



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Preventing the spread of invasive species—one boat at a time!



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Have you ever met a Lake Host Inspector? As of the end of August, more than 70,000 boaters had met at least one of our approximately 700 royal blue-shirted individuals working at 100 of the most highly-used boat ramps across the state this summer.

During summer 2017, the 16th season of the program, our Lake Hosts continued to teach and show boaters how to prevent the spread of invasive species, and also provided information about the new 'Clean and Drain' law requiring boaters to remove all hitchhiking fragments of all plants and animals—invasive and native—and to drain vessels and keep drain plugs open/out between waterbodies.

Typically, Lake Hosts ask boaters some questions to find out how much they know about aquatic invasive species, where they last launched their boat, and if they took the time to clean, drain, and dry their boat since the last waterbody. Lake Hosts then ask to show the boater how to check the boat and trailer to see if there are any hitchhiking specimens of plants or animals. Lake Hosts help the boater remove any hitchhiking specimens that are found, and any suspiciously-invasive specimens are sent to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for identification purposes.

By late-August, our Lake Hosts had captured 20 specimens of invasive species hitchhiking on a boat or trailer that had just been taken out of the water or was about to be launched into the water. These 'saves' include zebra mussels found on a boat at Lake Sunapee. Here's the story:

On Saturday, June 10, Lake Host Inspector Deb was working at the busy Town of Sunapee motorized boat launch in Sunapee Harbor. A boater with a sailboat arrived at the ramp and was readying to launch. After asking a few standard questions, Deb began an inspection of the boat, and ultimately ended up helping the boater remove approximately 100 juvenile zebra mussels from the hull of the boat. Thankfully, the boat had been out of the water for approximately three years and was dry so the mussels disintegrated when pinched, and were, therefore, not viable. The boat was then launched into the lake.

This was a scary find, on many accounts—the boat had zebra mussels on it that had come from Lake Champlain in Vermont, the boater had not cleaned the boat, and the boater did not know about aquatic invasive species!

We're so glad that this boater met Lake Host Inspector, Deb!



More than 1,000 boaters met at least one of our North Country Lake Host Inspectors in Pittsburg during summer 2017. (While some programs use trained dogs to help sniff out aquatic invasive species, this friendly dog was just visiting!)

LAKESIDE

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NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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From the President...



This past summer was, for me, the equivalent of the 1967 'summer of love.' No, I did not hitchhike to California, but I did drive all summer, as did others from the NH LAKES staff and some of our board members, to meet with our lake association partners all over the state who love their lake and work hard to protect it. On many weekends, we spoke at multiple lake association meetings, community fairs and festivals, and intimate lakeside gatherings. We gave presentations about aquatic invasive species, the lifecycle of lakes, lake-friendly landscaping techniques, and more. We engaged hundreds of young people in the Watershed Warrior Program. We visited with many of our 700+ Lake Hosts stationed at boat ramps throughout the state. And, we provided our local lake association partners with a variety of organizational tools and techniques to help strengthen and sustain their impact.

But, it was true love I got to witness and hear about. How else can you explain the commitment of Lake Hosts (especially the volunteer kind!) showing up at the boat ramp at 5:00 a.m.? Or, volunteers collecting monthly water samples and driving them away from the lake to the laboratory in Concord? Or, 20 to 40 busy, and likely over-committed adults, spending the better part of a precious Saturday or Sunday going through the business of their lake associ-

ation? There's several more labors of love we learned about and witnessed during our travels. Our collective mission is to ensure the future health of our lakes, but your commitment, dedication, and, yes, your love of lakes is truly inspiring.

One of the things that I talked about with many of our lake association partners this summer was the impact of runoff water on the health of our lakes. Runoff water from rain and snow melt washes over rooftops, driveways, roads, and manicured lawns (and more), picking up pollutants and ultimately dumping these pollutants into our lakes. It seems every summer we hear of more and more algae and toxic bacteria blooms occurring in our lakes—blooms that are likely due to, or exacerbated by, polluted runoff water. We can't wait any longer to address the threats polluted runoff water poses to the quality and enjoyment of our lakes and their long-term health.

