



Little Sebago Lake Association Summer - 2015

“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.”

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Deb Gellerson

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Christine Godfrey

Water Quality

Rick Sullivan

Dam Committee

Bruce Micucci



Boat Ramp Update Mt Hunger Shores - Leon Bucher IFW

As you may recall, our 20 year-old launch ramp was closed early last Fall for a complete rebuild. The contractor hired by the State removed the old one and installed our new ramp consisting of the cast-in-place concrete header and pre-cast heavy duty concrete planks with steel rail guides. The ramp was dressed off with riprap protecting the sides and the “basin” at the end of the ramp. The float support consisting of the cast-in-place concrete abutment and nine pre-cast heavy duty concrete groundout planks was also installed for the new docking system. A concrete portable toilet pad was

poured and they also removed the old guardrail system.

The site was open for ice-fishing this past winter with ‘Caution’ signage and barricades due to the lack of a guardrail system and the exposed edge of the launch ramp cast-in-place concrete header.

Before the launch can be used this spring for boating, the remaining work to be completed is the paving of the ramp approach and the installation of the new guardrail. The dock system,

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consisting of 3 float sections (6' x 12'), is waiting to be delivered and installed.

This work is dependent on the paving plant to re-opened, frost to come out of the ground for the new guardrail system, the availability of the contractor and subcontractors, and the weather.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will coordinate with The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Boating Facility, for the annual installation and removal of the seasonal floats which will be stored on site.

The open questions that we all are waiting to hear are:

- What is the schedule for the DIFW/contractor spring site inspection, paving, guardrail installation, and float installation?
- How can public use be accommodated during this time until finished?

When we have information to share, the Little Sebago Lake Association will post it on their website and the Little Sebago Lake Facebook page.



Message From The President

Pam Wilkinson

Oh My Goodness! It is April 1st and it is still winter! No Joke. With morning temps of zero on March 24th, I am not sure the ice will melt soon enough to be able to swim on the 4th of July. Rest be assured, when the waters start to glisten, the Board of Directors and various committees have been working all winter to ensure the use of the lake is enjoyable and safe for humans and wildlife. Last year an explosion of uses and issues cropped up leading us to realize the word is out on what a gem we have. With home and boat rentals increasing on the lake there is an amplified need to educate those who visit of lake etiquette necessary to preserve it. Our loons have been challenged during their nesting period from May to the end of June by curious people who go too close or want to park boats in the nesting area. There was an instant of a watercraft circling the loons as sport. All islands are private and the increased usage on the lake has produced some people who think they can use them for daily resting spots, camping or bathrooms for humans and dogs. Outreach to various rental agencies for homes and boats is planned. We are asking lake residents to be stewards by taking a moment to explain good practices to their periodic neighbors who may not know that what they are doing is wrong. The Annual Meeting is always the second

Saturday in July, this year on the 11th and the fun pirate parade is the next weekend, July 18th. DON'T MISS IT! As you peruse throughout the newsletter there is a wealth of information from various board and committee members. If you have any questions, any one of us is a resource. Should you decide to become involved, we welcome you whether it is a board member commitment or an occasional assistance. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and committee members for all their dedication and hours of service to make sure the use of the lake is perpetual. Enjoy your summer on our beautiful Little Sebago Lake!

*Thanks
Pam*



LSLA ANNUAL MEETING MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, July 11th, 2015
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!



Positions Needed

Paid & Volunteer

Paid: Scheduler for Milfoil crew /From July to end of August/September. *Approx 2 hours per day.*

Paid: Coordinator: Meet crew in the morning, provide gas and supplies to the milfoil boat launch area, respond to repair issues (does not mean repair but to communicate the issue for a resolve), make sure paperwork is done properly for State reporting and communicate with director. This person would preferably be located in the lower basin since most of the work is done in that area. *Approx 2 hours per day.*

Volunteer: People interested in an Adopt a Loon Territory program.

Volunteer: People interested in a Plant Patrol Program.

FMI: Please contact Pam Wilkinson



I Remember When...

Little Sebago's picturesque islands are part of what makes our lake so special. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a camp on one? To find out, we recently reached out to Debbie Ameele, whose family has a camp on Loon Island.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful story with us, island life sounds great!

Island Life on Little Sebago

by Debbie Ameele

Loon Island was bought in 1903 by my great grandparents, Adeline and Frank Fitz. A cabin was built for my grandfather to use as a fishing camp and was enlarged sometime before 1920. The house consists of a big room with a fireplace and lots of windows and a tiny kitchen, just a few shelves, a sink with a hand pump for lake water and a three-burner stovetop. There is no electricity, we used to use kerosene lamps, but now use battery-operated lanterns. It feels like you're living in a fishbowl on a beautiful sunny weekend with all the boats going by, some very slowly and some circling the island to get a better look and you can hear some people asking, "do you think anyone lives there?" But there is nothing better than taking your coffee out to the porch on a quiet weekday morning and sitting looking out at Horse, Crescent and Ridgewood, listening and watching the eagles and loons!

When I was growing up we would spend 2 or 3 weeks each summer on the lake and would take turns with my cousins staying on Loon one year and on shore the next. We had lots of fun having kick-the-can games and scavenger hunts with the Ridgewood and Crescent families, though always on shore or Ridgewood, as I recall. But we also had dinners and coffees and cocktail times, as well. I remember my mother inviting everyone over to Loon one time for coffee. I think they all had to bring their own chairs and there was barely room for everyone. But, it was so much fun growing up there. It's still my favorite place.

If you would like to share your stories or memories on Little Sebago Lake, please consider doing so. Whether it's from yesterday or 50 years ago, we would love to hear from you! Please feel free to use any of the convenient options listed below:

Post on our website:

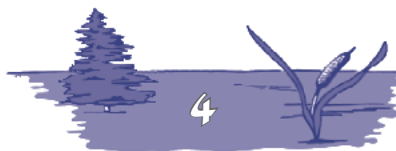
www.littlesebagolake.com

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!



Hidden History of The Sebago Lakes Region's Past

Dig a Little Deeper into the Sebago Lakes Region's Past.

