

Little Sebago Lake Association

Making Every Dollar Count!



"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."

SUMMER 2009



In This Issue: Milfoil Initiative Update, 2009 Raffle Item, Safety Patrol, Fundraising events, YCC 2009, Town Support, 2009 Milfoil Summit, Milfoil plans for 2009, 2008 LSLA Year End Statement, Water Quality & Dam Report, & more!

Our Goals:

To maintain and operate the Hopkins Dam as required by state law.

To test and monitor lake water quality.

To promote public safety.

To safeguard the lake's environment.

To serve as an advocate for lake property owners.

LSLA is a Maine State Nonprofit Corporation(501c3).



Presidents Report - Carol Ann Doucette

This is a time of unprecedented change in our nation touching all of us. The financial condition of our country has impacted the way that we look at every dollar spent. The board of the Little Sebago Lake Association has carefully reviewed its projected expenses and income to create our 2009 budget which is on page 7 of this newsletter. We are hopeful that our numbers are realistic and that our supporters will continue to help us with our ongoing challenge with milfoil. We are cutting costs wherever possible. We are utilizing the skills of the granddaughter of an LSLA member to do the layout of our newsletter at a reduced rate and have also downsized this newsletter and posted an expanded version on our website. The reduction of storage space for our merchandise has reduced our cost by 50%! We know that every dollar saved can be spent in other ways to benefit our lake. With no annual lobster bake, our fundraising becomes more intensive to try to make up the difference. With almost a year's experience, our new board members are now seasoned. I am thankful for the tasks that they have accepted and the new insight they have given us. Change is growth no matter if it is initiated or if it comes on its own. As an association we have always embraced it and have run to it not away from it and have thrived — Cont. P2 "Report"

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www.littlesebagolake.com

Please Visit our Informational Forum.
"Our Community Where You Are Always Welcome!"
www.littlesebagolake.com/forum

Cont. REPORT In closing, I would like to say that this is my last newsletter as President and as a board member. For the past 10 years I have watched our board take on challenges that most would have considered insurmountable, like David and Goliath. The underlying factor in all was the faith that it could be done and it was! It has been inspiring to be part of the team. During this time, I have almost forgotten that loving the lake and enjoying the lake are two separate things. "She" is calling and saying "where have you been" and I have heard the call. I have grown as a person in so many ways as a result of my ties to LSLA and I am thankful. Although not in the day to day activities, I will still be behind the scenes working on federal appropriations to help continue support of our milfoil mitigation efforts. It has been my honor to represent you in our efforts to protect and preserve the lake I love so passionately. See you on the lake!

It's Loon Season Again

Little Sebago has one of the largest loon populations in Southern Maine. Please stay clear of nesting islands during the key period of 5/15-7/15. This includes restraining pets from swimming from boats to islands. Boaters need to be alert to loons swimming especially when they are with young chicks. Lead sinkers kill loons. Replace them with steel.

LSLA Using Mind Manager Software for Strategic Planning

LSLA will be utilizing this software introduced to us by former board member Bill Shelley. Jeff Wilkinson, web editor, will be managing the system, helping to assemble vast amounts of data online for easy access and making long range planning easier to accomplish.

2009 Raffle

One Week Vacation in Central Florida!

Enjoy the use of a 3BR/2BA 1298 sq. ft. furnished Villa located at **Jack Travers International Tournament Skiing** - 40 minutes to Disney and other Attractions.

Visit the website at: www.jacktravers.com for more information and photos. Tickets are \$10 or 3/\$25 and will also be available on the day of the annual meeting. Support your lake.

Dates To Remember!

Public Forum. Come share information about what is happening on your lake. May 30th at Stimson Hall in Gray 9-10:30. Refreshments will be served.

Annual Meeting at Aimhi Lodge on July 11th from 10-11:50 a.m. Come at 9:30 for refreshments and socializing. Thanks to Susan Bennet and Steve Holdtman, Aimhi's owners.

