



May 2026

Dear Little Sebago Lake Member,

Your contribution to the Little Sebago Lake Association plays a vital role in advancing our mission. While we are a small community, we share a deep commitment to preserving the health, beauty, and safety of Little Sebago Lake. Through our collective efforts, we continue to make a meaningful difference in protecting this special resource.

Our 2026 Newsletter highlights the important work accomplished each year to ensure the long-term health and viability of the lake. We respectfully invite you to consider ongoing support so we can continue these essential programs. You can give with confidence, knowing LSLA is committed to the responsible stewardship of every contribution. Donations may be made using the enclosed return envelope or online on our website, littlesebagolake.com/donate.

Thank you for your continued support of *your* lake and *your* association. We couldn't do it without you!

Board of Directors
Little Sebago Lake Association

SAVE THE DATE - 2026 ANNUAL MEETING - New Format
July 11, 2026 - American Legion Hall, 15 Lewiston Rd., Gray

LSLA MISSION STATEMENT

To protect, restore, and improve our lake's water quality and fragile ecosystem. We will create and nurture a community of lake stewards, educate users on lake safety, and always be mindful that human needs must be balanced with the needs of the natural environment.

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2026



LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE
ESTD ASSOCIATION 1924

A Message From The President

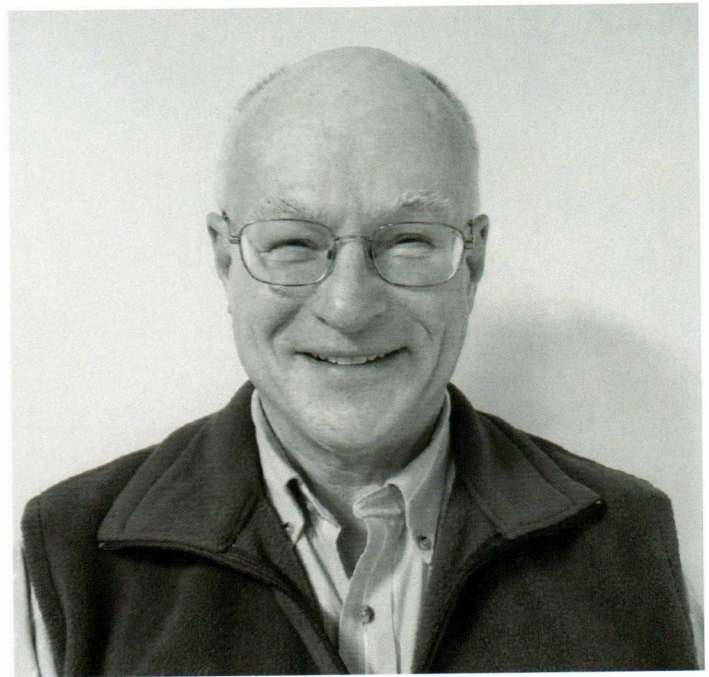
We find ourselves at that wonderful time of year—reflecting on a winter filled with recreational opportunities, thanks to thick ice cover and lasting snow (conditions that also benefit the health of the lake), while looking ahead to another fun and memorable summer. There is so much to anticipate in the months ahead.

This is also a time to reflect on the past year—both on the water and behind the scenes—where your Board has been hard at work on behalf of the lake and our community. In this newsletter, you'll find updates on many of those efforts.

If you receive our off-season e-news bulletins or follow us on Facebook, you may have already seen the exciting updates to the LSLA logo, brand, and website (www.littlesebagolake.com). You'll notice this fresh new look throughout the newsletter. To learn more about the rebranding effort, see *page 23*. If you're not currently receiving our e-news updates, please visit our website and *sign up* so you don't miss important news and announcements.

Water quality remains our top priority. Our Water Quality Team has been compiling more than 30 years of data to better understand the story it tells about our lake. You can read more about their findings and future plans on *page 13*. At the same time, Pam Wilkinson continues her important work collaborating with neighboring lakes and educating the towns of Gray & Windham about watershed protection—and how development, even away from the shoreline, can impact water quality. Learn more on *page 12*.

Another strong indicator of a healthy lake ecosystem is our loon population. Our Loon Ranger Team shares last season's results on *page 9*.



Safety is also a key focus. Our Safety Team plays an essential role in helping ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for everyone. Be sure to review their report, along with updates on Maine boating laws, on *page 6*.

There is much more to explore in this edition of the LSLA Newsletter. I especially encourage you to review the details for our Annual Meeting. We're introducing an exciting new format for our July 11 gathering at the American Legion Hall in Gray. The event will begin with an interactive "learning fair" under a tent (rain or shine), offering you the opportunity to meet the people behind the work and explore the topics that interest you most. We will then move indoors for a brief meeting featuring a guest speaker and our annual business items. See *back cover* for full details.

I look forward to seeing you at the July 11 Annual Meeting—and out on the water—this season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

LSLA President
Gary Kenny



Board of Directors

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Annual Updates

New Board Assistant

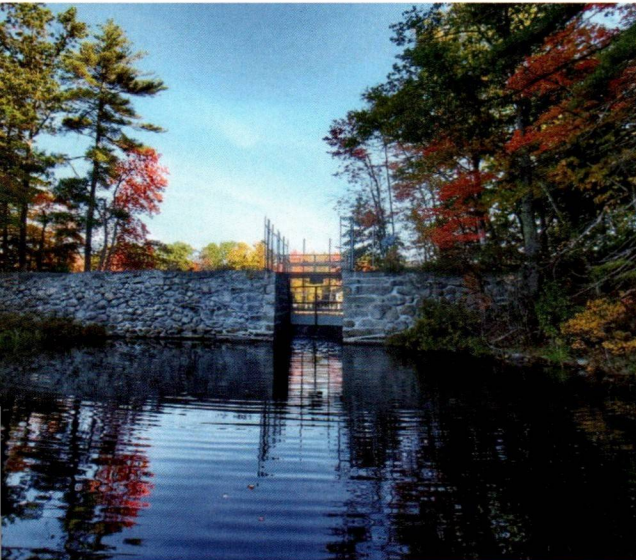
Sonja Nielsen joined our team late last fall as our Board Assistant. Sonja brings extensive experience working with nonprofits and with Boards in particular. She is a Director of the Cumberland Farmer's Club and active in putting on the Cumberland County Fair. Sonja has many interests and is excited about working with us. You can meet her in person at the Annual Meeting, July 11th – she'll be at the Membership booth.