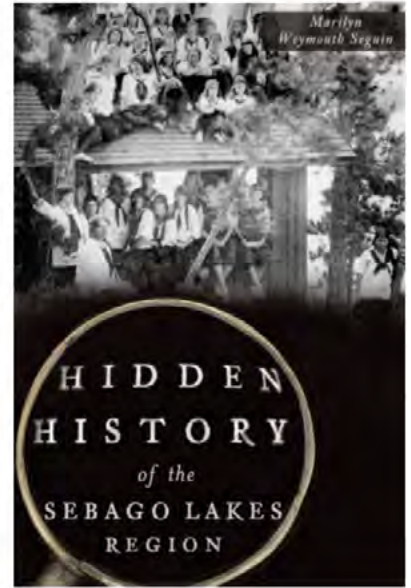
Hidden History of the Sebago Lakes Region

by Marilyn Weymouth Seguin

Hidden History Series

Price: \$19.99

Quirky characters and surprising events have shaped a robust community history throughout the Sebago Lakes region. Nathaniel Hawthorne's lost boyhood diary offers a glimpse into his early writing days on the shore of Sebago Lake. Henry Clay Barnabee, once called the funniest man of his time, brought his crew here for relaxing lakeside summers to rest up their vocal cords around the turn of the century. Discover the story behind a stolen Chinese statue that might just be responsible for a string of curses in Naples and misfortune on the shores of Long Lake. Marilyn Weymouth Seguin explores the unusual, the mysterious and the sometimes weird layers of regional history that have remained hidden—until now.



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!





Water Quality Report

Spring 2015

Submitted by: Rick Sullivan, Water Quality Volunteer



I completed my first year of water testing this year. It was an interesting and rewarding experience getting to know how the lake works as its own eco system.

The OFFICIAL lake water quality reports are issued by the VLMP and the State of ME and not yet published. UNOFFICIALLY, the raw data of water clarity and oxygen levels look very much like the 2013 data and certainly an improvement over the hot and wet summer of 2012. Official water quality reports will be published on the web site when the results come in.

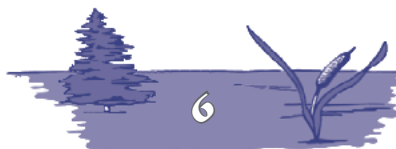
This data alone does not always tell the story. These readings combined with other factors such as phosphorus levels help tell the story of the health of the lake.

I have learned in my brief time volunteering with the project that a big contributing factor to the health of the lake is a result of weather. As seen in 2012, hot weather and a lot of rain deplete oxygen levels and create damaging run off into the lake.

We, as homeowners, cannot control the weather; but we can do a number of things to minimize the effects to the lake.

Many thanks to Bruce Micucci for his 23 years of dedicated service and his help in assisting me with my training. I would like to share some of his thoughts on how we can all help to improve the quality of Little Sebago.

- *Have a Lawn? That's great. But, please use a -0- based phosphorus fertilizer- it's the number (2) item on the label. In Maine you can find Iornite Brand.*
- *Disrupt the flow of water by buffering between your lawn and the lake. Use plants and rocks to stop the water flow into the lake.*
- *Clippings and sticks don't go in the lake! Bag them, rake them and remove them. I see alot of cut grass in the lake on Sunday mornings. The debris breaks down and becomes fertilizer which hurts water quality. If you see your neighbors putting their clippings and sticks on the shoreline or in the water, gently educate them as to how it harms the water. Sticks being piled up on the shore line end up in the lake. The rotting process robs oxygen in the decay process.*
- *Got animals? Poop scoop. All that in the water is fertilizer for unwanted plant growth.*
- *Septic? Pump it on schedule. If the grass around your leach field stays wet and spongy, it's failing and in a storm you are loading the lake with phosphorus.*
- *Your personal custom phosphorus control plan? The LSLA is working with Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District. You can contact them for more information on phosphorus and erosion control possibilities for your area.*
- *Be a lake steward by looking around you. Every little change will help the health of our lake.*



Hopkins Dam Report

LSLA Dam Committee

Jonathan Bernier, Rod Bernier, Jim Theiss, Chris Micucci, Bruce Micucci

The Hopkins Dam on Little Sebago Lake was fitted with new oak seals in the winter of 2014 and we are pleased to report that after a year of heavy use the work performed by DJ Vance of Windham has proven to be excellent. The leakage by the gate has been cut by 90% and the repair to the gate should last another 20 to 30 years. Thanks again to DJ Vance for a job well done.

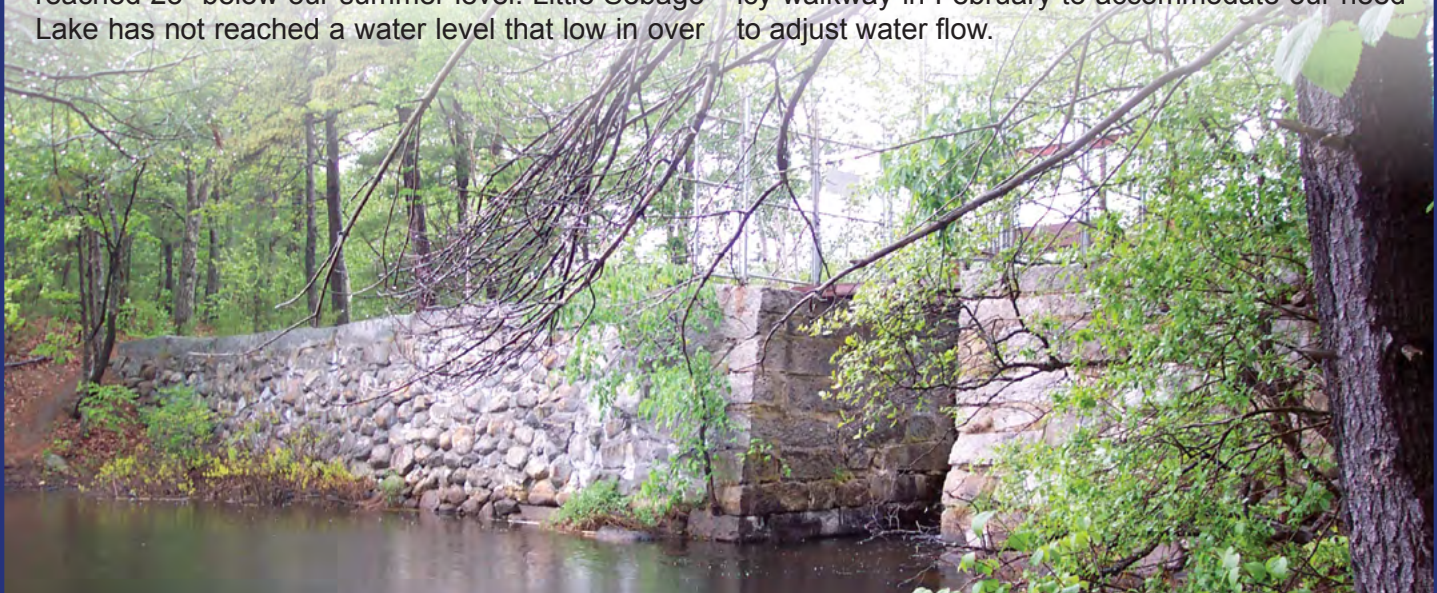
The Dam Committee has asked the board to budget \$2,000 in 2015 for the replacement of the catwalk over the spillway of the dam and for repairs to fencing and the manual wheel used to open and close the dam. The wooden catwalk was built during the last major dam renovation in 1984 with pine that was not pressure treated. Although the catwalk is still solid, 31 years of enduring Maine weather is all we should ask of it.