Directions: Smith Rd. off Rt. 115 in Windham to end. Look for Aimhi signs on the right.

Live and silent auction to be held following the annual meeting.

50 hardy plants to be given away – one per family please.

Check our website for info on a Poker Ride and Boat Parade!

Safety Patrol Program 2009 - Sharon Lamontagne

The Safety Patrol Boat will be out this summer, staffed with volunteers & Cumberland County Sheriffs with the emphasis on safety. Be sure that the first thing you do before you board your boat is count passengers and life jackets. The law requires that children under the age of 8 have a PFD on and there must be one for every other person on board. Our boat is outfitted with binoculars, a safety ring, cell phone, emergency numbers, bull horn, first aid kit and extra personal floatation devices. This program is designed to help us all be more aware of the safety precautions and boating laws governing our lake. It is not there to ticket violators but to educate them and prevent accidents. **The sheriffs will enforce the law – so be vigilant.**

10th Annual Milfoil Summit

Carol Ann Doucette

The summit was held at the USM campus in Lewiston Feb 27th with the largest attendance ever. Its purpose was to bring lake associations, state agencies and other interested parties together to discuss funding and the current state of milfoil infestations within the state. Colonel Joel Wilkinson of IFW spoke on funding and the sticker program, Roberta Hill of the VLMP spoke of how important volunteer efforts are to stop the spread of milfoil. Funding this year is the same as last year according to Peter Lowell of the LEA. John McPhedran of the DEP said that there had been an increase of infested lakes last year. Carol Ann Doucette of LSLA spoke of the federal funding sought through appropriations through the Maine Milfoil Initiative. There was a great spirit of community and sharing by all that participated.

Gas Cards Help With Removal Costs

Donate a gas card to help fill the tanks of the suction dredges. This is a great way to help our efforts!

Town Support

At the time of this writing the request for \$12,500 from the town of Windham to help with the construction of a 3rd suction dredge has not been approved due to current shortfalls in revenue within the town. Information on funding from Gray is also not available.

Milfoil Inspectors Are Back for Year #6

Jim & Jackie Fitzgerald are back inspecting boats, selling our merchandise & providing educational materials for boaters. LSLA subsidizes a large portion of Jimmy's salary

Two Board Members Needed!

Don't miss a great opportunity to join our board. There is one immediate vacancy and one in July. Visit our website for more details or contact any board member.



YCC Returns To Little Sebago for Year #4

Carol Ann Doucette

The Little Sebago YCC will be back to work on the lake this summer. The group of high school students led by a college age crew leader are hired to fix erosion problems to improve water quality. The funding provided by LSLA will cover a week's work. Examples of work are shoreline buffer enhancement, planting rain gardens, installing runoff diverters, roof drip line trenches, infiltration steps, and completing light road maintenance including culvert cleaning and stabilizing of ditches. Your only cost is to pay for materials. Call Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District at 892-4700 for more information.

Membership and Mailing Updates

If this newsletter reached you and the name is incorrect, the newsletter was forwarded to a new winter address, or you are no longer an LSLA member, please contact us with updates. Include a telephone number with your request in case there is a question. Winter mailing addresses are used for all correspondence unless a member requests a seasonal change of address. The requests are done in October and May to be current. Contact information will only be used for LSLA mailings and not shared.

For Changes

Email cgodfrey41@aol.com (subject line: LSLA Membership), write LSLA C/O Christine Godfrey P.O. Box 912 Windham, Me 04062 or call the LSLA Voicemail @ 207-809-4706.

Membership

Sharon Lamontagne

1,200 households receive this newsletter regardless if dues are paid. Thanks to all who have continued to support our mission financially. You have helped us get where we are today. This year we need support from all of you to continue in our 3 year plan. This is your lake – please take ownership and help us protect your property by sending in more than the minimum. Remember that we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit and anything over the first \$25.00 might be eligible for a tax deduction. You can pay your dues by mail, at the Annual Meeting, or online at www.littlesebagolake.com.