Here at NH LAKES we are laying the foundation to expand our conservation, advocacy, and outreach programming to provide you with more resources and our lakes with more protection from polluted runoff and other threats. Our ability to increase our capacity and expand our programs is the result of your generous support—thank you. Along with your support, we look forward to your involvement, as long-term lake health is dependent upon how we all live near lakes and how we play on and in them. We know the solutions won't always be easy, but we are confident if we work together with intention, we can keep our lakes healthy—for the love our lakes this work must be done.

On behalf of NH LAKES,

Tom O'Brien
President & Policy Advocate

Healthy, Clean & Safe Lakes for Future Generations!

Please make a legacy gift to NH LAKES today through your will or revocable living trust. It is a simple way to support the NH LAKES mission and help to protect our lakes into the future. If you wish to name NH LAKES in your will or estate plan, we should be named as: *New Hampshire Lakes Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under the laws of New Hampshire, address 14 Horseshoe Pond Lane, Concord, NH 03301.* Our tax identification number is 22-2668396. If you have chosen to include NH LAKES in your estate plans, please let us know.

For information on sponsorship, contact the
NH LAKES office at (603) 226-0299.

NH LAKES Advocacy Update

by Tom O'Brien, President & Policy Advocate, NH LAKES



For all of you who advocate in some way for your lake or with NH LAKES for all the lakes in New Hampshire, thank you! Advocacy is a team sport with victory often going to the team that simply suits up and

shows up. During the past few months, we have had to show up many times to address several legislative issues and to support our local association partners and members on issues near and dear to them.

The State Legislature: Last June, we thought that Senate Bill 119—a bill that would allow for the extension of dock length without state agency review or oversight for safety and navigational issues—was headed to Governor Sununu's desk, so we urged the Governor to veto it. Fortunately, the bill didn't make it that far. The committee of conference chair, who knew well the sentiments of his committee and lake advocates like NH LAKES, did not sign off on the bill, thereby 'killing' it. But, in September, we received notice that the bill was back in committee for more study, so we will continue to weigh in.

We have also attended legislative study committee meetings on House Bill 195, a bill that would reduce property line setbacks for all temporary seasonal docks from 20 feet to 10 feet. We do not support this proposed over-arching change. We acknowledge there are instances in which longer docks should be

allowed or when a hardship case should allow for docks closer than 20 feet to a property line. However, we believe piecemeal tinkering with a complex program like the Department of Environmental Services Dock and Shoreline Structures Program and efforts to reduce agency oversight in these matters are not in the best interest of the public or the resource we are trying to protect. If changes to the dock program are needed, we believe the program should be reviewed as a whole and citizen, agency, and other key stakeholder input should be considered.

Around the Pond: This was a busy summer on the lakes of New Hampshire. Captain Dunleavy of the New Hampshire Marine Patrol commented that his officers hadn't been as busy since the early 2000s. At NH LAKES, we heard from dozens of callers and from almost everyone we met with lakeside that this was, indeed, a busy year on the lakes. I think some great weather contributed to this uptick. But, whatever the reasons, our lakes were busy, and, unfortunately, in some cases, this caused problems.

Wake Boats: One frequent concern we have heard expressed across the state is about the impact of wake boat activity on shorelines and other forms of on-water activity. A wake boat utilizes a ballast tank or bag filled with water which causes the boat to ride lower in the water, displacing water so as to enlarge the wake produced—a wake that, under certain conditions, can be 'surfed.' We have received reports of wakes produced by these boats swamping other boats and causing damage to

shoreline structures. It appears the popularity of wake boats in New Hampshire is on the upswing. Before establishing an advocacy position relative to wake boating, we will review nationwide data to better understand the scope of the problem and the impacts that these boats may have on safety and the environment.

On Water Activity: Another concern we have heard about is the impact of large crowds of boats and boaters in certain shallow 'sandbar' areas of our lakes. While there are rules limiting how close together and how many boats can raft up, there are no regulated limits regarding how many boats can be on any water body or within a particular area of a water body. Complaints from nearby landowners have included loud music, late-night activity, offensive language, and disregard of other people's experience and of the lake environment. We continue to work with landowners, state agencies, local officials, lake associations, businesses, and boaters to find compromises to minimize the conflicts.

