



Little Sebago Lake Association

Winter - 2012/2013

"Whistle While We Work"

Networking to make a Lake Community of Stewards;
Having Fun while we Function

BOARD MEMBERS

President

Pam Wilkinson

Vice President

Jeff Wilkinson

Secretary

Diane Burnell

Treasurer

Sharon Lamontagne

Other members

Rod Bernier

Scott Lowell

Tim Greer

Chris Micucci

John Mullaney

Tom Tobiasen

Peter Gellerson

Jim McBride

Rod Morrisson

COMMITTEE / RESOURCE HELPERS

Water Quality

Bruce Micucci

Milfoil Initiative

Carol Ann Doucette

Merchandise

Deb Gellerson

Pirate Parade

Deb Gellerson /

Ginger Heart

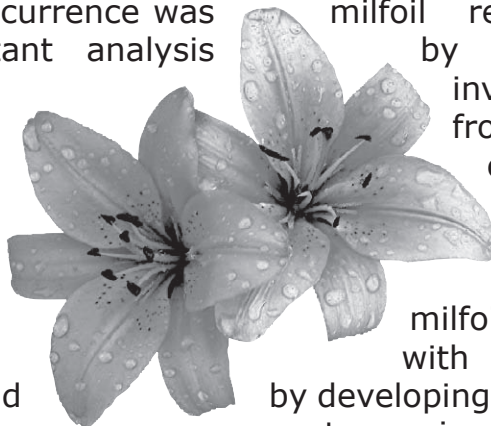
Message From The President

Pam Wilkinson

My Goodness! Record breaking March warmth; June deluge of rain left this summer a challenging one to say the least. We had all sorts of different "happenings" around the lake with regards to "jelly fish and pesto" algae growth and an influx of Chinese snails. Each occurrence was met with instant analysis by various agencies and reporting back to our lake members either through phone calls, emails, website or Facebook, and social media has heightened awareness and response. We

ALL need to be stewards of our lake and be ready to assist in our area to prevent these and other situations from escalating. Our shorelines are our defense. It is imperative to create and maintain

vegetative buffers to prevent rain erosion that feeds the lake with fertilizers, which in return feeds our lake plants both native and invasive. While native lake plants are our allies we do not want to encourage overgrowth and we want to assist in our milfoil removal efforts by discouraging invasive plants from taking over our lake. Do your part in our fight against milfoil. Be creative with your shoreline by developing a plan that will capture rain, let it seep into the ground before reaching the lake; great spot for a rain garden with your favorite flowers! It seems the last day of September marked the last day of summer. Fall temperatures arrived early and no signs of Indian summer. Hope you were one



Contact Us:

Little Sebago Lake Association

P.O. Box 912, Windham, ME 04062-0912

www.littlesebagolake.com • 207-809-4706

What's inside...

LSLA Board Members.....	1	Hopkins Dam Update.....	7
Message from The President.....	1-2	Displaying Your Decal With Pride.....	8
Membership Address Updates.....	2	Public Boat Launch.....	8
I Remember When.....	2	LSLA Functions and Finances.....	8
LSLA Endowments.....	3	LSLA Web Site.....	9
2011 Milfoil Militia End of Year Report.....	4	Donations Wanted.....	9
Milfoil Volunteers Welcome.....	4	LSLA Merchandise.....	10
LSLA Positions Available.....	7	Membership Update & Dues Request.....	11
Safety Patrol Program.....	5	Closing Message.....	12
Water Quality Report.....	6-7		

President's Message - Continued from Page 1

of those who prepared and

Continued on Page 2

took your docks and boats out early. We envy those who brave the brisk weather hoping to capture that one last day on the lake. Winter brings peace to the lake allowing it to cleanse and provide winter activities to those who venture outside. For those who are on the inside looking out winter still provides special scenery to enjoy. Be assured that you have a board of directors who are working hard to preserve everything you find special on the lake.

Special thanks to them and others who have come forward to assist us with our ongoing efforts, as with their continued support we hope to maintain and improve the lake's life for many years to come.

Cam

Membership Address Updates

Please contact Diane Burnell via email at littlesebagolake.com with corrections to addresses.

I Remember When...

