroyed several nests, a couple made second attempts that were also thwarted. We saw 5 hatched chicks, of which only 2 survived the summer.

Unfortunately, even at this writing 9 months later, the official Maine Audubon Loon Count results are still not yet published. However, the unofficial count as reported by Little Sebago Counters is as follows with a total of 27 adults and 2 chicks;

Section 1 – Upper Lake – 2 adults and 1 chick

Section 2 - Middle Lake (Mouth of Rocky Narrow through Lyons Point) –7 resident adults and no chicks; plus 7 non-resident adults rafted together in Turtle Cove. Coincidentally, we saw five non-resident adults on count day last year as well. They had flown over counters in this section and were assumed to be counted in section 3.

Section 3 – Middle Lake (Lyons Point to Sandy Narrow) – counted 6 adults but didn’t see the flamingo island chick that morning. They did see it a week later and noted that.

Section 4 - Lower lake, 5 adults and 0 chicks.

Last summer was the first time in recent history that a pair of loons attempted to nest in the lower lake. Loons prefer to nest on an island where predators are less of a problem, but with no available island in that area this pair elected to build their nest on the shore. They quickly lost the first set of eggs to a predator, and then tried again and lost the second set of eggs to storm surge. This year we have a volunteer constructing a floating nest platform that we will moor near that site and in a more out of the way place. Biodiversity Research Institute has reported great success in providing these floating nest platforms as they are protected from changing water levels as well as predators. So if/when you see an odd looking floating structure in the cove please respect the intent and stay clear so that the loons can occupy without human interference, and observe “No Wake” limits especially near known nest sites.

In addition to predators and water fluctuations impeding the loons nesting successes, humans can be a negative factor as well. Boat wake can swamp nests and curious humans sometimes make the loons too



uneasy to remain on their nests. We have placed “Loon Sanctuary” warning signs at the nest sites most bothered by human traffic. We have signs at ready in Sheldrake Cove, at Sand Island, and at Treasure Island. Please stay well back from these sites and observe with binoculars from the distance. Again, our volunteer is working on a couple more signs to be placed as needed at the most vulnerable nest sites.

Which brings me an important request. If you see activity that appears to be mating or nesting please let me know by text or email. I will be on the lake in my pink kayak and/or pontoon as soon as the ice isn't. I'll be watching for our returning friends, observing where they are congregating, searching out nests, counting days for incubation, and then monitoring for chicks. My upper and lower lake observations are somewhat less frequent so it helps if somebody gives me a heads up on activity. Also hoping that somebody with better eyes than mine can spot the color coded bands that many of our resident loons are wearing so we can track their comings and goings.

Again, feel free to text or email me with any loon information or concerns, and have an awesome spring.