Hopkins Dam

Our dam is operating well following the improvements completed in 2024. We recently filed the required Dam Emergency Action Plan with the Maine Emergency Management Agency. Routine operations proceed as planned, with the dam opened on October 15 when the lake level was 7 inches below summer level. By Thanksgiving, the lake had dropped to 22 inches below summer level and remained between 22 and 23 inches below summer level throughout the winter. The dam was closed again on April 15 to begin refilling from spring runoff and seasonal rains. Overall, the dam remains in good condition, with only a few minor leaks in the sluiceway.

Lower Narrows Dredging

In order to continue the good work from last winter's extensive dredging project of the Lower Narrows a smaller effort was completed in March to widen the passage. Many thanks to Tim Greer and Scott Davies for doing this work that adds to the enjoyment of our summer on the lake.



About Our Lake

- 2009 Acres
- 30.7 Miles Perimeter
- 54ft. Deepest Point
- 22 Private Islands
- 5.76 Miles Long (as the crow flies)
- 6.72 Miles from Twin Brooks to Hopkins Dam
- Cold & Warm Fresh Water Fish

EVENTS

- APR 15 Hopkins Dam Closed** to allow lake to come up to its summer high. The length of time this process takes is dependent on spring runoff and rainfall. We always get there but patience is key.
- MAY 23 Memorial Day Weekend** Courtesy boat inspections start at the Public Boat Launch
- JUN 14 Flag Day** Flagpoles are a frequent occurrence at the properties on our lake. In this year of celebration of America's 250th anniversary let's fly those flags high!
- JUN 22 3rd Annual LSLA Golf Classic** at Spring Meadows Golf Club
- JUL 4 Fourth of July** This year will be especially fun to celebrate our nation's birthday. Enjoy the fireworks displays all around the lake. Be safe!
- JUL 11 Annual Meeting** (see details below)
- JUL 18 Annual Maine Audubon Loon Count** Our counters will be on the lake early in the morning to join in with hundreds of counters in the state as we collect data on our loons.
- JUL 25 Annual Pirate Parade** Start at the lower narrows at 1:00 and parade along the eastern shore to the upper end of the middle lake.
- AUG** Watch our website and Facebook page for happenings on the lake
- SEP 7 Labor Day** Courtesy Boat Inspections last day for the season at the Public Boat Launch
- OCT 15 Hopkins Dam Opens** for winter draw down

2026 LSLA Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 11 | American Legion Hall | 15 Lewiston Road, Gray, ME

We're excited to introduce a fresh format this year—designed to give you more time to explore the topics that matter most to you!

Step under the big top (yes, a tent!) and visit a variety of information tables showcasing the important work being done by the Association. This is your chance to ask questions, meet volunteers, and learn more about the initiatives that keep Little Sebago Lake thriving.

Don't miss the Hippo! Our milfoil removal boat will be on site. Meet the crew, see the equipment up close, and learn how invasive plants are removed from our lake.

Representatives from **Water Quality, Watershed & LakeSmart, Loons, and Safety** will all be there—ready to connect, answer questions, and help you discover ways to get involved.

The information fair will be open from 8:30 to 10:00 and again after our meeting to give you plenty of time to explore.

And of course, Little Sebago Lake merchandise will be available—including items featuring our updated logo! And the plant giveaway isn't going away – native & pollinator friendly plants will be available near the LakeSmart booth.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Why Do We Hire Wardens to Be on Our Lake?

Sharon Lamontagne



The short answer: because it works—and it keeps us all safe.

Once again, we will have Maine Game Wardens on Little Sebago Lake this summer, typically on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the season. We continue to partner with them for one simple reason—their presence makes a difference.

Having wardens on the lake serves as a constant reminder that safe boating matters. Following Maine boating laws, along with basic courtesy and common sense, helps ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and accident-free summer.

In fact, we have not had a reported boating accident in over five years.

We all know how busy the lake can get on a sunny 80° weekend afternoon. The presence of wardens encourages boaters to pause and think before acting:

- Are there enough life jackets on board?
- Is it too late in the day—or too crowded—to take out the jet ski?
- Do I have an spotter for waterskiing or tubing?

These are the kinds of questions every boater should consider before heading out. Knowing that a warden may be nearby often helps people make safer, more responsible choices.

LSLA SAFETY PATROL

In addition to the wardens, the Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) Safety Patrol plays an active role in promoting safe boating.

On weekend mornings, our patrol boat will be stationed at the State Boat Launch to welcome newcomers, answer questions, provide maps,

and make sure boaters are properly equipped with life jackets and other safety gear.

After that initial shift, the patrol will be on the water throughout the day—circulating around the lake, including high-traffic areas such as the islands, Upper and Lower Narrows, and sandbars.

Our mission is to:

- Observe boating activity
- Provide education when needed
- Promote safe boating practices
- Support the association's outreach efforts
- Offer life jackets and whistles when needed

Most importantly, we aim to be a friendly, visible reminder that safety should always come first on the water.

SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

By working together—boaters, wardens, and the LSLA Safety Patrol—we can continue to keep Little Sebago Lake a safe and enjoyable place for everyone.



Safely Fueling a Boat's Gasoline Engine

Steve Sayian



I have personally witnessed a boat catch fire shortly after leaving a fuel dock—and it is not a sight you forget. Today's boats are often made of fiberglass, which can burn intensely at very high temperatures. Even pontoon boats, while built with aluminum hulls, typically include plastic decking and seating that are also highly flammable.

Most boats on Little Sebago Lake—runabouts, cruisers, and pontoon boats—are powered by gasoline engines. Gasoline is extremely volatile, with a flash point of -45°F , meaning it produces flammable vapors even at very low temperatures. In the summer, gasoline is constantly evaporating and creating vapors.

It's important to understand that it's not the liquid gasoline that ignites—it's the vapors. These vapors are heavier than air and tend to settle in low areas of the boat, such as the bilge, where they can accumulate. This is the primary reason boats catch fire during or after fueling.