Tell us! It's that time of year when we invite our members to share their lake management and protection policy priorities with us through our annual advocacy survey. The survey can be accessed on the home page of our website at www.nhlakes.org. Please complete the survey by the end of November so we can best represent you in the upcoming legislative session. And, if you aren't already signed up to receive the *NH LAKES Advocacy Alert!* Eburst, you can sign up at www.nhlakes.org or by emailing us at info@nhlakes.org.

In Memoriam

Hershel David Sosnoff of Silver Lake, New Hampshire, passed away on Saturday, July 1, 2017. 'Hersh' was, among many things, a water quality monitoring volunteer for the Silver Lake Association of Madison (SLAM). He was president of

SLAM when he died, and, over the years, he held many other volunteer positions with the organization and within his community. "Hersh was an exceptional teacher," recounted Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President, "I will always remember him for

presenting the most useful and understandable water quality report to a local lake association that I have ever witnessed."

Hersh taught many about lake stewardship and he will be missed.

More Watershed Warriors Protecting Our Lakes!

by Bonnie Lewis, Watershed Warrior Program Coordinator, NH LAKES, Summer 2017

“Who knows what a unicycle is?” This was my favorite question to ask during summer 2017, my first summer presenting the NH LAKES Watershed Warrior Program. A short discussion about other wheeled conveyances would follow, accompanied by some looks of puzzlement on the faces of my young participants. It was then that I would follow with, “Now, who knows what the water cycle is?” The evidence of the connections they were making showed on their faces and we were off and running!

In July and August, I brought the Watershed Warrior Program to ten events at a variety of venues in the Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee Region, and an additional nine events were hosted at venues statewide by other NH LAKES staff and partnering local lake associations. All told, we brought this self-contained, hands-on, activity circuit to 515 individuals at summer youth camps, library programs, town celebrations, and farmers markets during summer 2017. Not unlike circus folk, we would arrive with everything we needed packed in our cars, including a 10-foot by 10-foot tent, tables, and numerous bins which were full of all the supplies required to present our five station program. While traveling through the circuit, youth (and often their parents!) experienced hands-on fun while learning about lake ecology and simple everyday things that they could do to help keep lakes healthy.

Station 1 - How Are Lakes Formed?

Participants learned that it is important for biologists who study freshwater—Limnologists—to understand the formation of waterbodies because the way in which a lake was created provides clues about how to keep it healthy. In addition to finding out how many lakes there are in New Hampshire and their approximate ages, participants were given clues to solve a series of mysteries: how were Lake Winnepesaukee, Profile Lake, Horseshoe Pond, and Moore Reservoir formed?

Station 2 - How Does Water Move

Around? It was, of course, at this station that I would start with my unicycle question. Then, participants imagined that they were water molecules traveling across the globe through the various phases of the water cycle,

rolling a die and adding colored beads to a pipe cleaner at each stop they made. At the end, each participant had a colorful beaded bracelet to describe their journey, reminding them of the cyclic nature in which water moves. Participants discovered that freshwater is a limited resource and that there are many things people can do to help conserve and keep water clean.

Station 3 - Reduce Watershed Runoff and Pollution!

Presented with a funnel decorated with images of rain clouds, snow-capped mountains, and rivers running down hillsides, at this station participants learned that a ‘watershed’ is the drainage area to a water body which acts much like a funnel by sending runoff water—and all that it carries—from the high spots to the low spots and, ultimately, into the lake. Participants then had the opportunity to get their hands a little dirty with oil, fertilizers, and trash (actually, a variety of powdered drink mixes and confectionary sprinkles!) to see how runoff water pollution can travel across the landscape and funnel into a lake. Participants realized that that they live, play, and go to school in a watershed, and learned there are many simple actions that everyone can take to reduce the amount of pollutants that flow into our lakes.

