



Sebec Lake Association
PO Box 303
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Sebec Lake Association Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2014



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Annual Meeting

Saturday July 12, 2014 7pm

Mayo Regional Hospital, Piscataquis Room

www.sebeclakeassoc.com

President's Message:

Hope you had a wonderful winter, it was a wicked one here at Sebec Lake. Actually winter has not left yet. Ice and snow still cover the lake as the end of April approaches. Hopefully the weather and the upcoming events planned around the lake will make your summer enjoyable.

Check out what VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program) is doing to keep our lake clean and beautiful. Please be proactive and volunteer to do your part to protect Sebec Lake from invasive plants and fish.

Don't miss the wonderful activities taking place in the surrounding towns during the summer, especially the Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming Fireworks August 2nd. The Sebec Lake Association is a major contributor to the fireworks and we rely on your contributions to keep this event going year after year. Thanks in advance for your donations.

Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you at the Sebec Lake Association annual meeting, July 12th, at the Mayo Regional Hospital Piscataquis room.

Brian Woodworth
Sebec Lake Association, President



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Membership Form

To pay your dues for 2014:

Go to www.SebecLakeAssoc.com, click on **Dues** in the drop down list under **Sebec Lake Association**, and pay with a credit card via PayPal. Be sure to fill out the update **Member Info form** under **Contact Us**. Or you can fill out the form below and mail it with a check for \$15 to:

Sebec Lake Association Treasurer

P.O. Box 303, Dover-Foxcroft ME 04426

First/Last Name(s): _____

Home Street Address: _____

Home City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Lake Property Street Address: _____

Lake Property City/Zip: _____

Lake Property Map# _____ Lot# _____ (Can be found on tax bill)

Year Lake Property acquired: _____ (Helps determine if property has changed owner since our last tax record update.)

Lake Property Phone: _____

To make sure all parties/all properties get membership credit:

Do you have more than one lake property? Number: _____

Do you share ownership? Name: _____

Email (SLA will NEVER share your email): _____

If you have already paid your dues for 2014, **THANK YOU** for your support of the Sebec Lake Association!

Contacts

Sebec Lake Association Website

www.sebeclakeassoc.com

Sebec Lake Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 12, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

Mayo Regional Hospital – Piscataquis Room

Sebec Lake Association Officers & Directors

President – Brian Woodworth (Cell: 207-217-0962) president@sebeclakeassoc.com
Vice President – Rick Page vp@sebeclakeassoc.com
Treasurer – Jennifer Stewart treasurer@sebeclakeassoc.com
Recording Secretary – Janet Hall (Newsletters & Data Manager) secretary@sebeclakeassoc.com
Corresponding Secretary - Cindy Woodworth correspondingsecretary@sebeclakeassoc.com

Director – Gary Soucy (Website Manager) director1@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Bob Hall (Water Level & Quality Monitor) director2@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – MJ Sheldon-McKenzie director3@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Rudy Davis (Invasive Plant Contact) director4@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Peter Chase (Fish Stakeholder Contact) director5@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Norman Hill (Fish Stakeholder Contact) director6@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Dean Meffe director7@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Marie Woodbrey director8@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director – Vic Woodbrey director9@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director - Maurice Marden (Ampersand (dam) & DEP Liaison) director10@sebeclakeassoc.com
Director - Joe Guyotte (D-F Fire Chief & Animal Control) director12@sebeclakeassoc.com

Emergency Numbers

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
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| Ambulance Service..... | 207-564-8401 | Sheriff's Department..... | 207-564-3304 |
| Pine Tree Hospice..... | 207-564-4346 | Dover-Foxcroft Fire Department..... | 207-564-2310 |
| Bowerbank Fire Department | 207-564-3535 | Sebec Fire Department | 207-564-2090 |

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Watching for Invasive Weeds

There may be no greater threat to the quality of Lake Sebec than invasive aquatic plants. Several lakes in southern and coastal Maine have already been infected with plants such as milfoil and hydra. These two most common species multiply rapidly when introduced, and it takes literally only one leaf segment to get things started. How do they get here? Simply put, these plants are introduced by humans. They hitch a ride in a canoe, a kayak, on a boat trailer, a boat or even a pair of water skis. Pieces of these plants are proven to survive long periods of time out of the water, becoming 'active' when reintroduced to water. Once infested, getting rid of these plants is very difficult and expensive.