Sharon Young

Text: 207-632-0075

Email: syoung0252@gmail.com



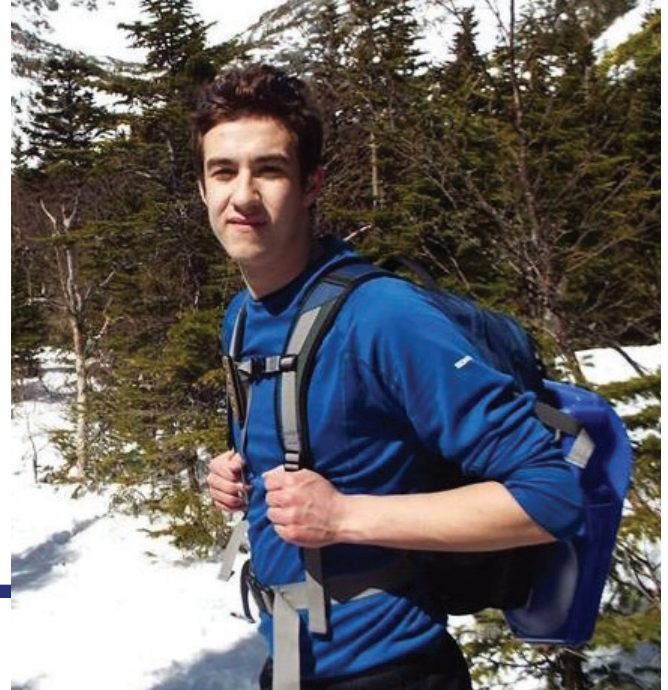


LSLA \$500.00 SCHOLARSHIPS



Liam Flynn

My name is Liam and I spend most of my available time in or near lakes and mountains, my appreciation for the natural world has done nothing but grow over the years. With the impending changes to our climate and ecosystems across the world, it is my goal to complete the degree I am currently pursuing in Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine so that I can understand the problems and help make positive change to preserve the planet we love. A huge thank you to the Little Sebago Lake Association for helping fund the education of students like me in the natural science fields. I think we are at a time where this is critically important for preserving the way of life that we love here in Maine, so thank you on my behalf and everyone who enjoys Maine's beauty **-Liam Flynn**



Liam Flynn, \$500 Windham Scholarship Recipient

Ben Rogers

My name is Ben Rogers and I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Little Sebago Lake Association for awarding the 2016 college scholarship to me. I am currently a freshman at Southern Maine Community College and am majoring in Horticulture. In this program I will learn about plant production and organic food production. I am very interested in the role organic gardening is playing in Maine and think it is great way to connect people to the earth. After completing the Horticulture program I plan to continue my education in Sustainable Agriculture. This path will help me pursue a career in sustainable plant systems which will help provide safe food and protect the earth that provides it. **-Ben Rogers**



Ben Rogers, \$500 GNG Scholarship Recipient

Boat Ramp & Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

Pam Wilkinson

Welcome To Little Sebago Lake

- **Islands Are Private Property**
No Trespassing
Use porta potty provided at ramp
- **Carry In - Carry Out**
Includes trash, human and pet waste
- **Loons And Wildlife**
Keep distance from wildlife
Loons nest from May to June
Keep away from nests on islands
- **Milfoil - Invasive Plant In Our Lake**
Slow down - Boat wakes disrupt the operation
Divers are underwater removing invasive milfoil
Keep away from dive flags & green noodies marking milfoil

Maine State Buoy Placement Map

Contact: LSLA
www.littlesebagolake.com
207-809-4706

Warden Service:
207-657-3030
(24 hours/day)

State Police:
207-657-3030

Sign provided by Little Sebago Lake Association

It's hot and you want to go jump in the lake! Mt. Hunger Shore Road is the only State access for Little Sebago. Last year a little over 1900 boats were recorded between the week before Memorial Day and the week after Labor Day. Some days as many as 60 boats wish to enjoy all the lake has to offer with only 14 parking spots. Jim and Jackie Fitzgerald are our special team of Courtesy Boat Inspectors who have been with us for 13 years and can be recognized by the special CBI tee shirts. They attended the yearly training session at the Milfoil Summit in March to learn what is new for the year. Their schedule is normally Thursday through Sunday with holidays and fishing tournaments added for further inspections for invasive plants and aquatic species. It may take a small amount of extra time your boat, motor and trailer to be checked for unwanted invasive plants. Your patience is appreciated; consider it being your part to protect the lake.

Available at the boat ramp will be informational brochures, LSLA merchandise, maps and our special stickers available for purchase to take home with you as mementos. Your support helps our efforts to protect the lake and keep it safe.

As a reminder, those all day trippers need to bring your own form of port a potty or use the one provided at the boat ramp. ALL the islands are privately owned and are not to be used as bathrooms for humans or pets. We are finding that more and more people are using the islands for this purpose; it makes the islands unhealthy for owner's use and it adds bacteria to the lake.

HELP WANTED

Merchandise Coordinator

LSLA is looking for a merchandise coordinator. This is a volunteer position responsible for the procurement and sales of LSLA merchandise. If you have a keen sense for up-to-date merchandise that our members and visitors will want, please contact us at:
info@littlesebagolake.com.

NEED SOMETHING TO DO?

Join in on your local community festivals:

Gray:

END OF SUMMER FEST August 12th Visit
www.graymaine.org for updated information

Windham:

WINDHAM SUMMERFEST June 24th Visit
www.windhamsummerfest.com for updated information.



LSLA Endowment Fund...