The Dam was opened on September 24th, 2014 to accommodate the rebuilding of the State access ramp on Mount Hunger Shore Road. That was nearly 3 weeks ahead of our normal October 15th scheduled winter opening. By late November the ramp project had finished for the winter and the lake level had reached 25" below our summer level. Little Sebago Lake has not reached a water level that low in over

30 years. On November 23rd the dam was closed to the point where there was only a minimal water flow to restrict the lake from getting any lower. The dry November was followed by a very wet December and by January the lake level had risen 20" to just 5" below summer level. Water was still flowing through the dam, but concerned with the heavy snow we received this winter along with the high lake level, the decision was made March 1st to open the dam again and try to lower the lake 12" to mitigate any potential for spring flooding.

Keeping Little Sebago Lake at its correct seasonal level is always just a good faith effort. The experience we add to the effort are obvious things like the spring tradition of April showers combined with a heavy snow pack, the need to keep ice off the dam gate with a heavy water flow or the knowledge that 1" of rain means 2" of lake level and that you can only lower the lake by 1/2" per day under ideal conditions.

Thanks to the Little Sebago "dam guys" for their 24/7 commitment to monitor the dam and lake level and to our downstream partners, the Collins Pond dam keepers, who were willing to walk out on an 18" wide icy walkway in February to accommodate our need to adjust water flow.



Summer of 2015 Milfoil Militia Program

Pam Wilkinson

LOCATION	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
UPPER BASIN-GRAY	271	215	390	187	178	86.5	314.5	180.25	1,468
TWIN BROOKS-GRAY	55	62	58	54	17	50	25.75	54.5	376.25
BEAVER COVE-GRAY	91	63	9	2	7	16	49	15	252
MUMFORD COVE-GRAY	133	97	296	47	16	20.5	33.5	28	671
LOWER BASIN WINDHAM	710	1,332	967	1,491	500	954	760.75	353	7,067.75
BEAN ISLAND	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	6
BAG TOTALS	1,260	1,769	1,778	1,889	735	1,180	1,201.75	740.5	10,553
AMOUNT SPENT	67,296.36	55,651.90	51,580.26	67,265.60	48,350.18	46,253.82	51,507.84	43,292.63	431,832.29
VOLUNTEER TIME	9,255.00	9,260.00	13,786.00	17,046.42	12,466.32	13,300.68	13,909.84	13,000.00	102,024.26
TOTAL	76,551.36	64,911.90	65,366.26	84,312.02	60,816.50	59,554.50	65,417.68	56,926.33	533,856.55

Little Sebago Lake yearly comparison of milfoil bags removed-associated costs. Each bag equals approx. 20 pounds dry weight. 2014 less than one ton removed; to date approx. 98 tons removed from 2007 to 2014.

Our program has been successful in reducing the dense beds in the lake. But it is guarded success. The variable milfoil is still lurking on the bottom of the lake waiting for the summer sun to allow it to lift from the bottom or developing root structures on the bottom for further growth. That is why it is important to get all the root when extracting. While we have mostly eliminated the threat of boats running through the tall milfoil creating fragmentation for regrowth, the smaller ones are harder to find and takes as much time to hand pull and feed into the suction dredge called HIPPO (Hydraulic Invasive Plant Processing Operation). The Milfoil Militia will become scouts in late June surveying, documenting and planning our approach. If you see green noodles floating in a certain area, that means we have marked plants and will come back to extract. The good news is that this year we had to stop the operation at the end of August due to the fact we were not getting enough plants to justify the use of the HIPPO's. The invasive plants are there, they are scattered and if left alone will once again

become the dense bed we once had. This is why we need to continue with a different plan of attack and be vigilant. The breakdown of the amount of milfoil extracted is below. One has only to think about what would happen to our lake and property values if this operation had not begun almost 15 years ago. Lastly, I need to thank all the volunteers who made this operation happen. Countless hours of strategizing; use of land for boat docking; allowing the crew to invade their spot early mornings and afternoons; maintaining, putting the fleet to bed and getting them out for use, and surveying reported sightings are just a few of the things that volunteers have given to protect our lake. If you think you have milfoil in your area please contact me using our phone or email addresses and we will check it out for you. **In the perfect world we would have a coordinator become familiar with VLMP's Plant Patrol recommendations, quadrant the lake with identified patrollers and patrol areas periodically.** Remember to keep the native plants so the invasive will not grow in your area.

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.



Marigold vs. Milfoil

Pam Wilkinson

What is the difference between native plant and invasive plant?

