

KOLELEMOOK LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

LAKE NEWS

Summer 2024

Letter from the President

Hello Lake Lovers,

Welcome to the second edition of the KLPA newsletter. We received positive feedback on the first edition and hope to continue keeping everyone abreast on what we have been working on in the issues to follow.

The Lake host program at the town beach has been going on for many years and has so far helped to keep invasive weeds out of Lake Kolelemook. However, we have been unable to hire a lake host this summer and really need your help in locating one! This is a great opportunity to help the lake, and hosts earn \$18/hour for 20 hours per week. The commitment is for four hours on Fridays and 8 hours each on Saturdays and Sundays. Training is quite easy and can be done online. If you or someone you know would like to help us out through Labor Day, please contact Claudia Zent at Claudia.zent@gmail.com.

Lori and I attended the Lakes Congress in Meredith on Thursday, June 6th. Over 260 people representing over 60 lakes in NH attended the all-day event. Attendees had the option of choosing between four presentations per session with four sessions offered during the day. There were presentations on topics from Cyanobacteria, Defending our Lakes from Invasive Species, to Ensuring Clean Waters through Septic System Surveys. Perhaps one of the biggest takeaways from the event for us was how all size lakes had the same concerns and challenges ahead in trying to preserve the waterways.

We hope to have increased participation in the annual KLPA meeting to be held on July 6th at the Town Hall. It will begin at 9a.m. with refreshments and the actual meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. We are still trying to line up a guest speaker and will keep you posted. If we can't get one for the July meeting, we will get one for the August one.

Finally, thanks to all who have so far contributed their annual dues. We hope others will contribute to keep Kolelemook clean and free from threats to the water quality.

Enjoy the lake as Summer goes by way too quickly.

Best,

Phil DeConinck, KLPA President

LOON LIFE on KOLELEMOOK

The common loon (*gavia immer*) is, for many, a joyful perennial sight, and the beauty and haunting calls of these migratory birds attract onlookers from near and far, boosting tourism throughout NH. Here on Kolelemook, we are fortunate to be able to observe these birds spring through fall, and collaborate with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) in their mission to monitor the health of the loons and their habitat.

For the fourth consecutive year, KLPA has partnered with the LPC to establish a nesting raft on Kolelemook. Have you seen it? If not, consider taking time this spring to check it out and learn more about Kolelemook's loon population. Below are a few considerations for observers:

- In order to avoid creating a wake that may disrupt the birds or the nest, take care to stay the recommended 150 feet from the raft.
- Boaters should proceed cautiously near the raft, keeping in mind the diving habit of loons who may surface at any time.
- If you do see loons, keep eyes and ears open for signs of distress and back away to give them the space they need. Notable clues of stress include vocalizing with any of their calls, extending their neck to evaluate the situation, sitting especially low in the water to attempt to hide, or moving away to create a wider safety margin. In all cases, it is best to maintain calm.

Based on observation of four loons on the Lake in early spring, Kolelemook appears to now have one pair settling in for the season. This is good news as one pair is the maximum this size lake can successfully accommodate. Loon observers will now be watching the nest with the hope of welcoming another chick or two this summer.

In addition to hosting the nesting raft, KLPA cooperates in other ways with the LPC; historically, we have supported the annual loon count, assisted with banding and releasing, and sponsored educational efforts. Later in the season you will see notices about the loon count. Though the number of loons on Kolelemook is small, the coordinated reporting from across all lakes in the state provides a snapshot of the change in population over time. Similarly, banding loons on Kolelemook gives LPC a way to identify individual birds in an ongoing effort to monitor health issues. Coordinating with the LPC and respecting their efforts to monitor the loon population helps foster the hospitable environment here in NH, and everyone's support is appreciated.

More Resources: For additional information on LPC and NH's loons, visit these LPC website pages:

- About the LPC, <https://loon.org/about/>
- More about Loons, <https://loon.org/about-the-common-loon/>
- Check out the Live Loon Cam, and listen to calls on <https://loon.org/looncam/>. Each year, LPC places a camera on a loon raft on an undisclosed lake in NH so onlookers can enjoy watching the loons and other wildlife who wander into view. Even before there are loons on the raft, the sounds are quite mesmerizing.

Keep your eyes on the KLPA Fb page and your email for further information and opportunities.

LETTER TO KLPA REGARDING LEAD FREE FISHING

To: Kolelemook Lake Protective Association

Hello,

My name is Caroline Hughes, and I am a biologist at the Loon Preservation Committee. This year, as part of our Lead Tackle Buyback Program, we are reaching out to lake associations to ask them to help us get the word out about the impacts of lead tackle on loons. Would you consider running the following blurb/short article in a newsletter or other communication to your membership?