To reduce the risk of fire, follow these important safety practices. For more detailed guidance, consult U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) recommendations.

Fueling Safety Guidelines

- 1. No Smoking**
Extinguish all smoking materials before and during fueling.
- 2. Fire Extinguishers Ready**
Ensure you have at least one fully charged, readily accessible fire extinguisher on board (more may be required depending on your boat's size and configuration).
- 3. Fuel in a Well-Ventilated Area**
Always refuel in an open, well-ventilated environment to prevent vapor buildup.

4. Ventilate Inboard/Outboard Engines

If your boat has an inboard-outboard (I/O) engine:

- Open the aft engine hatch after fueling
- Use a properly functioning, vapor-protected bilge blower.
- Run the blower for at least five minutes before starting the engine.

5. Inspect Portable Fuel Tanks

For boats with external (red plastic) fuel tanks:

- Check for cracks, leaks, or damaged fittings.
- Replace any faulty components immediately.
- Use only USCG-certified tanks and connections.

6. Check Fuel Lines

- Inspect fuel lines regularly for cracks, wear, or leaks between the tank and engine.
- Replace damaged components before operating the boat, using only USCG-approved parts.

7. Inspect Electrical Wiring

- Look for exposed or damaged wiring in the engine compartment.
- Repair or replace any issues before starting the engine.

A Real-World Reminder

Several years ago, I met a boater at the Mt. Hunger Shore Road launch ramp preparing to start his 20-foot I/O boat. When I asked if he planned to ventilate the engine compartment first, he replied, "No—I never do, and I've never had a problem."

I asked him to wait until I was at least 100 feet away—just in case.

It only takes a split-second spark to ignite built-up gasoline vapors. The result can be an explosion, a fire, and serious injury.

Keep Boating Safe

A few simple precautions can prevent a dangerous situation. Take the time to fuel safely, inspect your equipment, and ventilate properly.

Keep boating fun—and be responsible. Safety is No Accident.

The Boater's Guide to Maine Boating Laws & Responsibilities

Steve Sayian

The Boater's Guide to Maine Boating Laws and Responsibilities

The Boater's Guide to Maine Boating Laws and Responsibilities was recently updated with two important changes that all boaters on Little Sebago Lake should be aware of.

1. UPDATED LIFE JACKET (PFD) REQUIREMENTS

One of the most important changes is the expanded requirement for children to wear Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). The age has been increased from under 10 to **12 years old and under**.

Key requirements include:

- All watercraft—including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs)—must carry at least one U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved PFD (life jacket) for each person on board.
- Watercraft 16 feet or longer must also carry at least one USCG-approved throwable device (excluding canoes, kayaks, and SUPs).
- Children 12 years of age or younger must wear a USCG-approved PFD at all times while the watercraft is underway for recreational use.
 - Exceptions: when the child is below deck, inside an enclosed cabin, or on a vessel with a USCG certificate of inspection.
- If a person chooses to wear a non-USCG-approved PFD, a properly fitting USCG-approved PFD must still be on board to meet legal requirements.
- The following individuals are required to wear a USCG-approved PFD:
 - Anyone operating or riding on a Personal Watercraft (PWC) (inflatable PFDs are not

permitted).

- Anyone being towed behind a boat (inflatable PFDs are not permitted).

2. SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICE REQUIREMENT

Another important update involves sound-producing devices.

Previously, stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) were not required to carry one. This has now changed.

- All watercraft—regardless of size or type—must carry a sound-producing device.
- Acceptable devices include a whistle, horn (air or electric), bell, or similar signaling device that can alert nearby boaters.

SAFETY ON LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE

The Little Sebago Lake Association Safety Patrol regularly checks watercraft to ensure compliance with these safety requirements.

As a courtesy, Safety Patrol boats carry extra **USCG-approved PFDs and whistles**, which are available **at no cost** to boaters who may need them.

Maine Wardens also enforce these regulations, and violations may result in fines for the operator.

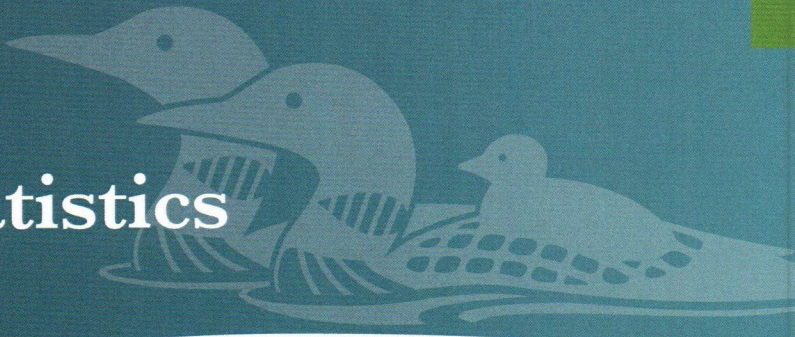
SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

These updates are designed to protect everyone on the water. A few simple precautions—like wearing a life jacket and carrying a whistle—can make a critical difference in an emergency.

Let's all do our part to keep Little Sebago Lake safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Little Sebago Loon Conservation & Statistics

Gwen Sayian



Little Sebago Lake (LSL) continued its partnership last summer with wildlife biologist Lee Attix of Loon Conservation Associates. Two formal surveys were conducted with Lee and volunteer LSL Loon Rangers, with additional observations collected independently throughout the season.

Little Sebago remains an attractive breeding ground due to its many small islands and protected coves. Loons, unlike ducks, have feet positioned at the very rear of their bodies—making them excellent swimmers but clumsy on land. As a result, they must nest close to the water’s edge.

(Fun fact: Loons and penguins are distant relatives—both have solid bones and rear-positioned feet.)

These natural features help reduce land-based predators like raccoons, yet of ten known nesting territories, only five were occupied in 2025.

Four successful pairs hatched six chicks; however, only two survived to fledgling age (about six weeks)—one on the Middle Lake and one on the Upper Lake. Only one survived the full season, continuing a concerning downward trend that cannot sustain a healthy population.

Floating nest raft usage declined, with only two deployed in 2025 and neither used. Similar patterns have been observed locally and on other lakes, suggesting loons may not favor these structures. One raft will remain in Briggs Island Cove for 2026, with placement evaluated annually.