Station 4 - Prevent the Spread of

Invasives! “Frogs. Lily pads. Fish. Loons!” Participants at this station began by listing off

the animals and plants that they enjoying seeing in and near lakes. They proceeded to make a model of an aquatic food web by connecting together photographs of plants and animals according to who eats whom. Then they were introduced to plants and animals that we don’t want to find living in our lakes—aquatic invasive species. While playing a card game based on the traditional game of War, participants learned that invasive plants and animals can disrupt the food chain and also make lakes unsafe for swimming and boating. Participants were eager to practice cleaning, draining, and drying a boat so that they could help their family and friends know how to prevent aquatic invasive species from hitchhiking from water body to water body.

Station 5 - Take the Watershed Warrior

Pledge! At the end of the circuit, participants had the opportunity to become a ‘Watershed Warrior’ by pledging to incorporate at least one lake-friendly practice into their daily routine. Participants received an official badge, certificate, and activity packet to take home to share what they learned with family and friends.

See You Next Summer? If you are looking to help foster the next generation of lake stewards in your community, contact NH LAKES to schedule the Watershed Warrior Program for your town event, community festival, or youth camp!



The NH LAKES Watershed Warrior Program visited the Newport Day Camp at Sunapee State Park Beach on a beautiful day in early August.

Spiny Water Flea: Invader on the Horizon

by Kirsten Nelson, Biologist, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Our beautiful lakes and ponds are critical to the relatively high quality of life we experience here in New Hampshire. As a NH LAKES member or supporter, you know this. Many other Granite Staters and visitors know this too. Because of this knowledge, aquatic invasive species awareness and prevention efforts are relatively widespread in New Hampshire. NH LAKES Lake Host Inspectors check boats and boat trailers for hitchhiking plants and animals at public access areas statewide, hundreds of volunteers keep watchful eyes over our waters through water quality and plant mapping programs, and ‘milfoil’ is a common word in many households. There’s an invasive species, however, that many Granite Staters may not be familiar with—the spiny water flea.

A crustacean native to Europe and Asia, the spiny water flea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) was first found in the United States in the Great Lakes in the early 1980s, likely introduced via ballast water from transatlantic cargo ships. The invasive zooplankton—a small, weakly swimming organism that drifts with water currents—spread through the upper Midwest and, in 2009, was detected in an Adirondack lake in New York. Over the next four or five years, the spiny water flea spread into more waterbodies, including Lake George in New York near the Vermont border and the Champlain Canal System. In 2014, the spiny water flea was detected and confirmed in Lake Champlain. According to the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake Winnepesaukee is the fifth most common waterbody a boater has visited prior to visiting Lake Champlain within a two-week period. The popularity of both Lake Champlain and Lake Winnepesaukee suggests that it may be only a matter of time before the spiny water flea is introduced into New Hampshire’s largest waterbody.



A cluster of the invasive spiny water flea fouling a fishing line. (Photo by Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant.)

The spiny water flea can reach a length up to 15 millimeters, mostly due to a long, barbed tail. Research suggests this invasive crustacean drastically alters the invaded zooplankton community. In some lakes, it has caused the decline or elimination of native zooplankton species. It is thought to be harmful to fish populations by not only competing directly with larval fishes for zooplankton prey, but also by being an undesirable food source due to their long, barbed tail. It is highly mobile throughout the water column and clusters of the spiny water flea have been known to foul fishing lines, eye-lets of fishing rods, nets, and trawls.

Aware of this threat to New Hampshire’s largest lake, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) launched a pilot program in 2016 to monitor for the spiny water flea in Lake Winnepesaukee. On four dates, DES staff navigated to previously-determined deep spot locations in nine different basins and collected water samples using large (250- μ m) and small (80- μ m) mesh-sized zooplankton nets.

Nineteen total samples were preserved and processed at the Jody Connor Limnology Center at DES. No spiny water flea specimens were detected in the 2016 pilot study. Additional sampling was conducted during summer 2017 and the samples have yet to be analyzed.