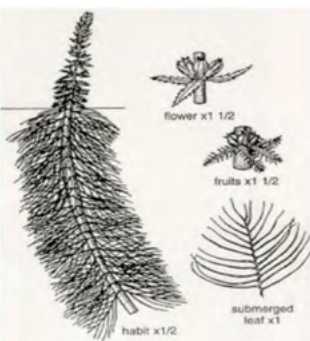
WATER MARIGOLD - native



Description: The stems of water marigold emerge from buried root stalks and rhizomes. Two distinct leaf types are formed. The submersed leaves are finely divided, and oppositely arranged on the stem. (Note: the opposite leaves, each dividing three times

where attached directly to the stem, are widely branched, and not easily distinguished from one another. This creates the appearance of a whorl of six smaller branched leaves on short leaf stems.) When preparing to flower, lance-shaped leaves with serrated margins emerge from the surface of the water on robust stalks. The emergent leaves are also oppositely arranged and attached directly to the stem. Showy, yellow, daisy-like flowers (2 to 2.5 cm wide) are produced among the emergent leaves. The water marigold is a valuable plant to wildlife within its growing range. Fish use the water marigold as a source of shade in hot weather. Fish also forage around the submerged leaves and hide from potential danger in and around the plant. Shorebird and waterfowl, including ducks and geese, eat the fruit and seeds of water marigold.

VARIABLE LEAFED MILFOIL - invasive



Description: Variable water-milfoil is a submersed, aquatic plant with branching stems emerging from dense, spreading roots. Feather-divided leaves are arranged in densely packed whorls. (Leaves along lower portions of the stem may not be in perfect whorls, i.e., some leaves may be slightly offset.) There are generally 4 to 6 leaves per whorl and 5 to 14 pairs of thread-like leaflets on each leaf. The dense leaf arrangement gives this plant a bottle brush

appearance. Stems may be green and slight, but most often they are thick, robust and reddish in color (even bright red). Flowers and bracts are arranged in whorls on an emergent flower spike. The tiny white flowers occur in the axils of the bracts. The bracts are blade-shaped, serrated, and more than twice the length of the flower. Winter buds (or turions) are formed in the fall at the base of the stems or on the rhizomes. Variable-leaf milfoil is an aggressive aquatic plant that can form dense mats that congest waterways and crowd out native aquatic plants. Thick growth of this plant can impair recreational uses of waterways including boating, swimming and fishing. Dense growth of variable-leaf milfoil degrades the native habitat of fish and other wildlife, and may also provide breeding areas for mosquitoes. The main method of dispersal of this plant appears to be fragmentation. Plant fragments are moved around by people, animals and water currents. If you have any questions on what you see in your area contact Pam Wilkinson: pwilkinson@littesebagolake.com.

Join VLMP Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program to be involved with scouting your area or become of our plant patrollers! www.mainevlmp.org



Little Sebago Lake Association 2014-2015 Budget

	Budget 2014	Actual 2014	Difference 2014	Proposed 2015	Notes:
Revenue:					
Donations	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,989	\$ 489	\$ 32,500	
Membership Dues	\$ 18,500	\$ 19,030	\$ 530	\$ 18,750	
Fundraising	\$ 10,250	\$ 10,830	\$ 580	\$ 10,500	
Grant Revenue	\$ 26,280	\$ 26,280	\$ -	\$ 24,625	
Interest & Dividends	\$ 2,300	\$ 3,158	\$ 858	\$ 4,000	
Merchandise Revenue	\$ 7,000	\$ 12,445	\$ 5,445	\$ 10,000	a
Miscellaneous	\$ 200	\$ 360	\$ 160	\$ 300	
Total Income	\$ 97,030	\$ 105,092	\$ 8,062	\$ 100,675	
Disbursements:					
Bank Charges & PayPal	\$ 300	\$ 229	\$ (71)	\$ 300	
Boats	\$ 11,000	\$ 15,394	\$ 4,394	\$ 11,000	b
Dam Maintenance	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,800	\$ (1,200)	\$ 2,000	c
Equipment Purchases	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	d
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,667	\$ (333)	\$ 2,000	
Gas	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,777	\$ 127	\$ 1,750	
Insurance	\$ 8,400	\$ 7,502	\$ (898)	\$ 8,600	
Legal & Accounting	\$ 400	\$ 390	\$ (10)	\$ 500	
Licenses/Permits/Registrations	\$ 200	\$ 50	\$ (150)	\$ 200	
Loon Protection	\$ 1,000	\$ 120	\$ (880)	\$ 500	
Merchandise Purchases	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,812	\$ 2,312	\$ 8,300	e
Milfoil supplies etc.	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,141	\$ (59)	\$ 1,200	
Miscellaneous	\$ 300	\$ 661	\$ 361	\$ 600	
Office, Gifts, Rent	\$ 850	\$ 225	\$ (625)	\$ 750	
Payroll (milfoil/boat ramp/dredging)	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,642	\$ (14,358)	\$ 48,500	f
Postage	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,009	\$ (391)	\$ 2,200	
Printing	\$ 3,400	\$ 4,756	\$ 1,356	\$ 4,500	
Public Forums/Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000	\$ 809	\$ (191)	\$ 1,000	
Safety Patrol Program, supplies & wardens	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,558	\$ 58	\$ 1,500	
Sandy Narrows Restoration	\$ 2,200	\$ -	\$ (2,200)	\$ 2,000	
Watershed	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,500)	\$ 7,000	g
Website & Database	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,051	\$ (1,949)	\$ 2,000	
Total Expense	\$ 111,800	\$ 96,095	\$ (15,705)	\$ 108,400	
Total Income less Expense	\$ (14,770)	\$ 8,997		\$ (7,725)	h

Notes:

- a) Much higher merchandise sales through active marketing efforts
- b) Extensive repairs needed to several of our boats in 2014
- c) Replaced oak seals for the dam early in 2014 at lower cost than assumed
- d) Purchased storage trailer in 2014; planning for new boat ramp signs in 2015
- e) Merchandise purchases higher to build inventory & support sales
- f) Payroll in 2014 reflects reduced milfoil removal and shorter season
- g) Watershed costs represent our match for Federal grant plus remediation efforts on priority sites
- h) 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:	12/31/2013	12/31/2014	Difference
Endowment	\$ 7,893	\$ 13,164	\$ 5,271
Operating Account	\$ 22,377	\$ 22,946	\$ 569
Reserves	\$ 134,797	\$ 137,954	\$ 3,157
Total Assets	\$ 165,067	\$ 174,064	\$ 8,997
Liabilities:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Worth:	\$ 165,067	\$ 174,064	\$ 8,997

LSLA Endowment Fund

“It takes a noble man to plant a seed for a tree that will someday give shade to people he may never meet.”

