

KOLELEMOOK LAKE PROTECTIE ASSOCIATION

LAKE NEWS

Spring 2024

Letter from the president

Greetings to all!

The Kolelemook Lake Protective Association (KLPA) has ushered in a new slate of officers and board members at the September 2023 meeting held at the town beach. The elected officers are as follows;

Officers:

President-Phil DeConinck
Vice President-Claudia Zent
Treasurer-Steve Dolan
Secretary-Lori DeConinck

Board Members:

Jerry Cooper
Danielle Dulchinos
Samantha Morris
Theresa Quinn
Lou Senatore

The officers and board members have been meeting on a regular basis since September in order to set upcoming goals and plan upcoming activities for 2024.

The group decided that one of the biggest things we wanted to work on was better communication between the officers and the people who care so much about the lake. That communication begins today with our first newsletter! We plan on sending out quarterly newsletters to all, in order to keep everyone abreast of important developments regarding the KLPA.

Another way we are attempting to bridge the communication gap is by updating the website. Thanks to Steve Dolan's efforts, we are making great progress on updating the website. Please check it out @ kolelemook.org.

Facebook is another communication tool we are using which can be joined @ Kolelemook Lake Protective Association(KLPA).

Finally, you can also e-mail us at kolelemooklake@gmail.com with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thanks to Samantha Morris for setting up Mail Chimp for us so that we can send out these group e-mails in a timely and efficient manner.

Perhaps the biggest agenda item we are beginning to work on is developing a watershed plan for the lake. This is a huge undertaking that will take at least a year to develop but is crucial to preservation of the water quality of the lake and shoreline. There will be discussion of this important topic at the June KLPA annual meeting, scheduled for July 6, 2024.

Other items we are working on include trying to increase participation in the Lake Smart program as well as trying to get more people involved in the KLPA.

Thank you for entrusting the officers and board members to preserve the beautiful lake and please contact us at one of our three social media venues.

Best,

Phil DeConinck – President, KLPA

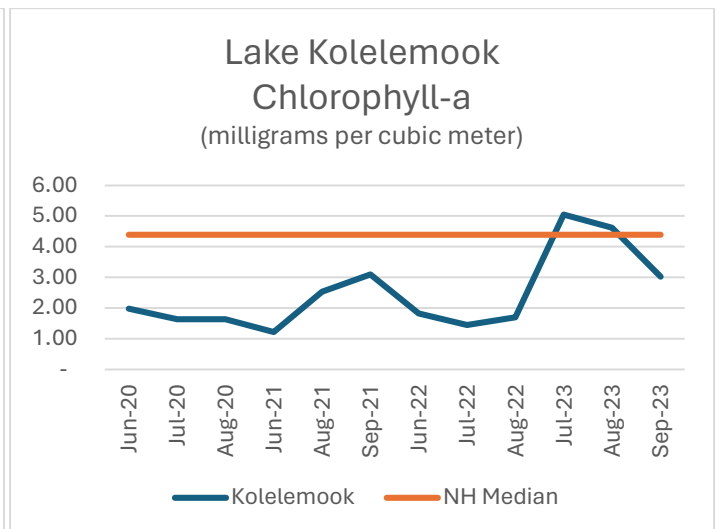
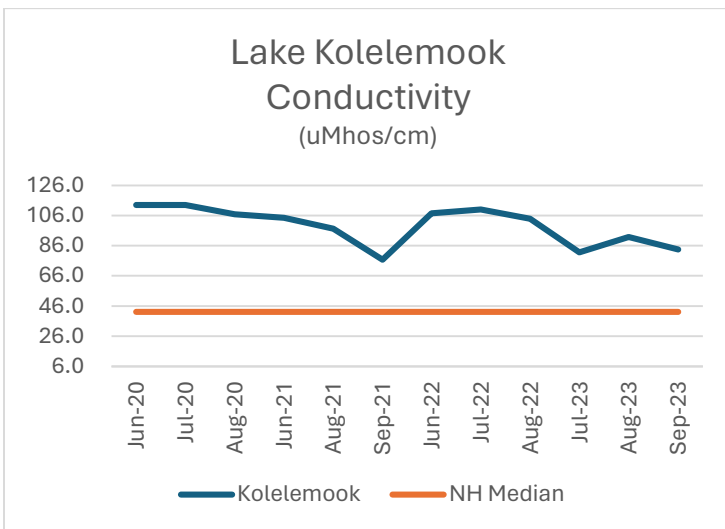
LAKE WATER QUALITY

Protecting the health of Lake Kolelemook starts with regularly monitoring the water quality. Results and trends help us understand what’s working well and what needs attention to preserve the short and long term health of one of Springfield’s most precious natural resource.