"What can I do?"

First, and foremost, is prevention. Every camp owner on Lake Sebec is the first line of defense, and the first line of recognition. Any visitor you may have to the lake who brings a canoe, a kayak, skis, boat....anything that has been in other waters, especially out of state waters, needs to be thoroughly washed *well away from shore* with piping hot water prior to entry to the lake. Buying a *used* Jet Ski, roll-in dock, Bass boat or other water tools or toys? Wash it with *steaming water* and let it *dry completely* before using.

Second, *be aware and alert for new looking weeds* growing in the lake. Last summer, members of Sebec Lake Association attended a seminar to learn more about these plants, identify them and initially manage an outbreak, should it occur. This summer, an Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) will begin to map our lake relative to existing, friendly aquatic species. Our lake is massive, and this is a huge undertaking. Additional volunteers are needed. If you can help, please contact Director Rudy Davis. If you see any plant you suspect may be harmful, let the SLA-IPP know its location. Don't pull it out yourself. There are specific techniques to use to avoid accidental additional distribution of the plant. Pictures of the invasive plants, including the two most common, are on the SLA website. You can also find information on how to contact one of the IPP members or other Directors on the website.

Third, share this information with your neighbors on the Lake.

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Sebec Lake Hazard Markers

Sebec Lake has a long history of the hazards being marked dating back as far as 1901 when the Maine State legislature appropriated \$250 to be used by the steamboat inspectors to place buoys "at such points in Sebec Lake as will best serve the needs of navigation thereon." Little is known about the early marking of hazards or where specific buoys were placed.

After its formation in 1971, the Lake Association began investigating the possibility of placing and maintaining hazard markers around the lake in places where camp owners had identified boating hazards. It took until 1975 for markers to actually be installed at locations identified by both owners and staff from the Department of Conservation. The buoys were placed and maintained by the Sebec Lake Association from 1975 until 1988, when it was deemed that the potential liability to the Lake Association was considerable, and the Maine Department of Conservation took over the responsibility of placing the markers, which continues today under the auspices of the Navigational Aids Program, headed by Tim Thurston.

The criteria utilized by the DOACF for placing a marker include:

1. The hazard is located beyond the 200' Water Safety Zone from the shore towards the middle of the lake; typically hazards **within** the Water Safety Zone are **not** marked except for channels or when hazards are determined to be in high traffic areas.
2. The hazard is covered by less than 4' of water at expected low water during the boating season. For Sebec, the boating season is considered to be from ice-out to mid-October and 'low water' is considered to be 3' below the target level of 322.8' (above sea level).

Each marker has its location identified by GPS coordinates and has a contact phone number on it to report problems. Since different markings (coloration configuration) have different meanings, it is important that boaters become familiar with the meaning of each type of marker. It is suggested that a copy of the pictorial guide to buoy markings be printed out to carry on your boat until such time as you are familiar with the various markings. During summer 2013, the department is reviewing all markers placed on Sebec Lake, adding additional markers as necessary and removing those which no longer meet the criteria above.

If you have a question about a missing or moved marker, or a suggestion for placing a new marker, contact one of the Sebec Lake Association Board members by email. It will be helpful if you have specific location information identifying landmarks, nearby roads or, even better, GPS coordinates. The Board member will then contact the Boating Facilities Division and provide them with a list of potential hazards to be considered for future marking.

Additional information can be found on the SLA website under **Sebec Lake**.