Please share one of your special memories on the lake. Your stories may be historic, humorous or heartwarming. Please write, email or if you just want to talk about it you can call us and we will be happy to put it in print form for others to enjoy in our newsletters and web site. Give us your piece of history on Little Sebago Lake.

We would love to hear from you!

memories@littlesebagolake.com





LSLA Endowment Fund

I don't like shopping. Every Christmas I find myself in stores often a few days before the holiday trying to buy a last-minute item for someone. Often I regret spending the money on some item that was really just something to put in the stocking rather than a thoughtful gift.

The British writer Harlan Miller once said, "Probably the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words."

A few years ago, my wife and I started giving gifts to people that were really contributions to organizations and charities that people cared about. Sometimes the organizations provide a card, and sometimes we just wrote a note saying, "Instead of a box of jellies or scented candles, we made a contribution in your name to a Charity which we know you care about."

We received e-mail responses thanking us for the thought behind the gift. It really made them happy.


This year, we would like to suggest that rather than throwing money at a gift that cannot express our feelings, a gift to the Little Sebago Lake Association Endowment could be a meaningful and thoughtful Holiday gift. Any amount helps and it is, after all, the thought that makes the gift so unique.

Your gift contribution may be made in the form of a check made out to the Little Sebago Lake Association Endowment Fund. Upon receipt of your gift, we will send you a card with a photo of Little Sebago Lake that you can in turn send to the person you would like to share this very special and thoughtful present with.

2011 Milfoil Militia End of Year Report

Pam Wilkinson, Milfoil Militia Director

Little Sebago Lake yearly comparison of milfoil bags removed-associated costs.

	Upper Basin-Gray	Twin Brooks-Gray	Beaver Cove-Gray	Mumford Cove-Gray	Lower Basin-Windham	Bean Island	Totals	Amount Spent	Volunteer Time	Total
2007	271	55	91	133	710		1260	67,296.36	9,255.00	76,551.36
2008	215	62	63	97	1332		1769	55,651.90	9,260.00	64,911.90
2009	390	58	9	296	967		1720	51,580.26	13,786.00	65,366.26
2010	241	54	2	47	1491		1835	67,265.60	17,046.42	84,312.02
2011	182	17	7	16	500		722	48,350.18	12,466.32	60,816.50
2012	86	50	10	13	954	3	1116	46,253.82	13300.68	59,554.50
Total	1385	296	182	602	5954	3	8422	336,398.12	75114.42	411,512.54

Calculation Key:

Each bag equals approximately 20 lbs. dry weight.

2012: Approximately 11 tons removed. / To date Approximately 84 tons removed.

Certainly this year was one that we need to keep an eye on. This is the year that conservative optimism was met with the reality there may be times when the numbers increase. Weather played a major role in this year's activities. We had record warm temperatures, record precipitation in June that halted the planned vegetative survey prior to commencing in July and the phosphorous overload sparked reports of the most diversified algae growth this year. The table above reveals the Upper Basin in Gray is still in a "management and grooming" state with only one area, Twin Brooks, showing a slight increase. The Lower Basin in Windham is still keeping us busy. Most of our focus this year was in the Lower Basin. While this area is still a concern most of the milfoil beds were reduced to gathering only a few bags at each site by the end of the year. We responded to a new site on the east side of Bean Island in the Middle Basin. We visited a site on the west side of Bean Island the previous year. We will continue to monitor both areas. We continue to monitor Mumford, Beaver and various coves in the Upper Basin. Benthic barriers have been removed from all coves. The operation of two HIPPO's this year was whittled down to a few good men who were willing to work more hours; thus

making the operation easier to manage and the consistency of knowing where to go the next day was enhanced.

In July we hosted a site visit welcoming John McPhedran, Invasive Aquatic Species Program, Maine DEP and Francis Brautigam from IFW. Reports were received from various fisherman who felt the milfoil operation may be taking native plants during the milfoil removal. We visited several reported sites as well as milfoil extraction sites and both parties were pleased to see that there was lots of native species on the bed of the lake. Since milfoil is a vertical plant and the invasive plant is being removed it may mean that the fish are in other areas where plants are in lower beds of vegetation.