Intrusions by unpaired loons into established territories remain a concern. While these interactions are natural and help maintain

ecological balance, they can disrupt nesting. Observations suggest fewer incidents this year, though that may reflect reduced reporting.

There were two adult and five chick mortalities recorded this season. The causes of adult deaths are under study, with results expected in 2026. On a positive note, Little Sebago’s “Grand Dame” returned—now over 32 years old and one of the oldest known banded loons.

This marks the eighth year of the Loon Monitoring and Ranger program. Climate change continues to threaten lake ecosystems, but the collaboration between trained volunteers and wildlife professionals remains a strong model for conservation.

View the full 2025 report at www.littlesebagolake.com/loonacy.

Interested in becoming a Loon Ranger? Contact info@littlesebagolake.com with subject “Loon Ranger.”

LSLA also participates in the Maine Audubon Annual Loon Count. In 2025, eight volunteers recorded 28 adults and 2 chicks during the statewide half-hour count. Full results are available at: <https://maineaudubon.org/projects/loons/annual-loon-count/>



Milfoil Militia Program | Past & Present

Pam Wilkinson & Tim Greer, Coordinators

Hybrid variable leaf milfoil remains the primary invasive aquatic species (IAS) in our lake. First identified in Mumford Cove in 1999, this fast-spreading plant has been the focus of our Milfoil Militia Program ever since. While it cannot be fully eradicated, it can be effectively managed through consistent, dedicated effort.

Our trained dive team removes milfoil by hand-pulling plants from the lakebed, including their roots, and collecting them using a suction dredge system for proper disposal. This careful process helps protect both recreational use and the lake's natural ecosystem. Remarkably, members of this team—divers, boat captains, and crew—have returned year after year, with some contributing to this effort for over two decades.

Invasive Milfoil (left), Native Plant (right)



Weather conditions in 2025 brought a rainy June followed by a warm, dry summer, which encouraged plant growth. Despite this, our team made significant progress across the 30 identified milfoil beds. From July through late September, 184 bags of milfoil—each weighing approximately 20 pounds—were removed. This is a notable decrease from the 320 bags collected the previous year. To date, an estimated 138 tons of milfoil have been removed from the lake.



Invasive Milfoil plant & root mass

Milfoil Team with "Judy Ann", our drone.

This persistent plant poses a serious threat if left unmanaged, with the potential to choke waterways and severely limit recreational use. Since the program began, over \$1.2 million has been invested in mitigation efforts, including approximately \$268,000 in donated volunteer time.

Our equipment plays a critical role in this work. This year, we will replace one of our aging 20-foot suction dredge pontoons with a generously donated 24-foot pontoon. Upgrades, including new decking and the transfer of key components, will ensure continued safe and efficient operation. Your ongoing financial support remains essential to maintaining our fleet and protecting our crews.

For safety, if you encounter a pontoon displaying a dive flag, please maintain a distance of at least 200 feet. This helps protect divers in the water and prevents wake interference with the suction system.

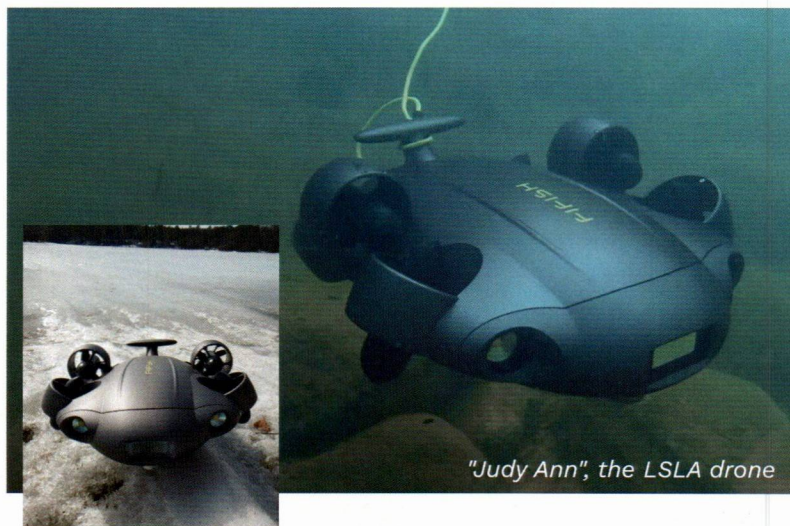
can also learn more by visiting the Maine DEP website on invasive aquatic plants (maine.gov/dep/water/invasives).

Last year, thanks to a generous donation, we added an underwater drone to our monitoring tools. This technology allows us to survey the lake bottom more efficiently and identify new areas of concern. A small team has already been trained in its use, and we welcome additional volunteers. If you are interested, please email info@littlesebagolake.com with "Underwater Drone" in the subject line. Familiarity with joystick controls is helpful but not required.



"Hippo" Underway

We are fortunate that this is currently the only invasive aquatic species in our lake, as many Maine lakes face multiple threats. Prevention remains critical. We encourage all lake users to become familiar with native and non-native plant species to help stop the spread of invasives. If you notice suspicious vegetation, please contact us at info@littlesebagolake.com with "Milfoil Concerns" in the subject line. You



The Little Sebago Lake Association remains committed to preserving the health and enjoyment of our lake. We encourage everyone to be active lake stewards by learning about and caring for the waters and shoreline we all share.



Tim Greer & Pam Wilkinson, Milfoil Militia Coordinators

Watershed & LakeSmart Report

Layne Albert

SPRING WATERSHED UPDATE

Ice-out on Little Sebago Lake occurred on April 4—an early and welcome sign of the season ahead. As we begin to look forward to summer on the lake, it's also an ideal time to share updates on several important efforts impacting our watershed.

TOWN OF GRAY ACTIONS

This year, the Town of Gray completed a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan covering approximately 11 distinct watersheds. Of these, Little Sebago Lake is the largest, with roughly 60–70% of the lake located within Gray.

The plan was developed under the direction of the Gray Resiliency Committee, with input from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Maine DEP, local lake associations (including ours), and other stakeholders. It outlines 20 key recommendations to help protect Gray's watersheds in the years ahead. We will be paying close attention to those actions that directly affect Little Sebago Lake.