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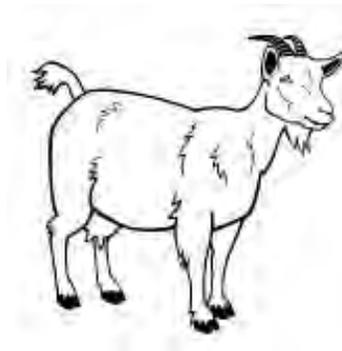
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History of Sebec Lake Area

Long before white settlers make their appearance at the lake, it was certainly inhabited by Indians as shown by the great number of arrowheads and stone implements found along the shore. Their name for the lake was Sebecco. In the 1850s folks from the towns of Dover and Foxcroft could take a stagecoach to the Landing (now Greeley's). Starting in 1860 there were boats offering rides on the lake. In the middle 1800s and through to the mid-1900s, there were many sawmills and log drives on the lake. In the early 1900s, cottages (known in the area as 'camps') were being built on the lake. In 1964, Dover-Foxcroft lawyer Francis Peaks, presented an 800 acre tract of land at the lake to the state to become Maine's 18th state park, to be named Peaks-Kenny. It is tucked back in a large cove (South Cove), a short distance from Greeley's Landing. How has Sebec Lake grown over the years? The first listed number of cottages at the lake was 40 before the turn of the century. Now there are over 900 residences, both seasonal and year-round.

Sebec Lake Statistics

Sebec Lake is about 11 miles long and about 2 miles wide at its widest point, about 6800 acres. The average **water depth** is 42 feet, and 155 feet at its maximum. The **direct watershed** area is 160 square miles, with 21 streams and brooks feeding into the lake, the largest being Wilson and Ship Pond Streams. The **indirect watershed** is 327 square miles. The only **outlet** is the Sebec River; outflow is controlled by a dam used to generate hydroelectric power. Sebec Lake has four towns that border its shoreline: Dover-Foxcroft, Sebec, Bowerbank and Willimantic. Large portions of the shore line are uninhabited. There are three public boat launches around the lake: Dover-Foxcroft (Greeley's Landing), Sebec Village (Cove Road), and Bowerbank (Landing Road). The open water fishing season begins at ice-out, usually in early May, and continues until September 30. It is then illegal to fish for any species until January 1, after freeze-up. Check out our **website** for all things Sebec!

Piscataquis
Chamber of Commerce

Denise Buzzelli
Executive Director
Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce
1033 South St.
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
(207) 564-7533



In case you're wondering....

If you'd like to actually **see** what's happening when you're not around, check out these real-time view webcams: www.sebeclake.net for the Lake and www.sebectec.com/center/ for Dover-Foxcroft.

If you want to generate more traffic for your business, think about **advertising** in this Newsletter which reaches over 1000 camp owners each spring. For 24/7 advertising, put information about your business on our website for only \$50 per year. An added bonus: advertisers get free membership in the SLA. For WEBAds, go to SebecLakeAssoc.com and click on **Businesses**, then **Get Listed** to view the form. For print ads, send content/inquiries to correspondingsecretary@sebeclakeassoc.com. Rates are \$20-\$75, depending on the size of the ad.

Seventeen organizations spent over \$500,000 to **fight invasive plant infestation** of Maine waters last year. Milfoil Sticker revenues provided a maximum of \$5740 for each organization. A bill to increase the sticker fees (LD1626) is under review; the proposal would increase the fee by \$7 for residents and establishes a \$35 fee for nonresidents to fund removal of plants on lakes larger than 10,000 acres. Currently, The Maine Resident sticker is physically attached to the Maine watercraft registration and its \$10 cost is combined automatically with the in-state watercraft registration fee. The Nonresident sticker currently costs \$20.

Note that watercraft registration cost depends on the **residency of the boat, not the boater!** Out-of-state residents who register their boat in Maine pay the "Resident" sticker fee upon registration.

Last July, twenty-five people, including SLA Directors and camp owners representing several lakes, attended a **VLMP workshop on invasive plant identification** hosted by SLA and held at the Foxcroft Academy. With our new identification skills, SLA hopes to initiate patrols around the lake, starting with boat launch areas.