Monthly water observation and sampling is completed by KLPA volunteers usually between June and September of each year. Volunteers use a Secchi Disk to measure water transparency, or turbidity and take water samples at two different depths to be analyzed. Information and samples are sent to the Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) Water Quality Lab at Colby Sawyer College, a satellite lab of the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for analysis. The lab provides us with a spreadsheet of the results containing over a dozen different categories. As part of our participation in their Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), they provide us with a written annual analysis of the data. Their latest report can be found on our website.

The good news – none of the parameters tested have exceeded acceptable thresholds or are significantly deviating from median values of other NH lakes.

Most parameters are stable or improving. Conductivity, the ability of water to conduct an electrical current, is worsening. Generally, the higher the conductivity, the higher amount of impurities such as minerals are in the water. Likewise, Chlorophyll-a jumped up above the NH median in 2023. These increases at Lake Kolelemook are most likely due to minerals such as salt and phosphorus being swept into the lake during high periods of rain. As such, the KLPA is focusing attention on understanding and managing the runoff from the high grounds around the lake. Surrounding landowners are encouraged to review the NHDES publication “A Guide to Wise Lake and Watershed Stewardship”, which can be found on our website.



As we gear up for summer, we are putting together our Weed Watching Team and are looking for volunteers! The commitment is minimal – monitor a designated portion of the lake once a month between May and September and report findings. If interested, email our Weed Watcher Coordinator Danielle Dulchinos at danielle.dulchinos@gmail.com.

LAKES AND LEGISLATION

As a member of NH LAKES, the KLPA is fortunate to have access to a vast amount of resources when it comes to protecting and advocating for Lake Kolelemook. NH Lakes is a non profit organization with a mission to restore and preserve the health of all New Hampshire's Lakes.

NH LAKES' Public Policy & Advocacy Program strives to give lakes a voice in the New Hampshire State House. NH LAKES works with New Hampshire legislators, state agency staff, and partners to submit and support bills that will help restore and preserve our lakes. They track bills of interest as they move through the legislative process, provide information to legislators on the impact to lakes of certain legislation and often testify for or against bills at hearings. Currently, they are tracking over 50 bills in the 2024 state legislative session! You can view their 2024 Legislative Tracking spreadsheet on their website www.nhlakes.org/state-government/

They have divided their focus into three core issues:

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management

Working on laws and policies to provide resources and funding for preventing and managing non-native aquatic invasive species that threaten our lakes.

Polluted Runoff Water

Working on laws and policies that help prevent or manage polluted runoff water, a leading cause of water quality problems in NH.

Shoreland and Wetland Protection

Working with legislators, state agencies, organizations and others to create state and local policies that protect water quality by maintaining healthy shorelands and wetlands.

The work NH LAKES does on the legislative front is a critical piece to ensuring the long term health of our lakes. While they make a big impact on educating our representatives and lobbying for impactful legislation, studies have shown that public involvement in advocating for legislation can be a critical factor in advancing legislation.

NH LAKES is doing all the heavy lifting! We all can help by keeping up to date with the bills they are tracking and contact our representatives to make our voices heard! As bills make their way through the legislature, NH LAKES emails Advocacy Alerts to inform us of certain bills that need our advocacy. They also provide ways in which we can show our support, such as registering your support on line, attend a hearing or even testify at a hearing by providing a one to two minute personal story on why you support a bill. We will share these alerts with our membership through email and our Facebook page and encourage you to take action.

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

6/12/2024	Guided Kayak Tour of Lake by NH Loon Protective Committee
7/06/2024	KLPA Annual Summer Meeting
8/31/2024	KLPA Annual Fall Meeting

We will be beginning our membership renewal drive shortly! Please make it a point to 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!!