In addition, the Gray Resiliency Committee—working with many of the same partners—has drafted a proposed Surface Water Protection Ordinance. Similar ordinances are already in place in nearby communities such as Falmouth and Windham. The proposed Gray ordinance is designed to reduce surface water pollution, particularly from phosphorus runoff, with the goal of achieving zero off-site impact from new development.

The ordinance is currently under review by the Town's Ordinance Advisory Committee and will move to the Town Council for a public hearing before potential adoption.

MAINE LAKE ACTIONS

New "OUR SHORE" Resources

The Maine DEP has also been developing a new initiative called OUR SHORE, which focuses on nature-based shoreline protection methods—often referred to as “living shorelines.” This program offers guidance and training for homeowners, contractors, resource managers, and community leaders.

OUR SHORE provides practical, how-to resources and showcases successful projects from across the state that use natural materials and designs to reduce erosion while enhancing shoreline habitat. It is also building a network of professionals and municipal leaders interested in implementing these approaches. New tools and training opportunities are expected soon, helping lakefront property owners adopt more sustainable shoreline practices.

LAKESMART UPDATE

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and dedicated lake steward, Kevin Ronan, on January 4, 2026, at his home on Little Sebago Lake. Kevin played a vital role in bringing the LakeSmart program to our lake, and his leadership helped establish and grow the program over the years.

He also recruited and mentored volunteers, including BJ Warner (who has recently relocated to New Hampshire) and others who continue this important work. Kevin's contributions to the health of Little Sebago Lake will have a lasting impact.

At this time, we are actively seeking new volunteers to train as LakeSmart evaluators, as well as someone willing to step into the coordinator role that Kevin so capably filled.

We are also pleased to share that funding is available for shoreline buffer zone improvement projects. These funds can help offset permit costs, as well as expenses for plants and installation. Participation requires an application, along with before-and-after photos and supporting documentation.

For more information, please contact us at info@littlesebagolake.com with "Buffer Zone Grants" in the subject line.



Water Quality Report

Jan Slack

WHAT TINY CRITTERS ARE IN OUR LAKE?

During the summer of 2025, our Water Quality Team had a valuable new opportunity to take a closer look at the microscopic life in Little Sebago. A student from St. Joseph's College, working under the supervision of Professor Greg Teegarden, conducted a special project to identify microorganisms in lake water samples.

Lake water naturally contains a wide variety of microscopic organisms. Among them are phytoplankton, which include algae (tiny plant-like organisms) and certain photosynthetic bacteria known as cyanobacteria. Another key group is zooplankton—small animals such as crustaceans, rotifers, and protozoans—which form a critical link in the food web between algae and fish. Together, these organisms form the foundation of the aquatic ecosystem and play an essential role in maintaining balance in the lake.

Microorganisms are especially useful to study because they respond quickly to changes in their environment. Shifts in their populations can indicate changes in nutrient levels, light availability, water clarity, temperature, and other important factors. In fact, certain types of microorganisms are closely associated with

specific ecological conditions. By studying them, we can gain early insight into changes in water quality—often before larger issues such as algae blooms or declining fish populations become visible.



Water Quality Report Continued...

Throughout the summer, samples were collected eight times at the deepest points of both the Upper and Middle basins. Using a vertical tow mesh net, organisms from the upper layers of the lake were concentrated, preserved, and refrigerated until they could be examined under a microscope. In the lab, the intern identified the organisms present and estimated their relative abundance.

The findings were both interesting and somewhat concerning.

The most common organisms observed were diatoms and cyanobacteria. Diatoms are single-celled algae typically associated with clean, healthy water. Encouragingly, they were present in good numbers throughout the summer in both basins (shown as the purplish color on the accompanying graphs).

Cyanobacteria, however, were also abundant. This group is often associated with declining water quality, as it tends to thrive in waters with elevated nutrient levels—particularly phosphorus. In recent years, many Maine lakes have experienced problems with cyanobacteria blooms.

In Little Sebago, cyanobacteria (shown in dark green on the graphs) became the dominant organism in both basins by mid-June. While their presence is natural, it is unusual for them to dominate in a healthy lake ecosystem.

Looking ahead to summer 2026, we plan to continue sampling and analyzing microorganisms at least monthly at the deep points of all three basins. We also hope to expand sampling to include one or more coves to better understand conditions in shallower areas.

These findings serve as an important reminder: while Little Sebago remains in generally good condition, it is approaching a critical threshold. Concern about rising nutrient levels—particularly phosphorus—is well-founded. The good news is that no microorganisms associated with immediate or severe problems were detected. Overall organism levels remain within a safe range.

However, the composition of those organisms tells a clear story—we are nearing a tipping point. Continued vigilance and efforts to limit phosphorus entering the lake will be essential to protecting its long-term health.

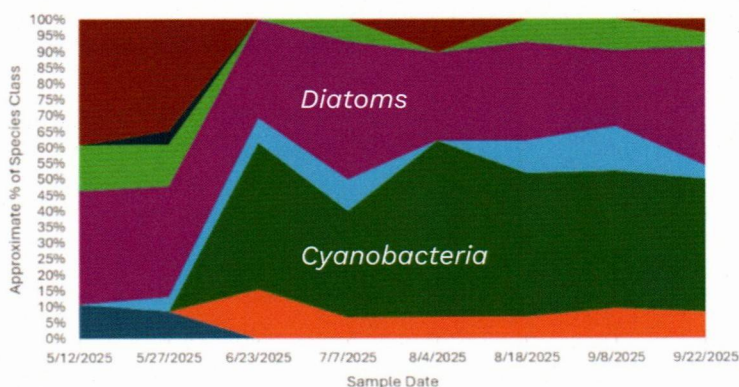
WATER QUALITY RESULTS

Summer 2025

Upper Basin

Bottom water temperatures were slightly higher than in previous years. Water clarity improved throughout the summer, with a September reading representing the best clarity recorded at that location in decades. Phosphorus levels were slightly lower than last year overall but showed late-season spikes near the bottom.

