



SPOFFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION

And Now a Word From the President....

In years gone by, the SLA has produced one lengthy annual newsletter that reported on the work and activities of the previous months. In 2022, we have decided to produce a shorter newsletter focusing on the updates given at the July 16th Annual Meeting and adding recent news on cyanobacteria. With a robust and frequently updated website and seasonal bi-monthly updates via the Lake Lover Gazette, we believe that our members are well informed throughout the season and the year about the work undertaken to protect Spofford Lake.

Many thanks to the entire Board of Directors for your guidance and help. I extend special gratitude to our conscripted volunteers: Chris Oot and Peter Holton for Lake Water Quality, and Bruce Soltys for 319 Runoff Grants. Also, to Board members Larry Robbins and Cindy Holton who get the word out to you and all lake lovers. They are responsible for communications, emails, membership, website, and its underpinning technology.

Kelli Hanzalik, Bruce Soltys, and Larry Robbins organized a bang up 2022 Annual Meeting, attended by 115 people. Special thanks to our sponsors, Camp Spofford and The Actor's Theatre Playhouse of West Chesterfield, and to the Spofford Yacht Club for providing the venue for this wonderful event.

Following the Annual Meeting, what was thought to be cyanobacteria appeared in several locations around the lake. Samples were sent to a lab in Florida for extensive testing and after analyses, very low levels of toxicity were found, but only in the concentrated material washed ashore on the western side of the lake. For much more information, go to 'Cyanobacteria' on the SLA website.

With best regards,

Bayard Tracy
President

And From Our Treasurer...

Anton Schoolwerth reported that the audit of the SLA financials was completed earlier in the year by Richard Kalich. He found no material discrepancies in the SLA's books. Anton also presented the current financial picture.

Election of Board Members

Three Year Terms
 Kelli Hanzalik
 Art Huggins
 Anton Schoolwerth
 Bayard Tracy

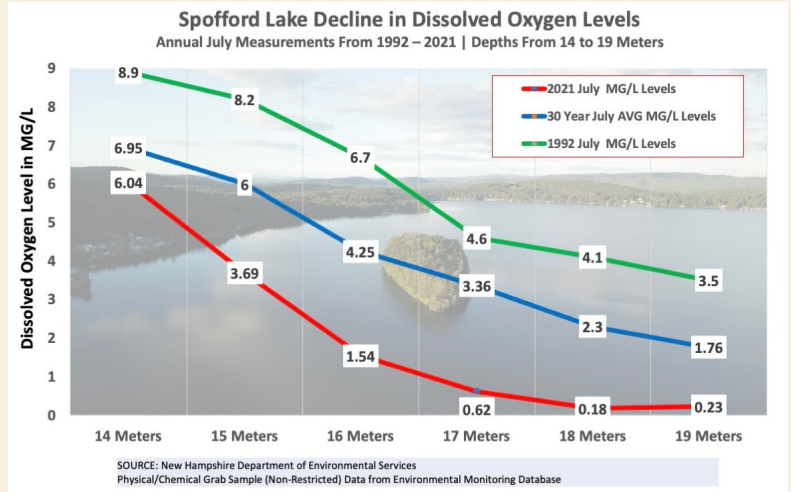
One Year Terms
 Bayard Tracy - President
 Dan Syvertsen - Vice President
 Anton Schoolwerth - Treasurer
 Susan Donahue - Secretary

SLA Treasurer's Report		
	2021 Total Year	2022 Thru 6/30
Dues & Donations	\$36,691	\$27,120
Other Revenues	\$19,208	\$5,761
Total Revenues	\$55,899	\$32,881
Total Expenses	\$39,581	\$18,672
Transfer to Lake Preservation Fund	\$20,812	\$12,700
Lake Preservation Fund Balance	\$78,655	\$92,280
Number of Donors	199	98

The State of the Lake

In two words, Spofford Lake is 'stable but'. Just like humans, it needs diligent care and maintenance to not accelerate the rate of aging. According to the NH Department of Environmental Services, the indicators of Spofford's health can be put into three broad groupings: exceptional, good/average, and concerning/noteworthy.

For our lake, transparency sits in the exceptional group. And we have no invasive aquatic plants due in no small measure to the strong, multi-decade efforts of our Lake Host and Weed Watch programs. In the good/average category sits chlorophyll-a, chloride, total phosphorus (upper and mid-levels), turbidity, and pH.



In the concerning bucket is low dissolved oxygen (DO), which is caused by increasing levels of total phosphorus at the bottom/lower levels of the Lake. DO is not only a measurable condition but is a good indicator of phosphorus levels in the Lake's deep spots. Lake bottoms are like sinks storing excess elements that have accumulated over the years. Warming temperatures and low DO traps elements on the bottom, thus setting up a damaging cycle of more plant growth, algae, and cyanobacteria.

Phosphorus and low dissolved oxygen are at the root of our issues at Spofford Lake. We can reduce the flow of additional phosphorus into the Lake through mitigation efforts like the septic ordinance, reducing stormwater runoff and preventing erosion.