An endowment gift allows residents and friends of Little Sebago to leave a lasting legacy. Your gifts will be placed in a special investment account where the principle donation will be preserved and a portion of the income generated will be used for specified projects. As the fund grows over time, it will provide sustainable financial resources to protect our lake. Since being created in 2010, the Endowment Fund has grown to over \$21,000. The LSLA board also moved forward on a new investment strategy to manage these funds through the well-established Maine Community Foundation. The board has also revised threshold levels to recognize donors who give generously to the Endowment Fund. Accumulated contributions will be acknowledged on a plaque and on the website thanking donors at the following levels: \$100 or more – Kingfisher; \$500 or more – Hawk; \$1,000 or more – Loon; \$5,000 or more – Eagle.

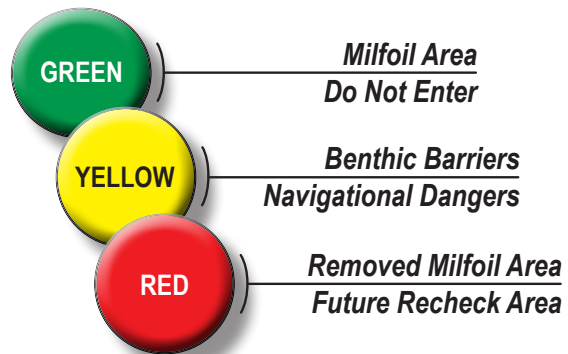
Please consider a generous endowment gift during your financial planning. If you have questions or interest in donating to the Little Sebago Lake Endowment Fund, contact us at 207-809-4706 or go to www.littlesebagolake.com for more information.

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

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



Membership Address Updates

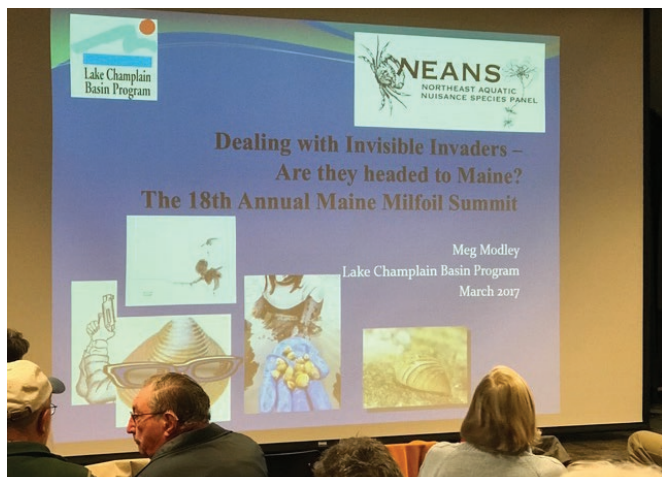
Please contact Cheryl Alterman via email at calterman@littlesebagolake.com with corrections to addresses.



The 18th Milfoil Summit



The 18th Milfoil Summit was held in Lewiston on March 3, 2017. The conference room was filled to overflowing with representatives from a multitude of lakes around the state. The summit was sponsored by the Lake Environmental Association with Peter Lowell as the coordinator. A quick overview stated that there have been 88,000 inspections by courtesy inspectors since the start of the inspection program. Funding comes from the milfoil sticker program, grants and additional support from the lakes and ponds where the inspector programs are in place. New legislation is being introduced to



also have mandatory stickers on non motorized craft which would further increase funding for more remediation of infested water bodies. Guest speaker was Meg Modley of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. She stated that there

are over 184 invasives in the Great Lakes plus 50 non species in Lake Champlain. Right now their four most prevalent invasives are zebra mussels, spiny water flea, alewife and Asian clams with benthic barriers as the best way to control most. Her cautionary message to all boats coming out of Lake Champlain is clean, drain and dry to inhibit the spread of invasives to other water bodies. Other speakers included John McPhedran of the DEP and Lt. Gorman, of IFW. Peter Lowell spoke about updates and protocol for boat launch inspectors, including a mystery boater who will be checking all boat launches, insuring professional performance. Roberta Hill of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program said since 2002 they have increased



the number of inspectors to 4,000. In 2016, 385 new inspectors joined the ranks. She mentioned there is a newly designed quick key for plant identification which is waterproof and can be ordered at a bulk rate through the VLMP or downloaded from their website. Maggie Shannon of the Maine Lake Society spoke of several bills to be presented in Augusta affecting Maine lakes. She continues to be a driving force representing that organization in Augusta. There were also many displays from different organization concerning the issues presented at the summit. So much goes on behind the scenes on a daily basis by many dedicated people from all walks of life and age groups, to protect and preserve Maine lakes. Many thanks to all!