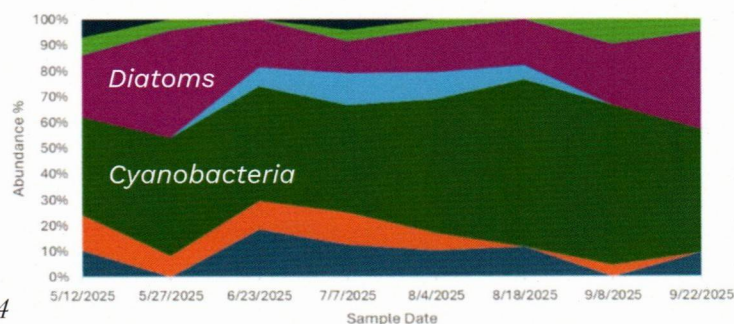
Upper Basin Microorganisms 2025



Middle Basin

The low-oxygen zone extended higher in the water column than in previous years. Temperature and clarity remained stable and typical. However, phosphorus levels exceeded the healthy limit (15 ppm) more frequently than in past years. In addition, a significant algae outbreak occurred along the east shore, at times stretching from Lakeview Avenue nearly to the Lower Narrows. Professor Teegarden believes this was likely filamentous algae forming dense mats, which raised concerns among nearby property owners.

Middle Basin Microorganisms 2025



Lower Basin

This basin experienced the most severe oxygen depletion, with bottom waters becoming anoxic by mid-June. Like the Upper Basin, it recorded excellent water clarity late in the season, likely due to drought conditions. Elevated phosphorus levels were again observed near the bottom late in the season. An early fall turnover, occurring before September 22, helped restore oxygen levels at depth.

STREAMS

Drought conditions during the summer of 2025 caused many streams to stop flowing during the latter half of the season. By incorporating flow measurements into our sampling, we were better able to assess the total phosphorus contribution from each stream. Most streams contribute phosphorus during spring runoff and rain events, when plant material and sediments are washed into the lake. While many streams have either low phosphorus levels, low flow, or both, several will require ongoing monitoring due to their impact on overall nutrient levels.

WATER QUALITY TEAM ADDENDUM

If you've read the Water Quality Report, you already know how important the work of this team is—and how critical accurate, consistent testing is to understanding the health of our lake.

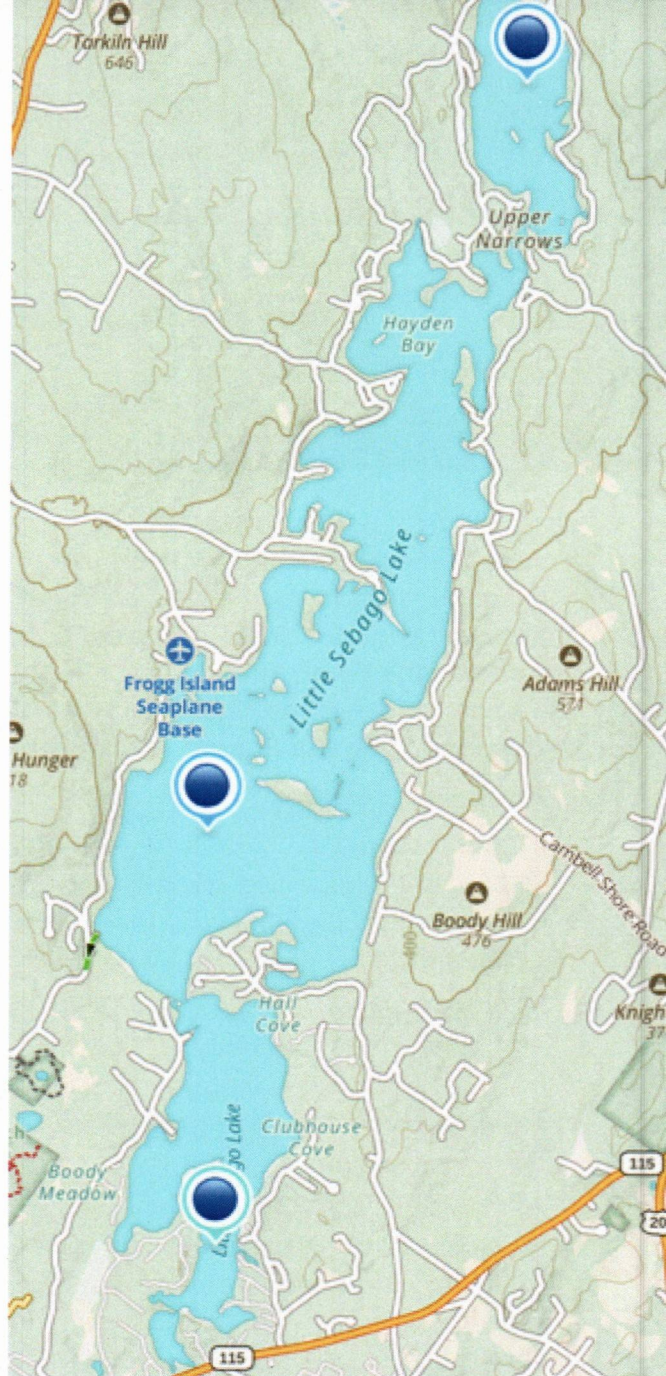
One key factor in collecting reliable data is sampling from the exact same location each time. To support this effort, we are introducing something new for the 2026 season.

Three designated sampling locations—one in each basin—will be marked with buoys. These buoys will allow the Water Quality Team to tie up at the precise same spot for every test, improving the consistency and accuracy of our data over time.

The accompanying map shows the locations of these buoys, along with a photo to help you identify them. They are large and designed to be easily visible on the water.

Please keep an eye out for these markers, and be sure to give plenty of space if you see the Water Quality Team tied up and conducting testing.

Your cooperation helps ensure this important work can continue safely and effectively—and ultimately helps protect the future of Little Sebago Lake.



