



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

# NH LAKES 2009

## *Legislative Agenda*



*Members dedicated to protecting lakes*

Volume XVII, No. 3, Fall 2008

### **NH LAKES to initiate legislation restricting phosphorus levels in automatic dishwasher detergents.**

NH LAKES will be initiating legislation during the 2009 session to regulate the amount of phosphorous contained in automatic dishwasher detergents, a significant source of pollution in our lakes. This will close an existing regulatory loophole that has existed for these products.

In 1994, NH LAKES initiated a successful bill that limited the amount of phosphorous in household cleaning products to “trace amounts,” meaning that the phosphorous in these products could not exceed 0.5% of their content by weight. Products that were included in this prohibition included soaps, clothes washing detergents and household cleaners.

*Why was this an important legislative victory?* As a limiting nutrient in our lakes, excessive levels of phosphorous can have a detrimental impact on lake ecology. Phosphorus can encourage overabundant plant and algal growth that eventually depletes oxygen levels in lakes and leads to premature eutrophication (“death” of a water body). Even though phosphorous is a naturally occurring element in our state’s lakes and is vital to the organisms that live in lakes, it can be introduced into our lakes in excessive quantities through human activity. Poorly maintained septic systems are one of the most significant contributors of phosphorus from humans, as untreated effluent from malfunctioning systems can flow off the land and directly into our public waters.

In recognizing phosphorous contributions from human activities as an issue of concern for lakes, the 1994 products restriction was an important step taken by the state legislature in reducing human phosphorous inputs to septic and sewer systems. By eliminating a significant contributor of phosphorous pollution at its manufacturing sources, we were able to greatly reduce its input to our lakes.

However, while significant reductions from laundry detergent and other such cleansing products were accomplished through the 1994 phosphorous restriction, similar progress in reducing phosphorous reductions in dishwasher detergents has not been achieved. When the 1994 legislation was enacted, a successful argument was made by industry representatives that it was not economically or practically feasible to place such a phosphorous content restriction on automatic dishwasher detergent products. At that time, the market for this type of product had not emerged at the same level as other cleaning products which contained only trace amounts of phosphorous.

Thankfully, over the course of the past 14 years, the automatic dishwasher detergent manufacturers have slowly shifted their production of these products towards compositions containing less phosphorous. Further, it has been shown that lower-phosphorus automatic dishwasher detergents perform equally as well as those that contain higher levels of phosphorous, a benefit to manufacturers and consumers alike. The larger shift towards moving completely away from products that contain phosphorous has now made it possible to bring legislation that will restrict the phosphorus content in automatic dishwasher detergents and close the regulatory loophole that has existed. During the 2009 legislative session, we will need your support in passing this bill and eliminating this significant source of phosphorous pollution in our lakes.

### **NH LAKES to monitor and advocate for legislation relative to the leasing of state-owned shorefront property.**

You may remember that in 2006 NH LAKES successfully initiated legislation (HB 710) that established a commission to study the practice of leasing state-owned shorefront property. The legislation was initiated in response to concerns over riparian buffer development, loss of

*Legislative Agenda, continued on page 3*

## LAKESIDE

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# From the President...



Each year it seems we surpass the success we enjoyed during the previous summer. This summer was no different, with a record-breaking season of successful events and programs including: Lakes Congress, LakeFest, Lakeside Living Expo, Lakes Legacy parties in Portsmouth and on Lake Winnepesaukee, as well as our Lake Host™ and Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> programs. Another successful summer has ended, and fall is now upon us. Soon, winter will be icing our lakes.

Each fall, NH LAKES brings you our priorities for lake advocacy. All summer we traveled around the state and listened to your concerns. We waited for your responses to our annual

“Lake and Pond Issue Survey” and the results helped shape our 2009 legislative agenda. In the upcoming year, we will focus our efforts on water quality protection, with a legislative initiative designed help to alleviate the problems that phosphorus pollution brings to our lakes.