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 \$13,000. The LSLA board is considering 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. Accumulative 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.

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

Boat Landing / CBI

Grant Writing

Public Forums

Town-State-Federal interactions

Road Associations Networking

Website-Newsletter-

Merchandise

Lower Narrows Restoration

Task Force

CCSWCS

Lake Fun 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





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 two years ago. 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.net*

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

The LSLA Patrol Boat will once again be out on the lake this summer during the busiest times of the season, and I hope twice as much as in years past. I hope to expand the program and I am looking for a few more volunteer drivers. Boating experience and knowing our lake are the basic requirements. The more we are out, the more well behaved our boaters tend to be!

Last summer we had a bit of an increase in the number of violations for speed, registrations, and the correct number of life preservers on board.

Just knowing that the sheriffs might be out, causes more people to actually think about all of these things before they leave their docks.

We also enjoy rewarding those that do follow all of the rules of the water and we will once again be generous with gift certificates for free pizza from Pizza Hut!

I will have a training session in late spring. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver, please contact me, Sharon at 207-415-0627.



Little Sebago Lake Fish Stocking Reports 2002 - 2014



Spring 2002:

18 Brown Trout 22" – 24"
22 Rainbow Trout 14" – 16"

Fall 2002:

1500 Brown Trout 12" – 14"
150 Rainbow Trout 12" – 14"
30 Brown Trout 22" – 24"

Fall 2003:

1500 Brown Trout 12" – 14"
150 Rainbow Trout 14" – 16"
10 Brown Trout 22" – 24"

Fall 2004:

1200 Brown Trout 12" – 14"
150 Rainbow Trout 14" – 16"
75 Brown Trout 18" – 20"

Fall 2005:

1500 Brown Trout 10" – 12"
500 Rainbow Trout 12" – 14"

Fall 2006:

1500 Brown Trout 12" – 14"
700 Rainbow Trout 6" – 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"



Little Sebago Loon Protection

As a result of requests and concerns expressed about Loon protection by lake stewards of Little Sebago, a research committee was formed. The group met in March with Lee Attix, Wildlife Research Biologist associated with Biodiversity Research in Gorham and currently working on a 5 year "Restore the Call" in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Lee shared with us statistics of the declining population of loons in these two states as compared to the state of Maine. At one time Little Sebago had the highest amount of loons in Cumberland County, more than all of the state of Massachusetts. Little Sebago is the perfect environment for loons due to its serpentine coastline with many protected coves. Lee has been surveying the Loon population on our lake for over 20 years. He shared many fascinating and informative stories about the loons that return year after year to our lake.

Last year the board received many calls about loon harassment on the lake and also calls about loons entwined with fishing line. There was also concern expressed at the annual meeting about whether to post signs at loon nesting areas to help prevent people and dogs from disturbing the nests. Lee said the biggest threat to loons still is the lead sinkers many fisherman are still using. Even though officially banned with fines levied if found, loons that are found dead continue to have high levels of lead in their systems. Second biggest threat surprisingly is milfoil due to the inability of loons to feed if the milfoil gets too dense. Thirdly is boat trauma. Lastly, changing lake levels sometimes cause loon nests to become flooded.

Nesting times for loons are late May to early June. Sometimes a renesting will occur in late June if previous attempts are unsuccessful. Lee also identified areas that loons have been nesting over the past 20 years and these were mapped for further reference. As an unpaid volunteer, he still continues to come to Little Sebago at least once a year to continue to monitor loon activity.

The committee has several ideas which they will try to implement in regards to protecting nesting areas and also is considering a tackle box inspection for lead sinkers. In the past there was a program sponsored by the Maine Audubon Society with non lead replacements provided.

Protecting our loons is a group effort. More information is provided on our website. See article called "[Living with Loons](#)" by Lee Attix. Many thanks to Lee for his passion for protecting and repopulating loons in New England. He may be contacted at lee.attix@briloon.org.

Another Loon Committee meeting is scheduled for May 13th. If you are interested in being a territory observer please contact Pam Wilkinson 428-3732.

Carol Ann Doucette on behalf of the Loon Committee.

*Carol Davis, Deb Gellerson, Sharon Young,
Dottie Bates, Kevin Murphy, Pam Wilkinson*



Little Sebago Lake Watershed Protection Project Phase IV

The Lake Association is pleased to be working closely with the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District on an ongoing project to protect the lake's water quality. LSLA, CCSWCD, and Maine DEP have been working to address erosion issues throughout our watershed since 2002. We were very fortunate to receive federal grant funding from the US EPA using Section 319 funds through the Clean Water Act. The Phase IV funding includes nearly \$100,000 of federal grants matched by almost \$70,000 of cash match and in kind services from LSLA, CCSWCD, the towns of Gray and Windham and others involved such as contractors, landowners and road associations.

Heather True is the Project Manager for CCSWCD leading the effort. She meets quarterly with a steering committee made up of the various stakeholders including four members of the LSLA board. One major focus of this phase is to work with the various road associations around the lake to form a cooperative and share resources, ideas and best practices. We hope to address common road problems and pool efforts to obtain discounts on road materials and contractors' services. Twelve high priority road sites will be addressed with cost sharing grant funds and engineering oversight. The road association group has already met twice.

Work on individual residential sites is also ongoing. Free site visits and technical assistance are offered to any landowner who has erosion concerns about their property. After the site visit, a simple report is prepared to document the issues and offer recommendations and cost estimates. The goal is to compile all residential needs, look into bulk discounts available, and organize a week of potentially reduced contractor services at the end of the summer. Fifteen site visits have been completed since last summer. If you have concerns about erosion on your property, please contact Heather.

Our long term objective is to develop a sustainable approach to identify and address erosion concerns throughout the watershed to protect the water quality of Little Sebago Lake. This will require dedicated volunteers with the right training and knowledge, and the cooperation of road associations and local contractors working together in years to come. If you would like to help – please get involved!

If you are interested in learning more about these private road and residential programs, please contact Heather True of CCSWCD at 207-892-4700 or: htrue@cumberlandswcd.org.