We ended the year with a gathering of the crew and committee to discuss what worked and what improvements are needed for next year. Thanks to all of them for their dedication and to the volunteers, our angels of the lake, who made this year productive. It is with all your efforts that others are able to enjoy our precious lake now and for years to come.

Don't defer until later - ask what you can do now!
Call and put your name on the list to be contacted.
207-809-4706 or www.littlesebagolake.com.



LSLA POSITIONS AVAILABLE

WE NEED YOU! - HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are a multitude of tasks that the Board provides; some are not fulfilled simply because there are not enough people. We welcome you to become a board member and join our monthly meetings or pick a task that has a particular interest. We have designated people beyond the board members who assist when the task is needed.

Call: **207-809-4706** or email: **info@littlesebagolake.com** to ask any questions or apply for any one of these positions. We thank you ahead of time for your consideration!

Board Member Positions: 2 Openings. We welcome you to attend a meeting and check out the dynamic and diverse group. Eventually you will see what your interests are and become a part of the management of our lake!

Water Quality Monitor: Likes to cruise up and down the lake early in the morning. Dissolved oxygen and water clarity testing starts in May, requires testing every two weeks until September and you do not need to be a scientist. Training will be provided.

Plant Patrol Coordinator: Attend the Invasive Aquatic Plant Training Wed 6/27/12 at Sebago Lake State Park and organize others to become involved to know the difference between natural and invasive plants.

FMI: **www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org**

Website Assistant: Work with present website person to keep it fresh and current.

PR/Social Media: Assist with reaching out to local media to keep public informed of activities. Post newsworthy events on FaceBook, Website and the Forum.

Grant Writer: Assist with grant writing. Work with milfoil coordinator who will provide information for grant application, interim report and final report to Department of Environmental Protection.

Courtesy Boat Inspector Coordinator: Arrange scheduling for milfoil boat inspecting.

Safety Patrol Program

Sharon Lamontagne

This year the Safety Patrol Program had a different look. We started the year with a Boater Safety Course that the Maine Fisheries and Wildlife Department put on for us. It was a 7 hour course that was presented by Deputy Jay Ward and those that attended were awarded the NASBLA certification.

The big patrol boat had some mechanical issues right at the peak of the summer and was out of the water for most of July and August.

I hope you all noticed and missed seeing us out there. We did continue with the Cumberland County Sheriff's and had them out seven times. We used volunteers who used their own boats. The Deputies actually liked

being a bit disguised and were able to surprise boaters this year! We gave out plenty of life jackets to those who were short and Pizza coupons to those who were well prepared. Thank you to Pizza Hut once again for the very generous donation of the free pizza coupons. Thank you also to Robert Loranger, Kevin Murphy, Pricilla Cutts, Marc Lamontagne, Roland Tetreault and Neal Doucette for taking out the deputies while our boat was being worked on.





WATER QUALITY REPORT

Bruce Micucci



With nine water tests complete and one to go the first Sunday in October, I can give you a reasonably accurate assessment of the health of Little Sebago Lake for 2012.

Both the oxygen levels and clarity levels have shown an unmistakable decline this year resulting in various algae formations around the lake.

The reasons for the decline are many but state water biologists point to the mild winter, long hot summer, and extreme rain events as the main reasons. What is most disturbing is how a less than 2 degree rise in water temperature and a longer duration of warm temperatures can create so many problems.

Taken individually we have experienced many unusual sights this summer. Starting with early summer reports of a “jelly fish” like substance, dead snails floating, swimmers itch, algae in Mumford Cove, and most recently, algae concentrations thick enough to rake on to the beach on the western shore of the middle lake.

The connection between the warmer water temperatures and issues stated above are a bit cumbersome for me to explain in terms that make sense. All summer long I have been reading the DEP/VLMP reports, sending in water samples, and trying to make our test data reveal what is happening to Little Sebago Lake, and, compare that to what is happening in the big picture of all Maine lakes. The process begins with nutrients in animal wastes, lawn fertilizer, pesticides, etc., washing in to the lake after a rain. Think back. On two occasions this summer, Little Sebago received rainfall heavy enough to raise the lake level to its 2nd and 3rd highest levels in 30 years; these events were followed by a lot of sunshine and hot temperatures. The amount of extra phosphorus from those rains that got into the lake can be measured in terms of the 2nd leg of the process, algae

growth. A large phosphorus load equals a large algae growth which brings us to the 3rd leg of the process which occurs after the algae die.