No **invasive plants** have been identified in Sebec Lake to this point. To keep our lake clean, everyone must thoroughly inspect boats, trailers, engines and personal watercraft and remove any wet or dry plant material prior to putting them in the lake. Be on the lookout for any unusual plant in the lake; information can be found at sebeclakeassoc.com; just click on **Sebec Lake**, then on **Invasive Plants**. See Rudy Davis' article **Watching for Weeds** elsewhere in the Newsletter for more information.

The SLA has three new **Directors**, elected at the July 2013 annual meeting. They are **Cindy Woodworth, Joe Guyotte** and **MJ Sheldon-McKenzie**. Cindy will act as Corresponding Secretary and coordinate advertising forms; Joe has agreed to be our advertising representative.

You can purchase **Sebec Lake decals** for your boats or cars by going to the website and clicking on '**Sebec Lake Association**', then '**Dues/Donations/Store**'. The cost is \$2 per decal, plus \$1 for postage and handling for the entire order. Payment instructions are on the site.

Lake Report For 2013 – Bob Hall

We continue to monitor our Lake characteristics including water clarity, lake level and phosphorus concentration. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) provides us with the training necessary to gather the data for water clarity and total phosphorus. The mission of VLMP is to provide protection for the nearly 6,000 lakes in Maine through the acquisition and collection of scientific data, and to raise public awareness about the extraordinary ecological, aesthetic and economic value provided by Maine's lakes.

Lake Clarity. The water clarity in Sebec Lake continues to be very good. During the past season (Jun-Oct) the clarity readings were in the range of 6.0 to 7.5 meters, very close to the 6.8 to 7.5 meters range typically seen during this period.

Lake Level. For the most part the lake level during the May-early Oct, 2013 period was held at the high expectation level ("norm") of 322.8 feet (above sea level).

However, the lake did rise to 2.1 feet above the "norm" on May 27th, and 1.7 feet above the norm on July 4th. These events were anticipated before they occurred and both the hydroelectric power gates at the dam in Sebec Village were fully opened. Due to the voluminous amounts of water entering the lakes prior to these occurrences, excessively elevated lake levels were experienced.

Phosphorus Concentration. We gathered phosphorus concentration data at the site where other data for VLMP the readings are collected in the middle lake. The reading was 4 parts per billion of total phosphorus (corresponding to about one drop in 3400 gallons), a very good number regarding the health of the lake.

Phosphorus is in living things and soil, but when too much enters a lake, it disrupts the balance of life. When additional phosphorus gets washed into lakes, the algae grow out of control (algal bloom-water turns green) reducing the visibility or clarity of the water.

The largest source of phosphorus to Maine lakes is from storm water runoff from camp roads (and town roads), and from residential development. Runoff from these areas may contain from 5-10 times as much phosphorus as runoff from natural forested areas. That is why the most effective way to control the export of phosphorus to lakes is to maintain vegetated "buffers" between developed areas and the lake.

Septic systems may also contribute phosphorus to lakes, but if a system has been properly designed and maintained, the amount of phosphorus that leaves the leach field should be minimal.

Most soaps and detergents that are on sale in Maine do not contain phosphorus. However, fertilizers do, and they can be a significant source to lakes. Generally speaking, lawns don't require fertilizer. A much safer and lake-friendly alternative is to apply lime. Lime causes nutrients that are in the soil to be released to the grass, having the same greening effect as using a fertilizer, but with a much lower impact on water quality. Lime is not a threat to lakes.

If fertilizer must be used, however, you should be aware that phosphorus (the middle number describing the fertilizer blend), is what ends up in the lake after a rain storm. A listing of phosphorus-free fertilizer providers can be found at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/fert/retailer.htm>.

Invasive Plants. We need to be continually vigilant with regard to invasive plants. The most effective (economic and practical) approach for controlling invasive plants is through prevention or early detection. We need to be well-informed about the ways in which plants spread in order to prevent infestations. If one does occur, early detection can reduce the chances that the plant will spread throughout the lake.