This time of year provides a great opportunity for you to give something extra to NH LAKES, above and beyond your spring membership contribution, through our annual fund. Our annual fund supplies the needed resources to help continue to ensure your quality of life along our lakes. And, while you are visiting with friends and relatives during the upcoming holiday season, please share your enthusiasm about NH LAKES and encourage them to share in our investment in the future—you may even want to provide them with a NH LAKES gift membership.

Thank you for your continued commitment to NH LAKES and have a wonderful holiday season!

### NH LAKES gratefully acknowledges the support of:

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You ask. We listen. *Together we solve.*

whose generous contributions underwrite this issue of *Lakeside*.

public access, variations in leasing price standards by agency, and compliance with state environmental laws. This November, the HB 710 commission is due to publish its findings and recommend legislative changes to the process of leasing state-owned shore-front property. NH LAKES has been vigilant in its advocacy efforts to greatly improve the state's current leasing practice. During the upcoming legislative session, NH LAKES will monitor the recommendations that are published by the HB 710 commission and will actively participate in the related legislative process.

*If you have questions about the phosphorus bill and/or other policy measures that we are working on, please contact Derek Durbin, NH LAKES Policy Director, at [ddurbin@nblakes.org](mailto:ddurbin@nblakes.org).*



Mirror Lake, Woodstock

## 2008 Lake and Pond Issue Survey

Every year, NH LAKES asks for input from its members and friends on what they feel are the most important issues affecting New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. In the Summer *Lakeside*, we included the "2008 Lake and Pond Issue Survey" which identified five categories of water-related issues and asked each person surveyed to rank the issues individually on a scale of "1" (being most important) to "5" (being not important). Numerous completed surveys were returned to us, and we calculated an average importance score for each issue, as shown below.

### 2008 Lake & Pond Issue Survey Results

<b>Most Important</b> 1	<b>Very Important</b> 2	<b>Important</b> 3	<b>Somewhat Important</b> 4	<b>Not as Important</b> 6
<b>Issue</b>		<b>Average Rank</b>	<b>Importance Level</b>	
<b>Non-Point Source Pollution</b>		<b>2.0</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	
<b>Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Other Organisms</b>		<b>2.2</b>	<b>Very Important</b>	
<b>Balanced and Safe Recreational Use of Our Lakes</b>		<b>3.4</b>	<b>Important</b>	
<b>Point Source Pollution</b>		<b>3.5</b>	<b>Important</b>	
<b>Ground and Surface Water Extraction</b>		<b>4.2</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	

### Specific Issue Concerns

The following is a list of the top two specific concerns written in under each issue category identified in the survey:

#### Non-Point Source Pollution

1. Improperly maintained septic systems
2. Pesticide and fertilizer runoff from lawns

#### Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Other Organisms

1. Milfoil infestations
2. Didymo ("rock snot") infestations

#### Balanced and Safe Recreational Use of Our Lakes

1. Dangerous boat speeds
2. Dangerous jet ski operation

#### Point Source Pollution

1. Direct industrial discharges
2. Municipal wastewater treatment plant discharges

#### Ground and Surface Water Extraction

1. Water extractions by bottling plants
2. Increased development

NH LAKES sincerely thanks all of you who took the time to fill out our survey. Your answers and comments were considered when deciding which issues to support and pursue during the upcoming legislative session.

# The Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> Helps Protect Lake Massasecum!

“Wow, after 20 years, someone has finally figured out how to fix this mess!” commented a long-time Bradford resident as he walked by French’s Park beach on a warm sunny morning this past summer. Until mid-July of 2008, every time it rained significantly, polluted water would run off an expansive dirt parking lot, down a steep dirt road and pathway, across the sandy town beach, and into Lake Massasecum. As a result, for years, the rocky and eroded access path to the beach had been very dangerous for beach users, and runoff water polluted the lake with soil, sand, and other debris. Fortunately, this is no longer the case at French’s Park, thanks to collaborative effort initiated by the Town of Bradford and NH LAKES!