LSLA Calendar

Sharon Lamontagne

Our calendars are quite popular and we are thinking ahead to 2010. Send along your best digital pictures. We need photos from all four seasons, wildlife, nature and lake scenes.

Keep snapping and send to:
slamontagne@littlesebagolake.net

Donations Needed for Live and Silent Auction

Looking for lake related items for our fundraising. What can you make to help? In the past we have had signs, lawn chairs, window boxes and more.

Call Carol Ann Doucette
@ 207-428-4247 with your donations.

Maine Milfoil Mitigation Initiative

At the time of this writing, 2010 appropriations for federal funding requests totaling \$1.25 million have been filed with our constituents in Washington. Our funding request for 2009 was not included in the omnibus bill. We continue to meet with Senators Snow and Collins and Representatives Michaud & Pingree to assure that they are aware of the importance of this funding. For more information on the entire proposal and the breakdown for the 2010 request go to our website at www.littlesebagolake.com.

Donation of a Pontoon Boat and Motor Needed - Scott Lowell

In order to save travel time and money, we would like to construct a 3rd suction dredge boat. This would allow for a boat to be docked on each section of our lake. Since the most critical element for a suction dredge is flotation, the pontoons need to be a minimum of 20"-22" in diameter - length is not critical. Outboard motors would also be appreciated. Please call me at 428-3271 if you would like to contribute.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Milfoil Militia Activities 2008 - *Winning the Battles / The War Continues*

We have completed our fourth full year of active milfoil removal and retardation with the combination of hand pulling, HIPPO suction dredge, and benthic barriers. In 2008 we decided to start with vegetative surveys in order to prioritize where the crews would start first. Our Polk-a-Dot Campaign uses green noodles to mark where milfoil is found, red noodles indicate where removal activity has taken place and yellow noodles mark where benthic barriers have been placed - to hopefully deter boat activity in that area. Throughout the summer volunteer crews monitor and work Beaver and Mumford coves as well as Twin Brooks to check the milfoil situation in water 5 feet or less. It is important for everyone to be vigilant and involved. It is important you learn what variable milfoil looks like, develop scheduled checks in the water in front of you and report anything that is questionable to the committee. It is the responsibility of each waterfront owner to monitor their area and the responsibility of everyone who uses the lake to be proactive stewards.

Totals of bags removed from each area are as follows:

	Upper Basin	Twin Brooks	Beaver Cove	Mumford Cove	Lower Basin	Totals
2007	215	62	63	97	710	1260
2008	271	55.5	91	133	1332	1769

Calculation: 1769 bags at 20# dry weight=35,380 pounds or 17.69 tons removed in 2008. In 2007 12.6 tons were removed. Yes there was an increase of plant removed in 2008 but the trends are showing that the areas we hit hard in the past few years are not yielding the quantities that were once reaped. The cost to run the program in 2008 is as follows:

	\$55,351.90
Volunteer time considered	<u>\$ 9,260.00</u>
Total cost	\$64,611.90
Town of Gray support	(\$10,000.00)
Town of Windham support	(\$12,500.00)
DEP Support	<u>(\$ 6,275.00)</u>
LSLA disbursement	\$28,775.00

Ask the question “Is it worth it?” or “Are we making a difference?” As we keep records we are seeing that by the numbers of bags removed from targeted areas there is a decline. A big THANK YOU to the milfoil committee who donated numerous hours making sure the boats are running properly, there is gas for the boats each day, and that the whole program is operating to the best of its abilities. A big THANK YOU to Tom Williams for his Sunday morning efforts with his crew of volunteers making sure the benthic barrier program is working. A big THANK YOU to the captain, crew and divers who not only work for us but truly care about what they are doing and take a vested interest whether they live on the lake or not.