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Thank you to the following sponsors for their continuing support of our celebration.

The Shiretown Homecoming Celebration would not be possible without your assistance and you are appreciated so very much! What a wonderful way to showcase our town and bring a weekend of festivity and fun to all who join us in the celebration!



Dover-Foxcroft Shiretown Homecoming Celebration Committee --2013

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Mark your calendars for these summer events....

The **Annual Meeting** of the Sebec Lake Association is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, 2013 at 7p.m. in the Piscataquis Room of Mayo Regional Hospital. The Board of Directors will meet prior to the Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. Parking and entrance is at the rear of the Hospital.

The 2nd annual **Piscataquis Heritage Hot Air Balloon Festival** will be held from May 30 through June 1 at the Piscataquis Valley Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Dover-Foxcroft & Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce. In addition to Hot Air Balloons, the Festival will host local artisans and businesses from small town Maine and Piscataquis County. The Chamber has requests for places to stay; if you are interested in renting your camp, contact the Chamber at 207-564-7533. (<http://phhabf.com>)

Celebrate the taste of Maine's Favorite Dessert at the 2014 **Maine Whoopie Pie Festival** on Saturday June 28, 10 a.m to 4 p.m in downtown Dover-Foxcroft. Dozens of bakers with thousands of Whoopie Pies will be on hand. Sample, purchase and enjoy this uniquely Maine delicacy. Come for the Whoopie Pies, but stay all day to enjoy live music, food, arts and crafts, vendors, and fun activities for the whole family! (<http://mainewhoopiepiefestival.com>)

Dover-Foxcroft Homecoming, Central Hall open house and the very popular Fireworks display on Sebec Lake are scheduled for Saturday, August 2nd. This year's theme is **Celebrating our Northwoods Heritage**. Please note that the Fireworks display is dependent on enough money being raised. Please be generous when asked to contribute to this amazing celebration. The Sebec Lake Association has contributed \$1000 to the Fireworks Fund.

Other events on the calendar: **Sangerville's 200th Anniversary**, June 14th. The **Sebec Village** July 4th parade and other celebration events, the **Piscataquis River Festival** in Guilford on July 26th, the Dover-Foxcroft **Kiwanis Auction** is July 24, 25 & 26, **Bowerbank Days** the week of August 4-9 and the 127th Annual **Piscataquis Valley Fair**, August 21 -24.

Please support these local events! They are all lots of fun and many support local causes.

Did You Know?

When you're at the beach, or when you look off the end of your dock, dive in to the lake, or launch your boat to go tubing, skiing or fishing, do you ever stop to think about how clean, clear and pristine Sebec Lake is? That doesn't happen by accident.

Sebec Lake is one of the cleanest, clearest, healthiest lakes in the State. It ranks in the top 5% of Maine lakes nearly every year. It takes work, vigilance, dedication and a strong lake association to help make that happen. Did you know that the Sebec Lake Association has been in existence since 1971? Its sole mission is to work to keep the lake healthy for people and wildlife alike, and it is one of the most successful and effective lake associations in the State.

SLA's membership includes those who live on the lake and those who visit.

Did you know that the SLA monitors many indicators of the lake's health? The effect of run off, impact of logging, sources of pollution, migration of invasive plants and other species.....all these can quickly impact lake water quality. The SLA monitoring program is one of the best in the State, and it is a model for other associations. In fact, the State DNR uses our data to help manage the lake. The direct actions of the SLA are the first line of defense for the lake.

Did you know, that recently, a program to eliminate a number of dams downstream from the Sebec Lake water way represented a major threat to the Lake's fisheries? The direct actions and input from SLA resulted in changes to those plans to reduce that risk. Few lake associations are this effective.

Did you know that managing the lake water level involves a complex interaction with the Company that owns the dam and Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife? This relationship is led, and fostered, by the SLA.

Did you know that the SLA protects your boat? The SLA is an important communication conduit to the State department that manages and places the markers. SLA has provided input to the State regarding need, location and changes in lake hazard topography.