*The Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> work crew of Bradford*

Three full workdays were kicked-off with a visit from Jeffrey Schloss, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Water Resource Specialist, who taught the crew to figure out how runoff water flows across the landscape and discussed ways the drainage patterns at the site could be improved. During the next two days, under the guidance of NH LAKES staff, the crew helped build infiltration trenches on both



*Before the project, the access path to the beach was hazardous for foot travel and polluted runoff water flowed across the beach and into the lake.*

In the spring of 2008, the Town of Bradford, with grant writing help and a letter of support from NH LAKES, received a \$4,700 State Conservation Committee Moose Plate grant to improve the water quality of Lake Massasecum by implementing a drainage improvement project at French’s Park. NH LAKES, through its Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> Program, developed a drainage improvement plan for the park and approached the Lake Massasecum Improvement Association (LMIA) about donating financial support to the project so that a crew of local students and a teacher, acting as crew leader, could be paid to construct the new drainage features. The LMIA, having been concerned about the runoff problems affecting the beach and the lake for many years, was very enthusiastic about the project and donated \$2,500!

The Town of Bradford Community Center Director pulled together a work crew of one science teacher and five students from Kearsarge Regional High School. Once the Town Road Agent installed two roadway drainage culverts at the park, and had purchased (with the Moose Plate grant money) the project materials, the crew got to work!



*Infiltration trenches installed on both sides of the park roadway allow runoff water to sink into the ground instead of flowing into the lake.*

*Lake Massasecum, continued on page 5*



**Infiltration steps allow any runoff that reaches the bottom of the hill to sink into the ground before flowing across the beach and the steps provide a safe way for visitors to walk down to the beach.**

sides of the steep dirt road leading from the parking lot to the exit of the park, and constructed a set of infiltration steps along the pathway to the beach. On the third day, Ayn Whytemare, owner of Found Well Farm in Pembroke, delivered shrubs and other perennial flowering plants to the site and she instructed the crew how to install the plantings correctly. By the end of the day, the crew had planted an attractive vegetated buffer on the upper side of the park access road.



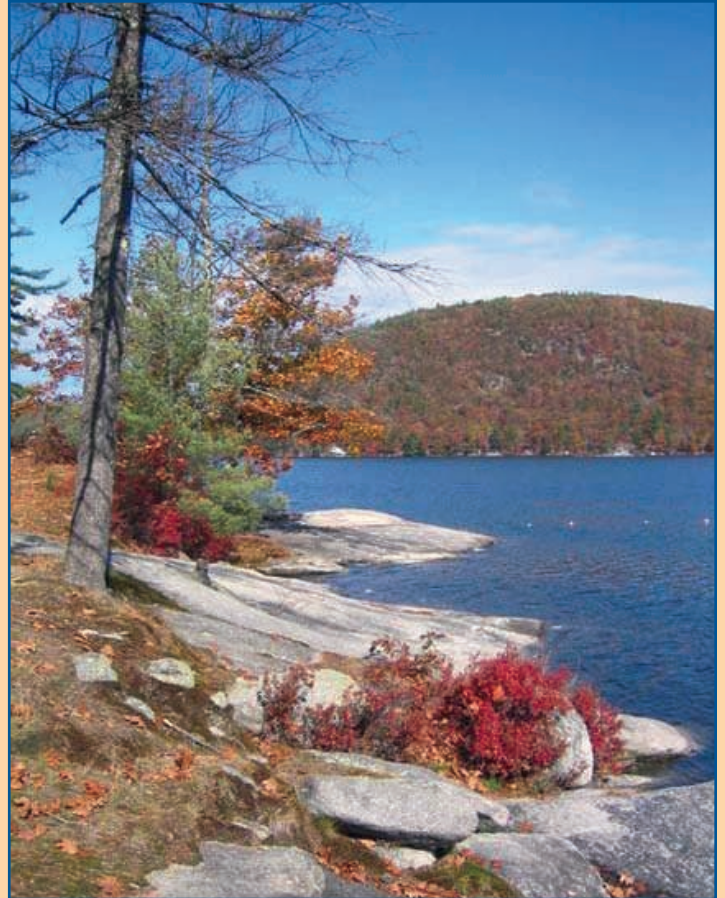
**A vegetated buffer and mulch installed on the upper side of the park roadway reduce the amount of water that flows onto the roadway by absorbing water and also help improve the quality of runoff water by soaking up pollutants.**

So far, the project has been successful—not only has the park been “beautified,” but the roadway and beach are no longer eroding and contributing pollutants to the lake every time it rains! During the next year, NH LAKES and the Town of Bradford will monitor the effectiveness of the drainage improvement features, and, if necessary, will work with the Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> crew to install additional drainage improvement to provide even more protection to the lake.