Financial Summary 2025 Results & 2026 Budget *Jim McBride*

A summary financial report comparing 2025 results to budget, along with the proposed 2026 budget, is attached. We are pleased to report that we ended 2025 in excellent financial condition, thanks to the generous support of our members and friends, along with prudent fiscal management by the Board.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total Income:** 2025 income totaled **\$245,607**, exceeding budget by **\$6,607**. Membership appeal donations were **\$11,423 above budget**, and endowment gifts exceeded expectations by **\$2,828**, even following the successful *\$100K for 100 Years* campaign in 2024. Notably, we did **not** need to draw on interest or growth from reserves or endowment investments to fund operations. Income also included a **\$18,475 transfer from reserves** to cover the Lower Narrows dredging completed in January 2025.
- **Total Expenses:** Expenses for 2025 were **\$203,946**, coming in **\$35,054 under budget**. Savings were realized in courtesy boat inspections, membership & communications, watershed management, and safety programs (due to lower maintenance and reduced warden coverage). The milfoil program exceeded budget due to equipment purchases and higher labor hours. The Lower Narrows dredging cost (**\$18,475**) was funded through reserves.
- **Net Result:** Strong financial performance resulted in a **net surplus of \$41,660** and positive cash flow for the year.

- **Net Worth:** Year-end total assets reached **\$698,410**, an increase of more than **\$97,000** from the prior year. This growth reflects both the annual surplus and investment gains in endowment and reserve funds managed by the Maine Community Foundation.

2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

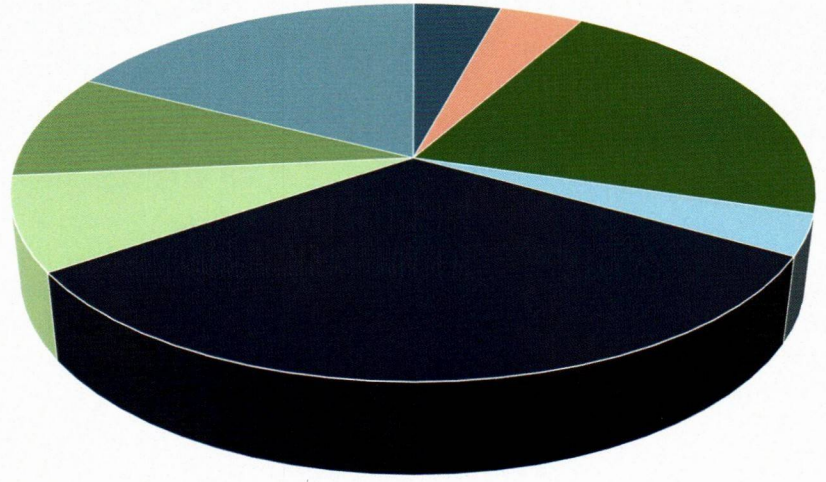
- **Total Income:** Budgeted at **\$254,300**, including a modest **1% decrease in donations and endowment giving**. Grant funding is expected to increase, with an additional **\$11,000 from Maine DEP** and **\$7,000 from the Town of Gray** to support the retrofit of a replacement milfoil boat (Hippo3). The budget also includes **\$10,500 from endowment investment earnings** (not principal) to balance operations.
- **Total Expenses:** Budgeted at **\$254,300**, reflecting several planned investments:
 - **Milfoil Program:** Increase includes **\$15,000 for the Hippo3 retrofit** and **\$5,000 for underwater drone labor**
 - **Membership & Communications:** Increased funding for rebranding and website upgrades
 - **Watershed Management:** Additional **\$5,000** for new initiatives
 - **Safety Program:** Increased costs for a second patrol boat and expanded warden coverage
- **Net Result:** The 2026 budget is **balanced**, with no projected surplus or deficit. While up to **\$10,500 in endowment earnings** may be used, we remain committed to **preserving the principal of all endowment gifts**.

CLOSING

We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of our members and friends, whose contributions—through donations, endowment giving, and fundraising—make this work possible. We also appreciate the vital grant support from the Towns of Gray and Windham, and the Maine DEP, which helps sustain our courtesy boat inspection and milfoil control programs.

Together, this support ensures that Little Sebago remains a safe, healthy, and enjoyable lake for all.

Where Your Money Goes?



■ Milfoil Removal ■ Admin & Overhead
■ Other: Dam, Loons, Narrows, Water Quality ■ Courtesy Boat Inspection
■ Narrows Dredging (offset by Reserves) ■ Membership & Communications
■ Safety Patrol Program & Wardens ■ Merchandise



	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Difference 2025	Budget 2026	Notes:
Revenue:					
Donations	\$ 90,000	\$ 101,423	\$ 11,423	\$ 100,000	a
Endowment Gifts	\$ 27,000	\$ 29,828	\$ 2,828	\$ 29,500	b
Fundraising - Raffle & Golf Tournament	\$ 32,700	\$ 35,001	\$ 2,301	\$ 34,000	
Grant Revenue	\$ 54,700	\$ 50,646	\$ (4,054)	\$ 69,700	c
Interest/Growth from Investments	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	\$ 10,500	d
Transfer from Reserves - Offset Dredging	\$ 18,500	\$ 18,475	\$ (25)	\$ -	e
Merchandise Revenue	\$ 11,000	\$ 10,234	\$ (766)	\$ 10,500	
Miscellaneous	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ (100)	\$ 100	
Total Income	\$ 239,000	\$ 245,607	\$ 6,607	\$ 254,300	

	Budget 2025	Actual 2025	Difference 2025	Budget 2026	Notes:
Disbursements - by Program:					
Admin & Overhead	\$ 11,000	\$ 8,522	\$ (2,478)	\$ 11,000	
Courtesy Boat Inspection	\$ 16,900	\$ 8,153	\$ (8,747)	\$ 14,700	
Membership & Communications	\$ 53,500	\$ 43,736	\$ (9,764)	\$ 54,500	f
Merchandise	\$ 11,000	\$ 7,022	\$ (3,974)	\$ 10,500	
Milfoil Removal	\$ 56,800	\$ 66,022	\$ 9,222	\$ 92,200	g
Other: Dam, Loons, Narrows, Water Qual	\$ 29,300	\$ 16,269	\$ (13,031)	\$ 29,300	h
Narrows Dredging offset by Reserves	\$ 18,500	\$ 18,475	\$ (25)	\$ -	i
Safety Patrol Program & Wardens	\$ 42,000	\$ 35,742	\$ (6,258)	\$ 42,100	j
Total Expense	\$ 239,000	\$ 203,946	\$ (35,054)	\$ 254,300	
Total Income less Expense	\$ -	\$ 41,660	\$ -	\$ -	k