Algae have many forms; the two we saw here is believed by DEP water biologists to be Periphyton (jelly fish like algae) and Phytoplankton (free floating algae). Blue-green algae have not only been common in Maine lakes this summer, but according to a CBS Evening News segment 09/24/12, have been a major problem in most of the country.

Algae has a life span dependent on warm temperatures and sunlight; when it dies it settles below the thermocline where it consumes oxygen. In Little Sebago the thermocline established itself at about 16 feet in depth at the temperature peak in August. The thermocline acts as a barrier that prevents the oxygen rich surface water from mixing with the oxygen depleted bottom water. The 9/23/12 test on Little Sebago read 7.9 ppm of oxygen from the surface to the thermocline and 0.20 ppm from the thermocline to the bottom in all three basins. That is the lowest oxygen level I have recorded in the past 22 years.

On Little Sebago Lake, the oxygen depletion peaked in September. As surface water temperatures cool with the season and begin to equal the bottom temperatures the thermocline will disappear, the lake will turn over and blend the water. By the end of October the lake will have fully cooled and re-oxygenation of the water column will be complete.

In conclusion, there is an upside to this report. How lakes have responded to phosphorus control in the past becomes a critical factor as we look at the possibility of another hot summer in 2013. No Maine lake has

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6



WATER QUALITY REPORT (Cont.)

escaped the issues brought on by this year's weather pattern. Fortunately some lake watersheds have had enough erosion control work done over the years to minimize the effects. We know that Little Sebago had enough oxygen depletion to affect the most sensitive bottom creatures - the snails, but not enough depletion to cause a mass fish kill like Lake Auburn. The difference I believe lies in the attention Little Sebago Lake homeowners have paid to phosphorus control. ...

Not a 100% effort - but enough to have made a difference!

The only part of this process that we have any control over is the very first part, controlling what is washed into the lake from our own land. We are in control, it's up to us.

Thanks to Linda Bacon, Aquatic Biologist for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Linda not only gives our association prompt answers throughout the year, she fact checks my report..... Not an easy job.



Hopkins Dam Update

Bruce Micucci

CHANGE OF SCHEDULE: I had previously posted that I would be opening the dam to begin lowering the lake to winter level on Saturday, October 13th. The rain over the past week and a wet forecast for the weekend makes it necessary to move the opening to this Saturday, October 6th. The lake level is +2" (289.4) as of today and will likely rise another inch by the weekend. Once the dam is open you can expect the lake level to drop as much as an inch per day over the next few weeks and taper off by early November. Additional rain will obviously effect the rate of decline

but the goal is to be down 18" by January. If your boat is still in you can comfortably remove it at the ramp for another three weekends. If your the mayor of Frog Island you may consider removing the plane sooner... We would like to remind everyone to that the Hopkins Dam is on privately owned, and we ask that everyone please stay clear of this area for their own safety, as well as keeping the association from being responsible for any accidents which could occur in this area.



Display your decal with Pride!



If you have not already done so, please pay your dues and display your decal with pride. 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 next summer!

Public Boat Launch

Jan Smith

Jim and Jackie team worked long hours on weekends and holidays in order to reach as many visiting watercraft as possible. Although no suspicious fragments were found, our inspectors courteously educate whenever possible. 2011 boats were inspected compared to 2190 last season. Milfoil ID and info brochures, milfoil growth area marking handouts and navigational buoy marking brochures were handed out as educational material to boaters. Thanks to all who practiced boating safety and to Jim and Jackie who made access and egress a positive experience.