Save a Loon: Fish Lead Free

Did you know that lead poisoning resulting from the ingestion of lead fishing tackle is the number one cause of documented adult loon mortality in New Hampshire? Since 1989, 176 adult New Hampshire loons have died after ingesting lead tackle. This represents 38% of the documented adult loon mortalities in the state. According to the Loon Preservation Committee, the most common ways that loons ingest lead tackle are: consuming a fish that has broken an angler's line, striking at a fish being reeled past them in the water, or even striking at the piece of tackle itself as it is reeled in (mistaking the shiny, moving object for a small fish). Because loons are most often dying of lead poisoning after ingesting lead tackle that is in active use, there is an easy way to prevent unnecessary loon deaths: ending the use of lead fishing tackle in our lakes.

Do you have an old tackle box that you haven't cleaned out in a while? Please take a moment this summer to look through it and remove any lead tackle. If you find lead tackle, you can exchange it for a \$10 voucher at a store participating in the Loon Preservation Committee's Lead Tackle Buyback Program. A list of these stores can be found a www.loonsafe.org.

Not sure if your tackle is made of lead? You can differentiate lead tackle with a few easy tests:

- 1) If the tackle is unpainted, rub it against a piece of paper. Lead will leave a gray streak behind.
- 2) Lead is a soft metal. If you can scratch or dent a piece of tackle with your fingernail or a pair of pliers, it is likely made of lead.
- 3) Date and location of purchase: If your tackle was purchased in New Hampshire prior to the year 2000, it is highly likely to contain lead. Jigs purchased in New Hampshire between 2000-2016 are moderately likely to contain lead. Tackle purchased outside of New Hampshire is more likely to contain lead because New Hampshire has the strictest lead tackle laws in the nation.

Thank you for considering!

Best,

Caroline

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See Something? Say Something! KLPA Weed Watchers and How You Can Help

Any of us who have jumped into the refreshing waters of Lake Kolelemook or caught a beautiful bass fish or gently paddled by the loon nest can appreciate the quality and health of our lake. But what does it take to keep the lake so clean and healthy? Each of us being vigilant about invasive plants!

KLPA participates in the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Weed Watchers program where volunteers monitor sections of the lake each month during the active summer season to watch for invasive plants. NH DES explains, "Freshwater aquatic invasive plants are those that are not naturally found in New Hampshire's lakes, ponds and rivers. Because they are not native, they have no predators or diseases, which allows them to grow quickly and dominate freshwater systems and native plants, fish and aquatic insects already present." Most often invasive plants are transferred between bodies of water via boats that have not been thoroughly cleaned and dried. While often accidental, when plants hitch a ride on a fisherman's boat it can mean destruction for the very thing the fisherman is seeking.

One example of a nearby invasive aquatic plant is the recent fight against curly-leaf pondweed. IT has been discovered in Baptist Pond, also in Springfield, last year and in May of this year a Lake Host discovered some on a boat leaving the George's Mill boat ramp of Lake Sunapee. Thanks to detection by volunteers and coordination with the state, there's a plan in place to help Baptist Pond and divers were able to remove about 10 plants that had taken root in Lake Sunapee earlier this month. Help us keep invasive plants like curly-leaf pondweed out of Lake Kolelemook!



(curly-leaf pondweed in Baptist Pond, source: LSPA article <https://myemail-api.constantcontact.com/Curly-leaf-Pondweed-in-Baptist-Pond.html?soid=1111876821812&aid=WD8bBGFrdgc>)

How can you help?

- While bringing boats, trailers, and other items between bodies of water, make sure they are cleaned, drained and dried completely.
- When using Lake Kolelemook, keep your eyes open for anything that seems out of place and share with our [volunteer Weed Watchers team](#).
- Encourage others you know to be good lake stewards and visitors by following these simple steps.

Want to learn more?

- Lake Kolelemook Weed Watchers website: <https://www.kolelemook.org/weed-watching.html>
- NH DES Weed Watchers Program overview: <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/2020-01/bb-4.pdf>
- Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) Article about Species on the Move: <https://www.lakesunapee.org/species-on-the-move>

For guests visiting Lake Kolelemook this year, we will also be installing a "See Something? Say Something!" sign at the boat launch and public swim areas. This sign will have a QR code so [any visitor can submit observations about potential invasive plants](#) to KLPA for further investigation.

The KLPA Board thanks everyone for their diligent support in keeping our waters healthy and beautiful for many years to come.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of this writing, we have received 28 membership renewals compared to 41 dues paying members last year. Thank you to all who continue to show their support!

For those who haven't found the time to renew, please renew your membership so that we may continue to fund activities to help protect the health of Kolelemook Lake!!

It's easy to renew your membership at our website, www.kolelemook.org. Thank you for your support!!

UPCOMING EVENTS – Look for updates via email, Facebook or our website!

6/22/2024	Springfield Volunteer Organizations Fair
7/06/2024	KLPA Annual Summer Meeting
8/31/2024	KLPA Annual Fall Meeting