We invite you to our informational forum May 30th at Stimson Hall in Gray. In June we will do another vegetative survey and attend training sessions to be informed of the newest techniques. In July our removal season begins and will last until the warm weather stops in October. We plan on another update forum in the fall. Education is one component but the other component is to realize this is not a hopeless cause. We are making a difference. The difference is that if we had done nothing over the past few years, the lake would not be as user friendly as it is now. We thank the towns of Gray and Windham for their continued support for our efforts by adding support dollars to their budgets and encourage you to contact them during budget times with your support of keeping the money as a line item. It has been proven in other areas that property values would decrease approximately 17 percent if the lake became undesirable which would impact the towns’ tax values and ultimately impact every person’s taxes whether they live on the lake or not.

Call 428-3732 or email dingwell@maine.rr.com with any comments or questions you may have.

Mil’en Around,

Pam Wilkinson, Milfoil Committee Coordinator

Planned Giving

Sharon Young

LSLA is establishing an Endowment Fund which is a simple way to build a perpetual funding source for the sustainability of LSLA. The Fund is available to supporters to make outright gifts or gifts upon death. Gifts can be made through direct gifts of cash, securities or real estate, or through deferred gifts of charitable life insurance, the remainder of a charitable trust or gift annuity, or a bequest. The foundation owns, invests, and holds the fund for the benefit of the organization (LSLA). Our Endowment will be with the "Maine Community Foundation" which has an investment pool of more than \$200 million and is associated with a nationally regarded foundation whose only "business" is philanthropy. One important benefit of working with Maine CF is its professional investment management services. The minimum "kick off" necessary to establish the Fund is \$25,000 of which a pledge of \$1,000 has already been donated from one LSLA member and a matching \$1,000 from a related source leaving only \$23,000 to be raised from contributors. In these uncertain economic times we need to reach out to members in a special fundraising effort earmarked specifically for the Endowment Fund which is above and beyond the membership dues and contributions that support the general operating budget. We are hoping to raise pledges for the necessary \$23,000 by the time of our annual meeting so that you can join us in celebrating this important step in ensuring the future stewardship of Little Sebago Lake. Pledge forms are online at www.littlesebagolake.com or call my message center at 888-832-9992 and request a form by mail or fax (or with any questions you may have).

Hopkins Dam Report

Bruce Micucci

In 2008, we experienced a record snowfall in the winter, a very dry May & June and a very wet July & August. As of April 1st, the dam closing appears to be good for April 15th allowing the lake to rise gradually to summer high about the 1st week of May. Notification has been given to the Collins Pond Association that water flow will be reduced on that date. The lake reached its lowest level in January at 287.8' which is 1.4' below summer level and has remained within an inch of that throughout the winter. The dam is in good operating condition with the structure intact with no noticeable movement. There is some insignificant leakage. The Emergency Action Plan is up to date and will be filed with the Maine Emergency Agency as soon as weather allows the members of the committee to meet at the dam and complete the required overview.

Water Quality Report

Bruce Micucci

The analysis by the DEP and VLMP of the 2008 data from samples compiled in a comprehensive report is not available at this time but will be by the Annual Meeting. Although I can't give detailed comparisons, I feel that the lake continues to be remarkably stable with no pronounced movements in oxygen or clarity. The yearly oxygen, phosphorus and clarity testing numbers are close to those collected in 1989. When levels are very high or low, weather has always been a factor. Pristine oxygen & clarity occur in times of drought. An area of concern is oxygen depletion. Little Sebago averages 8.7 PPM at the surface and less than 2.0 PPM at the bottom. In the past few years there has been a pronounced drop at a depth of 8 meters on all 3 basins. This could be due to milfoil which consumes oxygen as part of its growth process. Heavy rain and snow over the past few years may also be contributing to the phosphorus load. Oxygen levels will be watched closely this season for any continued trend.