Little Sebago Lake Association Functions & Finances *What we do...*

Membership	Task Force
Data Base Update	CCSWCS-Watershed &
Financial/Budgets	Erosion Control
By-Law and Policy Reviews	Lake Fun Day
Fund Raising	Annual Meeting Planning
Planned Giving/Endowments	Milfoil Initiative Consortium
Safety Patrol Program	Operations of Organization
Boat Landing / CBI	Water Quality Testing
Grant Writing	Dam Monitoring &
Public Forums	Emergency Plan
Town-State-Federal interactions	Strategic Planning
Road Associations Networking	Benthic Barrier Program
Website / Newsletter /	Milfoil Operations
Merchandise	Fleet Maintenance
Lower Narrows Restoration	Organize Educational Forums



Little Sebago Lake Association

http://www.littlesebagolake.com/

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Little Sebago Lake Association

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Membership Application! Mission Statement LSLA Endowment Forums Facebook

Little Sebago Lake Web Site

Be sure to remember that our web site is a wealth of useful information, and is regularly maintained in the winter as well as the summer. Besides all of the obvious highlights which you may already be familiar with, you can also get information on our annual meetings, including the accepted minutes from the annual meeting.

Our opt-in mail list helps us to notify our members users of events and happenings on the lake, such as the annual Pirate Parade and Lake Fun Day. The opt-in list is divided into two lists. One list is for those members wishing to receive email notification of events and announcements and also receive a mailed hard copy of the newsletter. The second list is for those who wish to receive only email notification of events and announcements. If you have not already utilized these two great options, please consider doing so.

Please also feel free to use our "Web Forum". The Water Quality and Dam Updates contained in the forum are linked on our main page, which is updated on a regular basis. An independent Facebook page is active with updates of lake happenings and is linked on our website.

Special Offer
2011 Little Sebago Lake calendar now available with photos by John Meade
Call Jan Smith
318-3844
jsmith@littlesebagolake.cc

Go Green and choose receive your information via emc
[Sign Up Here](#)

Enter city or U.S.zip GO

Gray, ME
Currently
45°F
Sunny
Feels Like: 45°F
Humidity: 64%
Wind: NNE 3 mph
[Hour-by-hour](#)

Today's Outlook
59/44°F
Mostly Sunny
10-day
[@weather.com](#)
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Cars, Boats, Campers, Motorcycles, Trailers!!!

Consider donating your unwanted car, boat, trailer, camper, etc. for a tax write off. If you think that you are able to help out with a donation, whether it be large or small, please contact any of our committee members and we

will be happy to assist you with the process. If you are unsure if a donation is something that we can use, please just ask. We are also looking for donated items that can be used for our future raffles.



LSLA Promotional Merchandise

Exciting News! We have just placed several items on sale just in time for the holidays. Our holiday ornament is the perfect gift for this season. It is a white ball with the LSLA loon logo in dark green. They are now on sale for only \$8 each, or 3 for \$20. Another great gift idea gift is our 2013 Calendar featuring 12 beautiful Little Sebago Lake & wildlife pictures, taken by Marie Sheldon. This is another great sale item at just \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Check our website at **www.littlesebagolake.com** for a complete list and pictures and to print an order form. All items are subject to 5% Maine sales tax, plus \$5 per item shipping and handling.



Holiday Ornament
~~\$10 or 3 for \$25~~
On Sale \$8 or 3 for \$20



Key Chain
\$3 Each



Beach Ball
\$3 Each



2013 Calendar
~~\$20~~
On Sale \$15 or 2 for \$25



Adult Tank Tops
sm - xxl
\$15



Blue Adult Pullover Shirt
sm - xxl
\$30



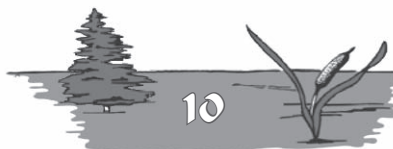
Dark Green Adult Sweatshirt
sm - xxl
\$20

Holiday Special

Free shipping on Holiday Ornaments shipped to a single address within U.S.

Contact Deb Gellerson at:

207-428-3739 or Shewee@aol.com.



1. Please Fill out form to the right.



2. If you have not already done so, please include a check written to "LSLA" in the amount of \$25.00 for your dues.

3. Cut out the form, place in an envelope with your signed check, and mail to :

LSLA
PO Box 912
Windham, ME 04062



Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

_____ Check here if you would like to receive email notification of Lake news and events.

_____ Check here if you would like to receive email notification of the Newsletter online and NOT receive a hard copy in the mail. Help us to reduce costs.