Currently there is no known way to remove or control the spiny water flea once it becomes established in a waterbody, so prevention efforts are critical. Here is what you can do to prevent the spread of the invasive spiny water flea, as well as other invasive species:

- Drain live wells and bilge water from your boat before leaving a waterbody.
- Empty all water from bait buckets onto land and not into a body of water.
- Do not move any fish, including bait, from one lake to another.
- Dry all boats and equipment for at least 5 days before entering a different body of water.
- If you must enter a new waterbody within 5 days, wash your boat, trailer, tackle, and other recreational gear with hot water, then dry. Flush your motor’s cooling system, live wells, etc. Consider alternate anchor ropes, nets, and equipment.
- Learn to identify spiny water fleas and other aquatic invaders. Report potential sightings to DES.

Together we can help protect New Hampshire’s waters from the spread of invasive species, including those on the horizon!

To read the DES spiny water flea report, please visit: www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/r-wd-17-15.pdf.

Your Vehicle Purchase Could Support the 2018 Lakes Congress!

Fourth Generation Steward Amanda Grappone Osmer has committed Grappone Automotive’s support to the 2018 Lakes Congress if they can tie the sale of 10 vehicles to NH LAKES! If you have purchased a vehicle from Grappone since June 2017, please let us know.



The Beaver Deceiver Solution

by Anita and Harry Flanagan, Board of Directors, Granite Lake Association

Did you know beavers are one of the very few species other than humans that have the ability to substantially alter their environment for their benefit? Members of the Granite Lake Association know this all too well, and we suspect members of other lake associations around the state know this too. At Granite Lake, beavers and their fascinating ability to build dams recently created a water level problem which resulted in periodic water quality problems in the lake. Here's our story about how our local lake association, a state-wide conservation organization, a state agency, and a business worked together to solve the beaver problem at Granite Lake.

Granite Lake, a relatively high quality water body covering approximately 230 acres, is located in southwest New Hampshire within the towns of Stoddard and Nelson. The mission of the Granite Lake Association, which held its 68th annual meeting during summer 2017, is to “serve Granite Lake’s scenic, recreational and environmental interests by promoting the preservation and protection of its water quality and other natural resources.” One of the primary ways association members have been working to protect the lake is by taking actions to limit the amount of sediment deposited into the lake. Part of the Granite Lake 2,432-acre watershed is located within the Nye Meadow Refuge, a 45-acre natural wetland managed by New Hampshire Audubon. The wetland system, a prime source of fresh water for Granite Lake, is home to a variety of wildlife, including beavers and

many bird species. The wetland is located along State Route 9, a very busy major highway, which is managed by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT).

Over the years, beavers had made an impressively large dam at the western end of Nye Meadow, creating an impoundment of water large enough for them to build a complex network of dens to raise their young. The dam had an unintended, but positive effect, on the water flow into Granite Lake, as it served as a natural filter, slowing the flow of water from the surrounding watershed and minimizing the amount of silt and pollution that flowed into the lake.

However, since beavers continue to add to the height of their dams as long as they detect water flow, they kept making the dam higher and higher, and, consequently, the water level in Nye Meadow higher and higher. This resulted in conflict with the DOT which is mandated to maintain the water level in the meadow so that it does not exceed the height of the Route 9 drainage pipes. The obligation of DOT is to maintain the safety and integrity of Route 9 which is accomplished, in part, by not allowing the roadway drainage system to be flooded with water or to be damaged by water freezing in the pipes during the winter. Because of these considerations, over the years, DOT was forced on many occasions to lower the water level in Nye Meadow by mechanically breaching the beaver dam with a back hoe—a practice that allowed silt and pollutants that had accumulated behind the dam to pour into Granite Lake.

Members of the Granite Lake Association did some research and set up a meeting with Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers International, a company based in Vermont with the goal of making the unavoidable interactions between humans and beavers less expensive and more valuable and enjoyable. Skip described how a flow control device—commonly referred to as a ‘Beaver Deceiver’—could be installed to

allow for a set flow of water out of Nye Meadow that would help keep water levels low enough to prevent flooding of the Route 9 drainage system.