Membership Address Updates

Please contact:
Diane Burnell via email at:
dburnell@littlesebago.com
with corrections to address.

Newsletter

If you prefer to only receive the newsletter as an email then please contact us. Just email your request to info@littlesebagolake.com or call 207-809-4706 and your request will be handled. If you did not receive one we encourage you to contact us to make sure you get a newsletter next time.



Fireworks- Used to be Special Still Pretty- Impactful to Our Lake

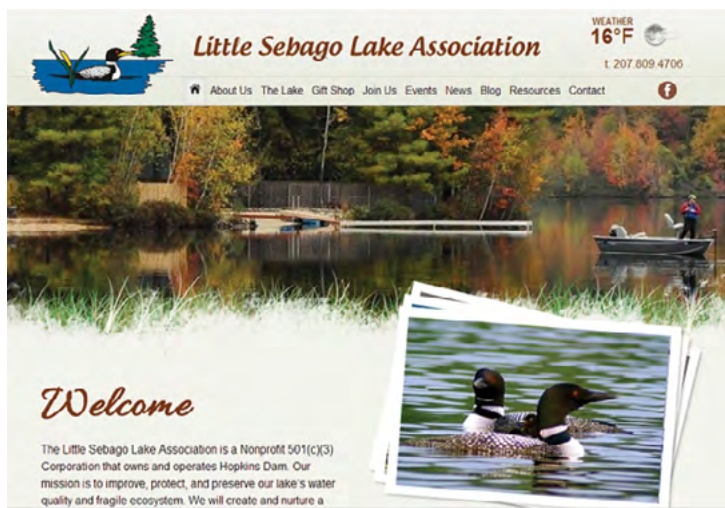
As a small child my parents took “us four kiddos” to Pineland to watch the fireworks. It sparked such a delight and excitement that could not be matched until the next year. Our family roamed the lake over the past 30 years to get just under the “best show” trying to get that same excitement (thanking the “outta staters” and “investors” along the way for such a wonderful performance). Things have changed, since fireworks are no longer illegal. While I do not want to take that excitement away from the Fourth of July (trying to justify it by balance of human and wildlife), the use of fireworks has become imbalanced. It may be more prudent to allow fireworks a week before and after the Fourth of July to maintain the peace and quiet this lake used to have. Now the crackling of campfires and laughters from across the lake are replaced with continual booms. Have you heard the “cry of the loon” after each bang? Take a moment to listen. I do not think they are applauding. Then there is the debris left over in the lake, week after week. The noise is now multiplied by weekends of those who are there for one week of rental joy not

realizing there are others the next week doing the same thing. Some want fireworks totally banned, while others think any sort of condition is silly. The balance between the lake resident’s quality of life, visitor’s vacation fun and wildlife nurturing needs better balancing.

By State Law fireworks are permitted Daily, 9am-10pm, exceptions July 4th and December 31st (and weekend preceding and immediately following these dates) can be until 12:30am. Fireworks must be on your own property (if you rent property, you must get permission of the owner). There is civil liability if someone commits an offense. Municipalities can enact more restrictions than the law if they wish.

Areas of concerns: consumer transportation once purchased, consumer storage, safe distances, consumer safety practices, and weather conditions (wind in particular) were not addressed. Increase in nuisance calls, fire and EMS incidents.

LSLA WEBSITE



We Want Your Photos!

When visiting our web site, you’ll notice a rotating display of photographs. We would like to have a stockpile of various pictures representing different seasons of the year on our lake to display to all our visitors. If you have a special photo you’d like us to share on our home page, please send it to info@littlesebagolake.com. If you already shared the photo on the Facebook page, send us a link to it if we can use it. As long as it is appropriate for the audience and it represents fun times on the lake, we will add it to the mix for display.