Membership Update

Sharon Lamontagne



**Please help us to get the word out!
We need every member's dues support.**

I think you all have noticed and appreciated the new billing format that we initiated this year. It seems to have worked, as more than half of you have contributed, which is better than in years past. BUT NOT ALL OF YOU !!!

If you are getting this newsletter, please take a moment to think back and be sure that you have paid your share. Without your support,

we cannot continue to protect and restore this beautiful lake – YOUR lake- YOUR investment. We are donating our time and we count on YOUR financial support.

If you haven't contributed yet – please use the above form.

Please cut it out, fill out the information, and put it in an envelope along with your dues

The minimum dues payment is \$25.00, and anything given over that amount can be considered a tax deductible donation. We are a tax exempt 501C3 organization. If you do not remember if you have paid, please contact me, Sharon Lamontagne, at 892-3157, or email me at:

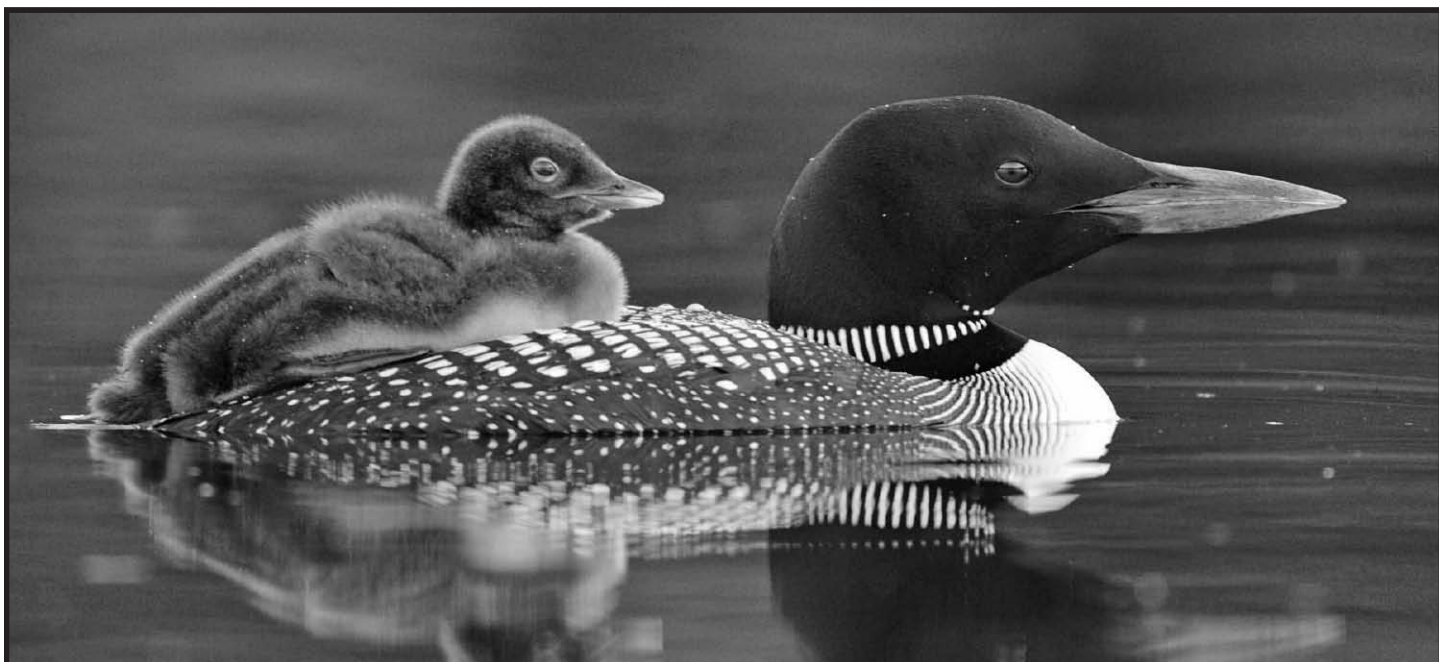
slamontagne@littlesebagolake.net

Thank you for making this a priority!



Little Sebago Lake Association
PO Box 912
Windham, ME 04062

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The Little Sebago Lake belongs to all of us. Please do your part to preserve it's natural health and beauty for ourselves, our future generations, and everyone who appreciates everything that the lake has to offer.