If you know of a similar drainage problem on a town-owned property that is affecting the water quality of your lake, please email NH LAKES at [info@nhlakes.org](mailto:info@nhlakes.org) with a description of the problem and attach photos if possible. NH LAKES may be able to work with your town, association, and local students to help improve the quality of your lake!

*The NH LAKES Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> Program is an educational program designed to actively involve youth in shoreline and watershed restoration projects to improve the quality of New Hampshire’s surface waters. In addition, NH LAKES hopes that the students who participate in the Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> will develop a lifelong interest in the responsible stewardship of natural resources.*

*NH LAKES is currently developing additional partnerships and identifying funding sources to implement a statewide Lake Conservation Corps. If you would like to become a program partner or sponsor, please contact NH LAKES at (603) 226-0299 or [info@nhlakes.org](mailto:info@nhlakes.org) or donate on-line at [www.nhlakes.org](http://www.nhlakes.org).*



Lake Massasecum, Bradford

# Lakes Legacy Society

*A campaign to double Legacy membership*

This fall, NH LAKES enters into a special campaign to double current membership in our highest giving category: Lakes Legacy Society. Membership in Legacy is determined by cumulative annual giving of \$500 or higher.

*Why double Lakes Legacy?* This fall and winter, we have the opportunity to advance the Lake Host™ Program, combating the spread of invasive aquatic plants like variable milfoil, and to add new Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> project sites for 2009 in Meredith and Laconia. Winter funding will also enable us to address the growing stormwater erosion problem polluting our lakes. These are no small tasks! By doubling our Legacy membership, we will have the funds we need to push these exciting efforts forward in preparation for 2009.

Because of their incredible help funding our organization, we honor Legacy Society members in many ways. This year, the annual Legacy “Thank You” party took place on the Mount Washington on October 8, as we treated members to a three-hour cruise of beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee to see the fall

landscape from the water’s vantage point. In 2009, Legacy members will be invited to a special auction preview cocktail party at the second annual LakeFest on July 23.

In February, NH LAKES introduces its first annual IceFest—a celebration of lakes in winter! Legacy members are invited to a society-only champagne brunch to kick off the day’s outdoor events.

Our Lakes Legacy members receive two gift memberships—a great way to build support for lake protection efforts across the state. Legacy Society members also enjoy the benefits of regular membership, such as the quarterly *Lakeside*, discounts at preferred businesses, legislative email alerts and listing in the Annual Report. Plus, we represent your lake protection concerns in the state legislature!

Please join our Board of Directors, and other dedicated members, by raising your annual gift to a level of the Lakes Legacy Society.

Your Legacy gift will bring us closer to our urgent goals for 2009, and will do even more to protect the lakes we love.

## Ice!

It won’t be long now until the first edges of frost crystallize your lake into its winter phase—and you will soon be able to move across the lake in new ways.

As the water under lake ice remains in motion, so too does NH LAKES move: bringing forward new legislation for the coming year, advancing youth conservation projects around the state, preparing for next summer’s Lake Host™ Program and applying all its resources towards continuing lake protection.

Your gift to our annual fund propels us forward through the winter! The annual fund is the unrestricted support we rely on to keep moving through the season of ice. It moves beyond our spring membership drive to show your dedication to our shared desire: to protect the quality of life along New Hampshire’s lakes.

This year, you have the opportunity to direct your annual fund donation towards our education or advocacy efforts. Your year-end gift will underwrite the basic operational needs of NH LAKES and provide crucial support to either of these two departments. Simply designate your gift by writing in “education,” “advocacy” or “both” on the remittance envelope enclosed in this newsletter.