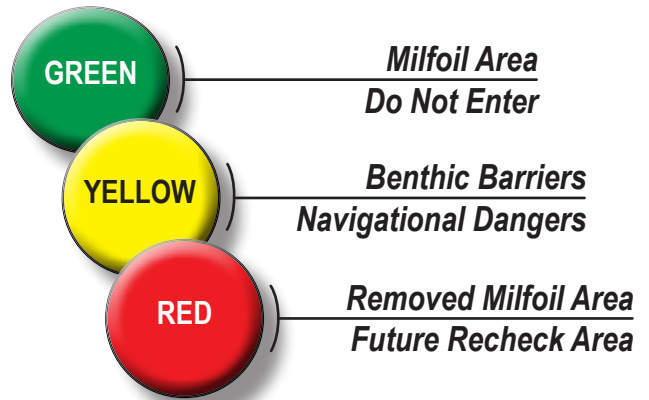


Milfoil Militia

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

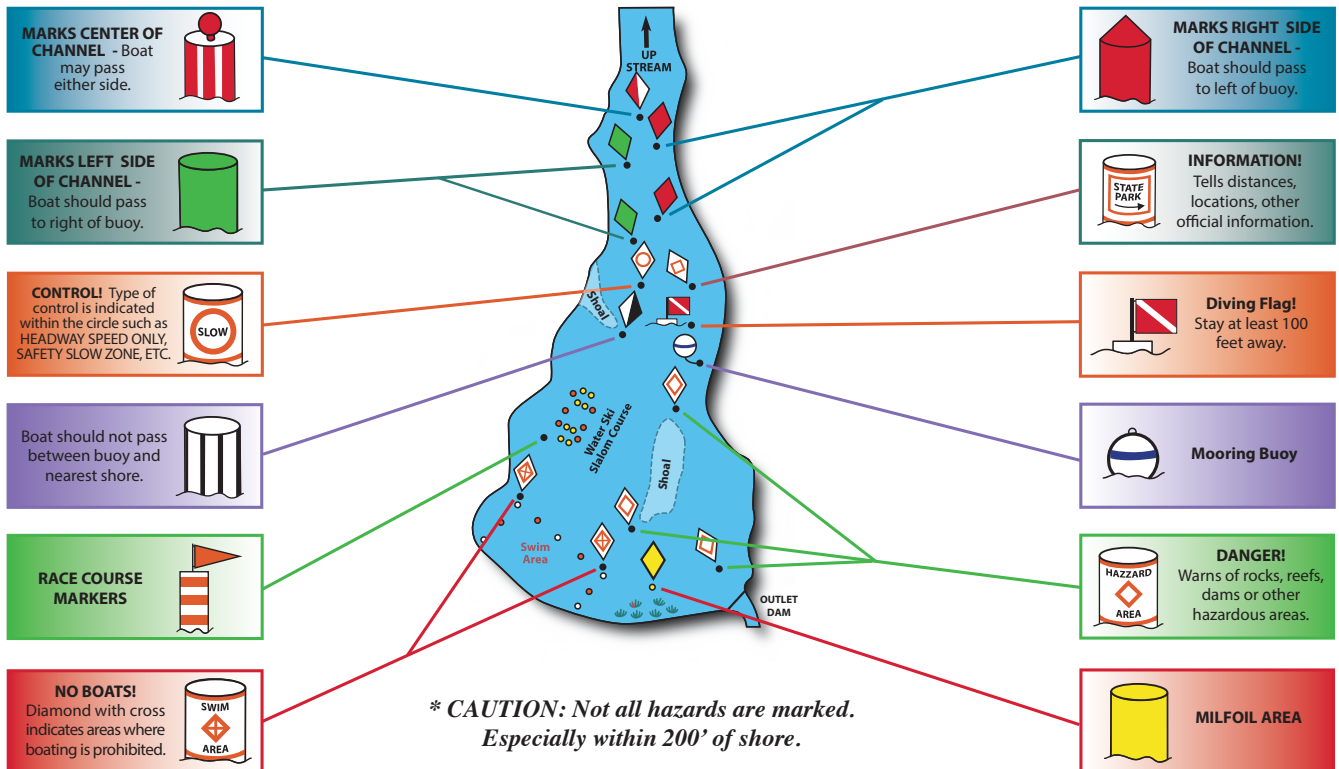
For any questions or to report milfoil sightings in your area, call Pam Wilkinson (LSLA) at: 428-3732, or email her at: pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.com

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



Maine Aides to Navigation System

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



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

9th Annual Pirate Parade



Our Pirate Parade is the event of the summer! It is held each year the Saturday after the annual meeting, with a rain date of Sunday. The meeting time this year will be at noon at the lower narrows. Folks in the lower lake should start out in plenty of time to get up to the narrows at noon. We proceed up the lake past the rope swing and onto to Pirates Cove for a few hours of water fun and frolic.

Please, we need everyone to use safe boating practices, including:

Be sure your registration numbers are visible.

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. Please be respectful of others.

DO NOT approach other boats at an unsafe distance when you are moving. We do not want any accidents to ruin our fun. Please keep safety in mind.

If you and your boat would like to lead the parade this year, please e mail Deb Gellerson at dgellerson@littlesebagolake.com.

There are folks who would like to see a children's themed 4th of July weekend morning parade. If you would like to participate, please e mail your thoughts to Deb Gellerson and we will see where it goes! If there is enough response I will post a start time and route on Facebook.

Courtesy Boat Inspections

Pam Wilkinson

Jim and Jackie Fitzgerald have been our inspectors for several years. They both attend the VLMP seminar in the spring to learn what has happened in the past summer season and 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 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.

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.

Major construction by IFW on the ramp began October 6th to extend the launch for easier access and regress. There is still work to be done this spring to complete the ramp. The ramp will need to be closed during this period of time. We keep close touch with IFW to monitor when the ramp will be completed and available for use.

2014 boat count	2089	2012 boat count	2110
2013 boat count	2102	2011 boat count	2190

The 2089 boat count includes over 400 non-motorized boats such as canoes and kayaks. 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 one on your boat.



“2015 LSLA FUND RAISER”

Help Raise Funds to Fight

MILFOIL

and win Great Prizes
by sending in those Raffle Tickets

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

Last summer's big fund raising event was the Raffle. We had a paddleboard, kayak and a gazebo screen house, winners were selected at the annual meeting. Tickets were \$25.00 for three and we sold \$10,830.00 worth of tickets! A huge success for sure!

Raffle winners were: Sharon Gieringer won the paddleboard, Rodney Voisine won the kayak and Charlie Cote the gazebo screen house. It was so much fun calling these winners and delivering their prizes!

This year, we will do the same. 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!!

Thanks!



Help our fund raising efforts by contacting us to purchase our raffle tickets, by calling 207-809-4706 or emailing us at info@littlesebagolake.com

Little Sebago Lake Merchandise

2014 was a banner year for merchandise sales. Special thanks go out to all of you who support the Lake Association through your purchases! The Little Sebago Lake Shoppe will be open again this summer on the beach with dates to be determined. We will also be setting up shop as usual at the annual meeting in July and repeating our Holiday sale in the fall.

Thank you to Cheryl Alterman and her husband, Allan, for opening their home to us for our Holiday sale and all those who have helped me with the merchandise sales throughout the year!

Please refer to Facebook, our website, and email blasts for dates and times of Shoppe days. I use Facebook to post picture of new items, so please join the Little Sebago Lake Facebook page to watch for merchandise updates.

Our calendars were huge sellers this year! Thank you to all of the lake photographers who donate their beautiful shots to our calendar. I know that we all look forward to seeing photos from a variety of people all over the lake. If you have high resolution photos that you would like to submit for a future calendar, please send them along to me.

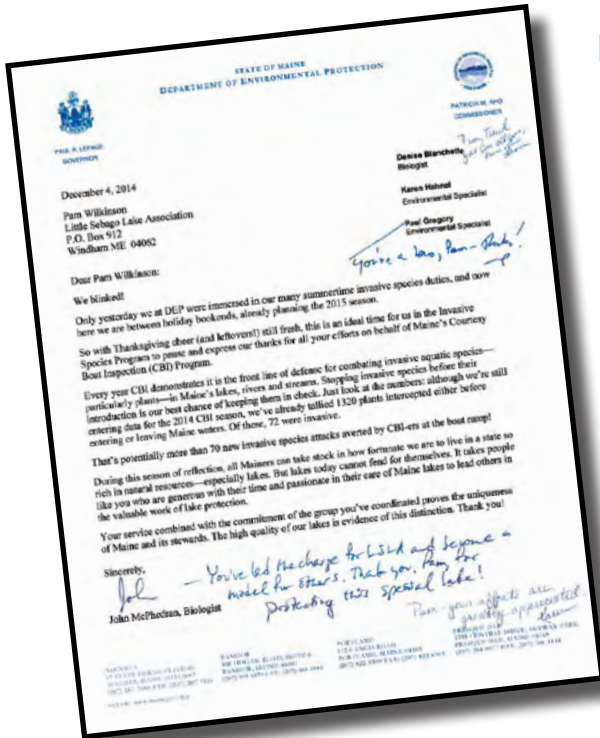
We encourage you to buy your gifts early so that you will be sure we have the stock you need. Looking forward to seeing you around the lake this year wearing your LSLA merchandise. We would love to see your pics on Facebook!