Did you know that SLA arranges for and sponsors free comprehensive educational programs to teach members how to monitor, and identify invasive species that are dangerous to the lakes' health? We are the first line of defense against invasive milfoils, (Eurasian; Variable) Hydrilla, Zebra mussel, and other non-native threats to the lake.

Did you know that SLA also provides the signage at each boat launch informing and requesting that visitors check their boat, trailer and vehicle for vegetation, and to please clean them before entering our lake? Ever wonder how that big, strong fighting salmon you caught gets that big? The SLA works directly with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to foster a strong, healthy, balanced sport fishing environment, hacritical input in to the overall Water & Wildlife Management planning direct and love to see those majestic Bald Eagles all around the lake? Facilitating a healthy lake habitat with all the elements, including human, in balance requires work. SLA works to make sure that a balance is kept between natural wildlife and human needs and desires.

All of these things, and more, are what the SLA does.

We Need You!!!

However, the SLA is only as strong as it's membership. As time passes, our lake will undoubtedly see new threats, be subjected to other influences, and to outside forces currently un-foreseen.

To continue the long history of success in protecting and defending the beautiful asset that is our lake, we need you to be a member, and get involved. The \$15 annual fee does so much more than help with the annual fireworks.

And joining is easy. Simply fill out and mail the form on the back of this page, or easier yet, go www.sebeclakeassoc.com and join online.

If you are a member already, Thanks! and please consider becoming involved more actively in the Association by getting others to join.

It's your lake ... help keep it great be involved..... join today!

DOVER-FOXCROFT SHIRETOWN HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AUGUST 1 & 2, 2014 CELEBRATING OUR NORTHWOODS HERITAGE



(LOGGING ON THE PISCATAQUIS RIVER – FOXCROFT BRIDGE - July 12 '11)

Join us for our 18th Annual Shiretown Homecoming Celebration!

8:00 am - 2:30 pm * STREET FESTIVAL *

*** FOOD VENDORS * CRAFT VENDORS * LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ***

10:00 am * PARADE * starts and ends at Piscataquis Valley Fairgrounds

4:00 pm * CONCESSIONS * LIVE ENTERTAINMENT *

Municipal Beach at Sebec Lake, Greeley's Landing, Dover-Foxcroft

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT by DJ Steve Pratt, The Music Maker

******FIREWORKS at the Sebec Lake Municipal Beach at dusk******

by Central Maine Pyrotechnics

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Marine Batteries



Sebec Lake Association Website Information

All Sebec Lake property owners receive our **Newsletter** at their home address of record. We try to keep the addresses up-to-date based on the home address in the tax records of each town on the lake and forms submitted by the owners. Please let us know if you are not getting our mailings or have a change of address by filling out the form under **Contact Us** on the SLA website, www.SebecLakeAssoc.com.

Check out our website for **Announcements** of upcoming events and other timely information. The topics are listed on the right hand side of the homepage.

Thanks to Gary Soucy, our Webmaster, in addition to **paying your dues** via PayPal, you can now make **donations** in Memory of an individual or to the General Fund as well as purchase Sebec Lake **decals** reminiscent of those created over a decade ago, suitable for boats and cars. The decals are \$2 each, plus \$1 for postage and handling for the entire order. Make sure we have your current mailing address by filling out the address form under **Contact Us**.

If you prefer to order decals by mail, send a note indicating the number of decals wanted with a check for \$2 for each decal, plus \$1 postage and handling for the entire order to **Sebec Lake Association** PO Box 303, D-F, ME 04426. Please mark the envelope 'Decals' for faster service.

You can **list your business** on our website for \$50 per year. Full page ads in our annual spring Newsletter are \$75. Go to the SLA website and click on **Local Businesses**, then on **Get Listed** and fill out the form.

You can see data and graphs related to **Lake Water Levels**, **Water Clarity** and **Water Tests** on our website under **Sebec Lake**.

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*A special Thank You to all those that were patient with us
after our loss last year~Jody L. Arno*

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