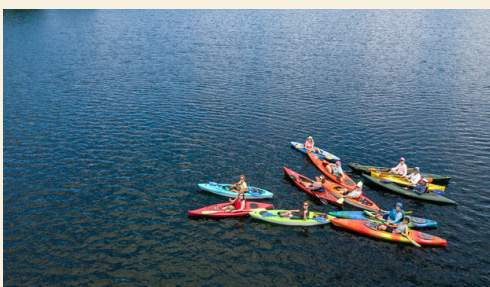
What the SLA is Doing to Combat DO



A few years back, the SLA made the strategic decisions to undertake a Watershed Management Plan and Core Sediment Analysis. They have become the cornerstones of our work as they told us the likely future of the Lake under certain conditions and the how the Lake has changed over hundreds of years. Tactically, for a more robust understanding of the Lake in its current state, the SLA, working with the Town, upgraded the 2022 Lake Water Quality Monitoring Program to better identify the sources of phosphorus and get a better hold on other characteristics of the Lake. Samples were taken at six stations over three months in the winter, a first. In the summer, water will be tested five times rather than 3, and at 30 locations instead of 20. Tests will also be taken at Spring and Autumn turnover, another first.



And while testing is important, managing runoff is another priority. The SLA has been awarded another 319 Runoff Grant. This one focuses on the runoff mitigation from Route 9 to the boat ramp. The Town, with the SLA's assistance, has also applied and received approval for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund grant to reduce and control runoff from Pinnacle Springs Rd. into the Lake.



At the same time, it is important that SLA members and property owners on/near the Lake understand their impact, especially relative to storm water runoff. We have undertaken a "Do You Know" hard copy mailing campaign to homeowners in the watershed, not only those who live directly on the Lake but also to those who live elsewhere in the watershed. The campaign provides DES Fact Sheets, which explain the rules, regulations, and best practices about living on/near a water body and the impact. These Facts Sheets can be viewed in the Homeowner's Guide section of the website.

Working in Partnership with the Town of Chesterfield

One of the unintended benefits of the 2021 defeat of the steep slopes referendum was that both sides agreed that the water quality of Spofford Lake needed to be protected. It takes a community, literally and figuratively, to protect a lake.

In the Town of Chesterfield, we have a particularly willing partner, which values Spofford Lake and which has and continues to take action to protect it. We've learned from other lake associations that many Boards of Selectmen are ambivalent at best, and hostile at worst, toward providing resources to improve the water quality of the lakes in their towns. Not so in Chesterfield. Here is a summary of lake-friendly actions taken by the Town:

Town of Chesterfield Partners in Improving the Lake's Water Quality



- o Established the "Spofford Lake District"
- o Enacted septic system ordinance
- o Contributes \$6,500 /YR, to the Lake Host Program via the Conservation Commission
- o Agreed to limit salt on roads around the lake
- o Manages the lake water level weekly
- o Formed Watershed Management Committee
- o Applied for CWS Revolving Fund runoff grant
- o Redesigned Ware's Grove and North Shore beaches

Moreover, in late 2021, the Town appointed a Watershed Management Committee 'to provide recommendations to the Town of Chesterfield Board of Selectmen that advance the understanding, planning, implementation and use of watershed management tools and techniques to effectively protect and enhance the water quality of Spofford Lake.' The Committee serves as an advisor to the Board of Selectmen and operates under NH's 'right to know' laws. It is open to the public in person or via Zoom. Our guest speaker, Brad Roscoe, the Committee's Chairman, highlighted a number of the accomplishments including the Town's vote to establish the 'Spofford Lake Control and Remediation of Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund.' For each of the past three years, voters have agreed to contribute \$10,000 to this Fund.

How Can You Help Protect Spofford Lake?

Protecting Spofford Lake can take many forms, from picking up litter on the side of the road to creating a gutter drywell to collect rainwater to building a driveway infiltration trench to soak up the rain to not pulling out 'soil-retaining' weeds on your beach to using only phosphate-free cleaning products to maintaining your SLA membership and volunteering, whenever possible. Many hands make light work. We have a number of suggestions on our website in the Homeowner's Guide section.

- Maintain a well-functioning septic system and pumped it out regularly,
- Adopt anti-runoff "Soak up the Rain" practices, e.g., add a rain barrel under your gutters,
- Refrain from adding sand to beaches,
- Use lake-friendly cleaning and lawn products,
- When power boating, stay 250 feet from the shoreline. Waves break up the shoreline and release phosphorous. Practice the "Smart Boating" guidelines, and
- Become LakeSmart "certified."



SLA Partners with AmazonSmile

To augment direct charitable contributions to the LPF, the SLA registered with AmazonSmile and is now one of its official charities. We urge you to designate the Spofford Lake Association as your charitable organization. There is no cost to you. To find out how, visit our website, chose Join Us>AmazonSmile. SLA will receive 0.05% of your purchase totals. Every little bit counts!



Spofford Lake Association

P.O. Box 177

Spofford, NH 03462

The Mission of the Spofford Lake Association (SLA) is to protect, enhance and sustain the ecological, environmental, and recreational character of Spofford Lake and the surrounding watershed. The Spofford Lake Association is a registered 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.



SPOFFORD LAKE ASSOCIATION

Support SLA and Its Lake Preservation Fund

If its time, maybe past time, to renew your membership in the Spofford Lake Association. Visit SpoffordLakeAssociation.org to make a secure online payment and review your profile. Be sure to enter a separate email for your spouse or partner! If paying online is not your thing, then use the enclosed envelope to send a check to renew your membership.

Our Lake Hosts have done a superb job of keeping out milfoil and other exotic invasive plants! But...stuff happens. With that in mind, the LPF was created in 2020 with the purpose of creating a separate pool of funds for the eradication of any invasive aquatic infestation that might occur at Spofford Lake. Our goal is to reach \$100,000 by the end of the year. Please give what you can. Thank you.