FMI: contact Deb Gellerson, LSLA Merchandising, email: sales@littlesebagolake.com



THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL LSLA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In recognition of your ongoing dedication...



Maine DEP thanks LSLA for Milfoil Efforts!

We were proud to receive this letter from the Maine DEP recognizing our ongoing efforts to attack milfoil and other invasive plant species. It is clear that the hundreds of hours and tens of thousands of dollars that we invest in this effort continue to make a huge difference. Fortunately, our LSLA boat inspectors did not find any plant fragments this past summer. But we remain vigilant and work aggressively to remove as much milfoil as possible from Little Sebago each year. Congratulations to Pam Wilkinson, Jimmy and Jackie, our Courtesy Boat Inspectors, and our entire Milfoil Militia team for being recognized as leaders in this state-wide initiative!

The continued support of our lake community is paramount to the success of this effort.



Town of Gray Award

On Tuesday, December 16, 2014, the Little Sebago Lake Association, was honored at the Volunteer Awards Reception 2014 held at the Spring Point Golf club in Gray. In attendance were Pam Wilkinson, Tim Greer, Peter Gellerson, and Jeff Wilkinson. We listened intently as the long list of accomplishments achieved by your lake association were listed and praised. This, in part, is made possible by the generous contribution of the Town of Gray each year providing \$8,000 to help us continue our work and preserve our lake.

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.

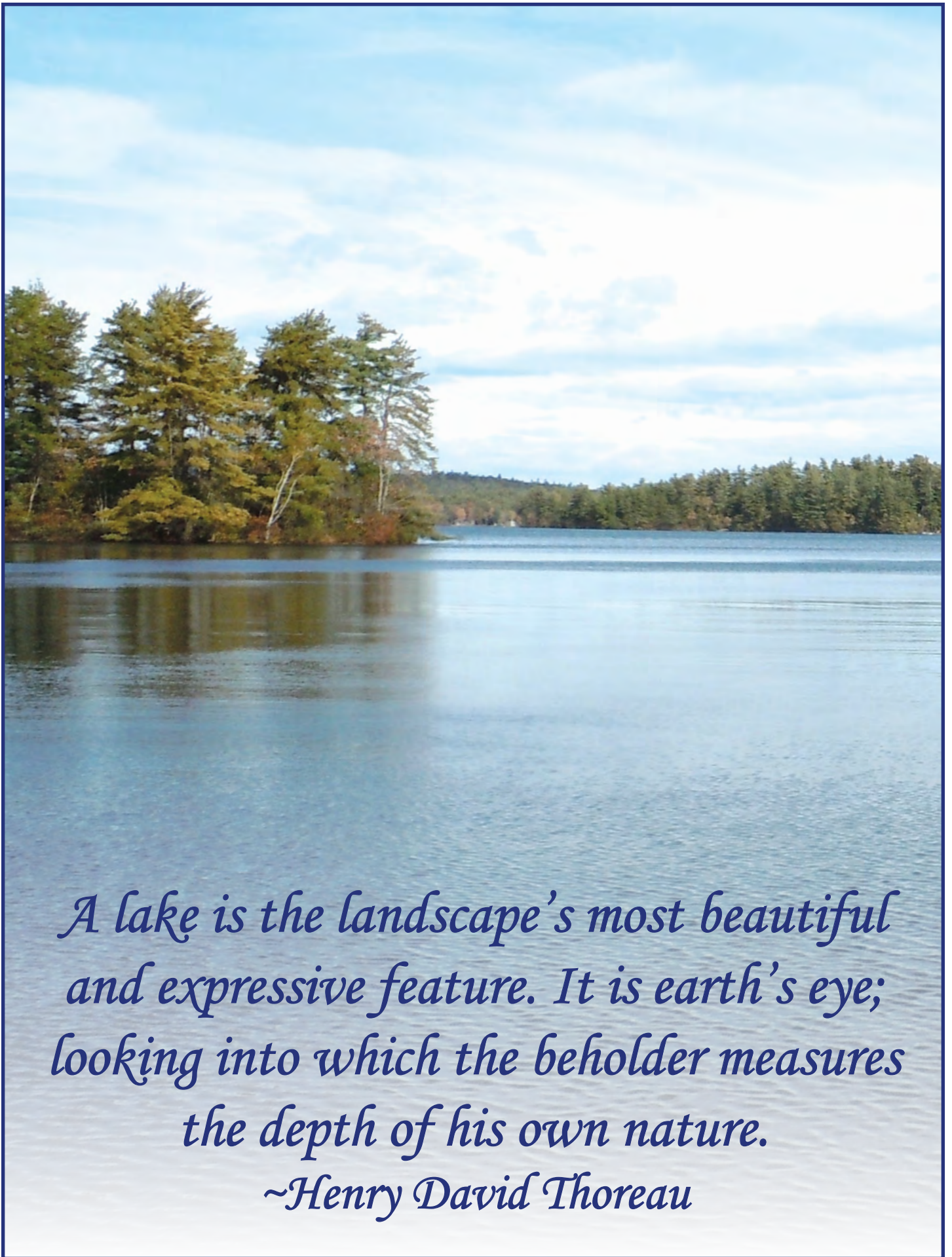


To the Town of Gray for your financial support for the milfoil remediation.

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



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



*A lake is the landscape's most beautiful
and expressive feature. It is earth's eye;
looking into which the beholder measures
the depth of his own nature.*

~Henry David Thoreau