Little Sebago Lake Association

Cash Receipts & Disbursements Summary

	<u>2008</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>Difference</u>	<u>2009</u> <u>Budget</u>
Receipts:				
Membership Dues	15,000.00	11,975.00	-3,025.00	12,000.00
Merchandise Revenue	4,000.00	3,664.00	-336.00	4,000.00
Grant Revenue	15,000.00	32,735.00	17,735.00	29,000.00
Donations	173,750.00	33,917.00	-139,833.00	35,000.00
Fundraising	10,000.00	17,905.00	7,905.00	15,000.00
Interest & Dividends	4,500.00	2,914.00	-1,586.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u>-</u>	<u>584.00</u>	<u>584.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Revenue	<u>222,250.00</u>	<u>103,694.00</u>	<u>-118,556.00</u>	<u>97,500.00</u>
Cash from Reserves to balance the budget				<u>22,745.00</u>
Total Revenue and Reserves Used				<u>120,245.00</u>
Disbursements:				
Annual Meeting	1,250.00	1,165.00	-85.00	800.00
Bank Charges	200.00	340.00	140.00	340.00
Dredging	4,000.00	17,775.00	13,775.00	4,000.00
Dues & Subscriptions	150.00	-	-150.00	150.00
Insurance	6,500.00	10,574.00	4,074.00	10,500.00
Fundraising	3,000.00	2,405.00	-595.00	2,000.00
Legal & Professional	1,500.00	85.00	-1,415.00	1,000.00
Licenses & Permits	200.00	55.00	-145.00	55.00
Merchandise Purchases	3,000.00	1,680.00	-1,320.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	539.00	39.00	500.00
Office	150.00	1,108.00	958.00	1,500.00
Milfoil Services	130,000.00	41,834.00	-88,166.00	49,000.00
Milfoil Other	3,800.00	1,618.00	-2,182.00	400.00
Milfoil Equipment	30,000.00	8,830.00	-21,170.00	20,000.00
Postage	2,000.00	1,247.00	-753.00	1,250.00
Printing	4,250.00	4,327.00	77.00	3,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	800.00		-800.00	0.00
Rent	1,200.00	576	-624.00	750.00
Subcontracted Services- Warden Svcs.	3,000.00	-	-3,000.00	0.00
Boat Expense	3,000.00	6,022.00	3,022.00	5,000.00
Equipment Purchases	750.00	-	-750.00	0.00
Invasive Plant Survey Costs	2,750.00	-	-2,750.00	1,000.00
Watershed Protection Costs	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Safety Patrol Program	2,000.00	1,902.00	-98.00	2,000.00
Boat Ramp Supervision	12,500.00	9,408.00	-3,092.00	10,000.00
Water Tests	<u>750.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-750.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>222,250.00</u>	<u>116,490.00</u>	<u>-105,760.00</u>	<u>120,245.00</u>
Revenues In Excess of Disbursements	-	(12,796.00)	(12,796.00)	0.00
Cash & Cash Equivalents- Beginning Year	<u>136,038.86</u>	<u>136,038.86</u>		<u>100,714.84</u>

Little Sebago Lake Milfoil Removal Project

We need freshwater scuba divers and boat crews for milfoil extraction from Little Sebago Lake. Experience with milfoil removal preferred. Timeframe to begin from approx. July 1st to possibly mid October, weather permitting. Training / Informational sessions May 30th and June 27th

Wages: Divers \$20.00/hr Training provided and required
 Crew Captain \$15.00/hr Must have experience with pontoon boats
 Deck Crew \$12.00/hr Must be flexible with duties, able to lift 30-40

pounds, and like getting in the water and be willing to get dirty

Inquiries: Pam Wilkinson (h) 428-3732 or email @ dingwell@maine.rr.com

Applications on line: www.littlesebagolake.com

LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

The following items & many others are available at the LSLA website www.littlesebagolake.com

Contact Jan Smith @ (207) 318-3844 or Email: sabbadyjs@yahoo.com

Shipping & Handling add \$2.50 Per Item or \$10.00 Maximum



Calendar \$20



Hat \$20



Sweatshirt
 Adult \$20 Youth \$15



Tote \$12

ALSO!
 T-Shirts!
 Maps!
 Aerial Lake
 Photo!

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