Notes:

- a) Donations higher than expected in 2025; expect 1% drop in 2026
- b) Endowment gifts also higher in 2025 but expect a 1% drop in 2026
- c) Assumes increased grants from DEP and Town of Gray to assist w/ retrofit new Hippo3 milfoil boat
- d) 2026 budget uses \$10.5k growth from Endowment investments to balance budget (not needed in 2025)
- e) 2025 budget used \$18.5k from Reserves to offset cost of dredging lower narrows
- f) 2026 Budget increase to complete the rebranding and upgrade the website
- g) Milfoil budget increased \$15k to retrofit new Hippo3; also \$5k underwater drone labor
- h) New watershed protection program of \$5k planned for 2026. Budget also includes \$5k for lower narrows
- i) Lower narrows dredging project offset by Reserve funding in 2025
- j) 2026 budget assumes higher maint & labor for 2nd patrol boat, plus increased warden coverage
- k) 2025 actual results showed over \$41k surplus; 2026 budget assumes balanced budget

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

	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	Difference
Assets:			
Endowment	\$ 252,424	\$ 355,525	\$ 103,101
Operating Account	\$ 53,185	\$ 47,729	\$ (5,456)
Reserves	\$ 295,547	\$ 295,156	\$ (391)
Total Assets	\$ 601,156	\$ 698,410	\$ 97,254
Liabilities:			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Worth:	\$ 601,156	\$ 698,410	\$ 97,254

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LSLA 2025 Scholarship Winners

Since 2015, the Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA) has proudly supported graduating seniors from Gray-New Gloucester High School and Windham High School through its annual scholarship program. These awards are given to students pursuing studies in environmental science, water quality management, or related fields—helping to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

In honor of LSLA's 100th anniversary, the Board of Directors increased each scholarship award to \$1,000, reaffirming the Association's commitment to education and lake conservation.

The 2025 scholarship recipient from **Gray-New Gloucester High School is Griffin Richmond**, who is currently studying conservation law at Central Maine Community College. From **Windham High School, the scholarship was awarded to Abigail Dumont**, who is attending the University of Maine at Farmington, majoring in Environmental and Climate Studies.

LSLA is proud to support these dedicated students as they pursue their academic goals and future careers. Their commitment to protecting natural resources reflects the values at the heart of our mission, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make.

2025 Sponsors

Thank you for your support!



Annual Meeting & Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner



Bag Purchase Program



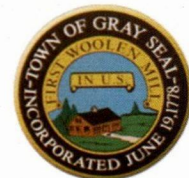
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Financial Support

LSLA Introduces Our New Brand



LITTLE SEBAGO LAKE

ESTD ASSOCIATION 1924

More than a century ago, the Little Sebago Lake Association was established by summer residents and property owners who shared a common interest in the wellbeing of the lake. At its inception, there were only 29 members who focused on essential concerns such as ice, wood supply, fishing, and increasing membership. Today, LSLA membership has grown to include more than 1,200 property owners, supported by a volunteer Board of Directors, many essential programs, numerous volunteers, and a small number of paid staff.

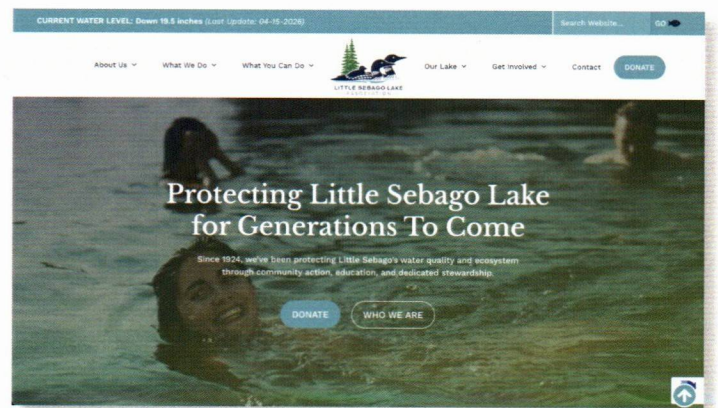
In the early 1900s, communication within the association was limited to word of mouth, signs attached to trees, and handwritten notes delivered by hand. Although the Little Sebago Lake Association's methods of communication have transformed considerably over the years, the organization previously did not have brand guidelines to ensure consistent messaging and a unified visual identity for the community.

To address the need for consistent branding, the Little Sebago Lake Association collaborated with Pinepoint Creative, a web and design firm based in Windham, Maine. Together, they developed a new logo, built an updated website, and established unified brand guidelines.

Introducing the new LSLA logo, a design that

honors our history while expressing pride and progress for both Little Sebago Lake and Maine. The logo features an expanded family of three loons moving confidently across Little Sebago Lake, with the Maine Pine visible in the background. The color palette is inspired directly by the lake's natural elements, including water, shoreline, forest, and sky.

In addition, Pinepoint Creative designed a new LSLA website at www.littlesebagolake.com. The site features updated branding, improved navigation, convenient search tools, news updates, and comprehensive resources about the lake. The new look captures the calm and vibrant character of Little Sebago Lake, providing a welcoming hub for all lake-related information. We are incredibly pleased with these enhancements and hope you enjoy them as well.






SIGN UP FOR THE
3rd Annual LSLA
Golf Classic

AND/OR _____

Buy Your Summer
Raffle Tickets

 <https://lsla.auctionsnap.com/lslagolf/event>

This year, we're excited to bring back the original **LSLA Summer Raffle**—returning to its roots with a streamlined format featuring three highly sought-after prizes. With fewer items and a sharper focus, your chances are better than ever to take home something special.

To make participation easier and more efficient, the raffle will be hosted on the same platform as the **3rd Annual LSLA Golf Classic**, giving every member the flexibility to join one or both of these popular summer fundraisers.

Raffle ticket sales are open now and will continue until the winning tickets are drawn at the conclusion of the **LSLA Summer Meeting** on July 11th at the American Legion in Gray.

Whether you are a golfer or not, you can take part by using the link below to register a foursome, buy a sponsorship, or purchase raffle tickets. It's a simple, all-in-one way to support LSLA and be part of the summer excitement.

Here's the link:

<https://lsla.auctionsnap.com/lslagolf/event>