Milfoil Militia Making Continual Headway – Plant Patrollers Wanted

Pam Wilkinson

The tally chart says it all. As you look at the decline in number of milfoil bags removed, remember without removal the variable milfoil identified in Little Sebago would have grown at least three fold and choked the lake. The 120 tons taken has allowed us to continue to enjoy the lake, kept our ecosystem in check, and maintained our property values thus not impacting taxes in Gray and Windham.

We start surveying in June to assess and identify priority areas. The operation usually begins in the coves and areas where boat traffic may fragment the milfoil to avoid further spreading. The operation focuses on the existing beds and we rotate re-checking areas every two to three weeks until September from the Upper Basin to the Lower Basin.

The crew are trained and given updates prior to the program starting in July. Each suction dredge called HIPPO (hydraulic invasive plant operation) has a boat captain, crew and diver. The diver extracts the plants roots from the bottom, feeds it into a suction hose which then is delivered to a trough that drops the plants into onion bags with water filtering twice prior to reentering into the

lake. Due to safety reasons the crew is usually another diver. They will alternate and should there be an emergency that requires a trained person to respond, that person is there.

It is encouraged that lake property owners become familiar with what the difference is between invasive milfoil and plants that are native that look similar; for example water marigold. Know and assess your lake bottom beyond your shoreline for milfoil or anything that looks different. Please report to us if you think you have an invasive plant or anything suspicious. Last year we had green clouds in shallow areas (metaphyton). We need to see if this is reoccurring again this year of if it was just due to climate last year.

Please visit the VLMP website mainevlmp.org to learn more on how you can be a plant patroller. This is a good way to have a project to do that can incorporate all of us, including the youth, to become lake stewards for generations to come. Check your area throughout the summer and mark your calendars for August 19th for a dedicated day to look and report. Contact Pam Wilkinson pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com if interested in joining us this year for a plant paddle.

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
2006	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	62,516.50	9,650.00	72,166.50
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	-	1,720	51,580.26	13,786.00	65,366.26
2010	187	54	2	47	1,491	-	1,781	67,265.60	17,046.42	84,312.02
2011	178	17	7	16	500	-	718	48,350.18	12,466.32	60,816.50
2012	86.5	50	16	20.5	954	3	1,130	46,253.82	13,300.68	59,554.50
2013	314.5	25.75	49	33.5	760.75	3	1,186	51,507.84	13,909.84	65,417.68
2014	180.25	54.5	15	28	353	-	631	43,926.33	13,000.00	56,926.33
2015	93	11	50	71	164.5	-	389	32,233.42	9,246.00	41,479.42
2016	52.5	-	23.5	34	126.5	-	236.50	21,409.07	9,037.60	30,446.67
TOTALS	1,967.75	387.25	325.5	776	7,358.75	6	12,021.25	\$547,991.30	\$129,957.80	\$677,949.10

*Each bag equals approx. 20 pounds dry weight.
To date approx. 120 tons removed over 11 year period.*



Some Thoughts About Fireworks

Fireworks and summertime go hand in hand. Many of us enjoy the fireworks displays around the lake- especially around the 4th of July holiday- which is always a highlight of the summer. As beautiful and fun as fireworks can be, please be aware that they may be causing more damage to our precious lake than you realize.

Fireworks explode in the air, and what goes up must come down. Debris from fireworks is harmful to any aquatic ecosystem. The chemicals that create fireworks colors- the reds, whites and blues- are actually full of many toxic elements like lead, barium, lithium and aluminum, just to name a few. Even trace amounts of phosphorus from fireworks impact water quality. It's not good for the lake, wildlife and humans. So please, clean up as much as you can after setting off fireworks and please keep your displays to a minimum- the lake and all of us that use it will be much better off.