The association met with Kevin Belanger of DOT and Philip Brown of Audubon. Both thought the installation of a flow control device could be a suitable solution to the problem and they worked together to set the recommended water level height of Nye Meadow. The Granite Lake Association, with funding support from Audubon, purchased the ‘Beaver Deceiver’ device for the modest sum of \$3,000, and members of the association helped Skip with the installation.

We are pleased to report that the ‘Beaver Deceiver’ is now successfully functioning to the satisfaction of all parties involved. In fact, the project has been a win-win on many levels! DOT does not have to spend time and money periodically breaching the beaver dam, roadway integrity and safety is better protected from the flooding and damage to draining pipes, the deposition of sediment and pollutants into Granite Lake has been reduced, and the water level in Nye Meadow is maintained at a consistent height that will support wildlife, including the beavers! We hope that our experience will serve as an example for other lake associations dealing with a similar problem.

To learn more about this project, visit the Granite Lake Association website at granitelakenh.org/projects.



Over the years, beavers have built a dam at the outlet of Nye Meadow which is located upstream of Granite Lake and adjacent to Route 9 in Stoddard/Nelson.



Members of the Granite Lake Association helped install a flow-control device to maintain the water level in Nye Meadow.

2017 John F. Morten Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship

On August 9, Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President, and Board members from NH LAKES and the Pleasant Lake Protective Association gathered in New London to present the 2017 John F. Morten Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship to John B. Wilson.

"To win this award, your work has to meet the highest standard," explained Stu Lord, NH LAKES Chairman. "John Wilson's commitment and actions on behalf of Pleasant Lake, and all the lakes in New Hampshire, was above the rest of that of a very worthy group of nominees."

John is a long-time member, board member, and past president of the Pleasant Lake Protective Association of New London. He initiated and continues to participate in many lake and watershed monitoring and management activities and committees at Pleasant Lake. He has also been active in New London town government for several years.

In addition to his extensive involvement with his local lake association and community,



On August 9, John B. Wilson of the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association was presented with the 2017 John F. Morten Award. (From left to right: Tom O'Brien, NH LAKES President; Stu Lord, NH LAKES Chairperson; John Wilson, Pleasant Lake Protective Association Vice President; Peter Winship, Pleasant Lake Protective Association President.)

John has played a key role in statewide lake stewardship. He served on the NH LAKES Board for three years (2011-2014), during which time he chaired the organization's Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, a committee he still serves on today. He was the citizen champion of New Hampshire Senate Bill 89, about which Tom O'Brien comment-

ed, "John's work on Senate Bill 89 was key to its passage, and, today, our loons are more protected from lead fishing jigs and sinkers."

John is a recipient of the Loon Preservation Committee's Spirit of the Loon Award (2012), and, along with his wife, Kittie, a recipient of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Merit Award (2014) for being an advocate for the protection of lakes, watersheds, wildlife, and especially loons.

The Morten Award was established in 2002 in memory of the late John F. Morten (1914-1989), in recognition of his lifelong work to protect New Hampshire's lakes and ponds as one of the founders of the New Hampshire

Lakes Association. This award is given annually to a person nominated by his/her peers who has had a significant impact on the protection of lakes and ponds in New Hampshire. To find out how to nominate an individual from your community, visit www.nhlakes.org/morten-award.

What your old boat or vehicle can do for our lakes!

Thinking of getting a new boat for next summer? Did you know you can donate your old boat to NH LAKES and avoid winter storage charges? In addition to boats, the NH LAKES vehicle donation program will accept your old car, truck, SUV, motorcycle, or airplane!

Make your vehicle donation now, before January 1, 2018, and you may qualify for a 2017 tax deduction. An agent will handle the process from start to finish, and you will receive a tax receipt when your vehicle is picked up. Call the NH LAKES vehicle donation hotline at 855-500-RIDE (7433) and you will be guided through the donation process. It's easy and makes a difference to us.

Free yourself from the hassles of selling your vehicle, get a tax deduction, and give something to NH LAKES, all at the same time. Thank you!



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Mother and Father loon and a friendly visitor in the rising fog on Pleasant Lake in New London one September morning.

Photo by Kittie Wilson.