Please keep safely in mind when setting off fireworks. Over

the last couple of summers, the reported number of injuries and deaths from fireworks continued to climb, especially around the 4th of July. Some suggested safely tips:

- A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
- Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.
- Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Always have a bucket of water and water hose nearby

Also, be considerate of others. Just because you're on vacation it doesn't mean your neighbors are. Fireworks are permitted for use until 10 PM (except later for the 4th of July and December 31st).

Keep it safe and have a great summer!

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*



11th Annual Pirate Parade

Our Pirate Parade continues to be the event of the summer! It is held each year on the Saturday after the annual meeting, with a rain date of Sunday. This is a time for people of all ages to come together to enjoy family and friends on the lake!

The meeting time is noon at the lower narrows. Folks in the upper and lower lakes should give themselves plenty of time to be in place for the start of the procession. At noon we proceed up the lake past the rope swing and onto Pirates Cove for a few hours of water fun and frolic!

We encourage and expect everyone to use safe boating practices. Please follow them so that this event can continue for years to come.

- Please be respectful of others.
- **DO NOT** throw water balloons or anything else! **People get hurt** and they are bad for the lake.
- **DO NOT** throw buckets of water onto another boat. People have small children, pets, and cameras on board.
- **DO NOT approach other boats at an unsafe distance when you are moving.**
- Be sure your registration numbers are visible.

We do not want any accidents to ruin our fun. Please keep safety in mind.

We would love someone new to Captain the parade! If there is another boat that would like to lead, just position yourself in the front when approaching the lower narrow and watch the boats follow along behind you!



Staying Put

By Carole Davis

So many people rush to the South, when winter claims its hostages. Those who are left hunker down in well-fortified caves, and wait for a reprieve. Not so, "Doc," who can't wait to attack the first snow storm.

In truth, we live on a hill, so it's imperative to get the driveway pavement down to a bare surface, otherwise we would have to leave our car abandoned on the street. That, however, is only one of his many excuses to brave the elements. Donning his red, pompom hat with "Doc" knitted on the brim, it is now time to find his oldest down jacket, the one with feathers sticking out in clumps. Steve digs out L.L. Bean boots from the garage, lying next to the warmest Thinsalite gloves I could buy. Out he goes, into the white, blizzard blinding snow of winter.

I watch him through frosted window panes that hang like curtains over the glass. He has had the snow blower ready since the summer, tuned-up and gas ready, awaiting today. Occasionally, throughout the summer, I see him staring at this machine, resting next to the lawn mower. I detect remorse on his face that winter is so long in coming. The blower is ancient, has many scars, but is made of the sturdiest steel. This companion is an old friend, called up in the direst of circumstances, and ever ready for attack at the first sign of white. It starts to groan and belch on the first pull of the starter, fumes clogging his nostrils, but both of us know, that it is just revving up its engine, signaling a readiness for the fight. The bodily sounds of the beginning, will soon turn to the even hum of a well-oiled engine, about to wipe out the enemy.

The blower goes up and down our property, forging its own design, much like the patterns designed on a baseball field. The snow goes high up into the air, a geyser of ice, landing in soft mounds all over our property. Our dog jumps to catch the airborne snow and leaps in joy at the ice cream like scoops forming all around him. Up and down, up and down, the bare pavement is becoming visible through the snow. Steve's cheeks are glowing with cold, his nose is red, and by the way he is moving, I suspect his toes are getting numb. "Time to come in," I shout, but this is a refrain I have entreated many times through many storms, and I know it's for naught. He will come in when the pavement looks like a perfect canvas, awaiting the first brush of tires daring to drive up our hill.

Moon light shimmers on the hemlock trees covered with snow. The blower has made its last gasp for this evening and is tucked away in our garage. The snow has started to fall again. By morning our driveway will look like an ocean of white, with drifts of waves, clean and stark in their beauty. Some are fearful of winter's harshness, afraid of dangling wires, splintered branches, and bone chilling cold. But for a few, it is a force to be tamed, a strategy to be mastered, and most of all, a beauty to behold.



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



To Saint Gregory's Parish for hosting our annual meeting this year.

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



To Jess 'n Nik's for donating their delicious pizza.

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 The Maine Warden Service for patrolling our lake this summer.



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

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



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 or call 207-809-4706
More informative sites: mainevlmp.org; 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