Your gift makes all the difference.

## Membership Matters

*New Members – June 18 through September 9, 2008*

### Individuals

Cliff Cabral • Ms. Jacquie Colburn  
Mr. Brian Eisenhauer • Hollie Hazzard  
Mr. Richard C. Hill • Katherine Holder  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Sandra Holton  
Mr. James Houle • Mr. Matt Ladewig  
Ms. Eva Loomis • Mr. Andrew B. Partridge  
Mr. Gary R. Spaulding • Mr. Frank Spinella  
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### Grants

Bob & Jean Murphy Family Fund  
Children’s Fund of the Upper Valley



**Merrymeeting Lake**

(Photo courtesy of Bill Hemmel, [www.lakesregionaerials.com](http://www.lakesregionaerials.com).)

# Lakes in Fall

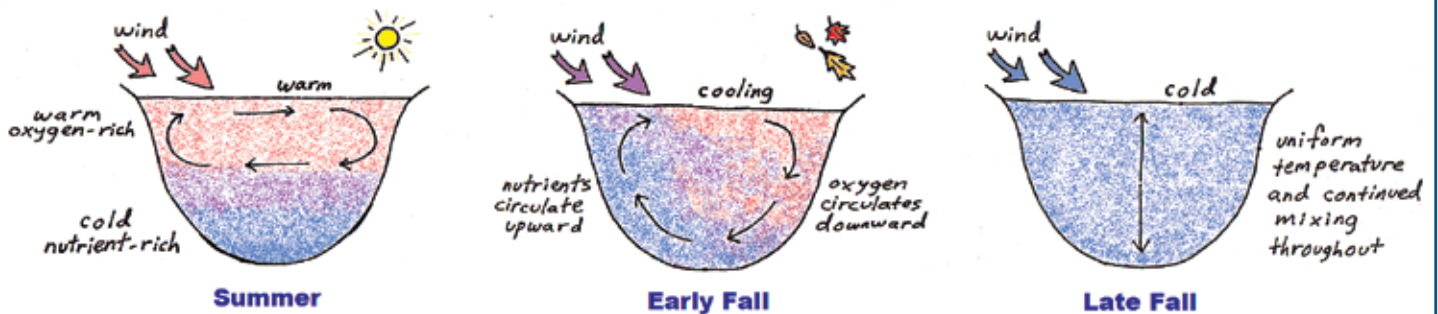
We can feel the seasons change as a nip in the air at night, and we can easily see it, too, in the seasonal tapestry change in trees. Autumn is a time of change in New Hampshire, of finishing up those warm-weather projects and attempting to plan for an increasingly unpredictable, but doubtless chilly, winter. The lakes are experiencing seasonal change as well. Now, the strong summer sun and warm breezes no longer heat the rippled lake surface and this heralds a total breakdown in the unseen summer structure of the lake's water column.

During the summer, the water in most New Hampshire lakes separates into thermal layers, with the warmest, least dense and most oxygen-rich layer towards the lake's surface

and the coldest, densest, and most nutrient-rich layer towards the bottom. These layers are like oil and water; the cold, dense lower layer cannot mix with the warm, buoyant upper layer. By summer's end, each of these layers, separated from sources of rejuvenation (including wind and waves at the surface, and decomposition and the release of nutrients at the lake bottom), becomes deficient in what the other has in abundance. Oxygen is scarce below, nutrients are scarce above. But autumn's cooling temperatures change the structure of the water column so that the surface waters cool, become denser, and sink. This begins a simple circulation of water, allowing the previously thermally-stratified lake water to mix, mingle, and share resources.

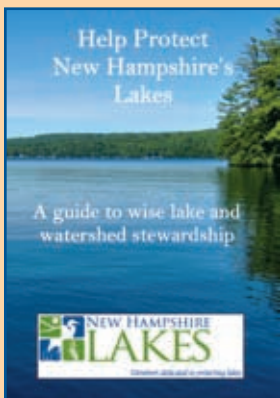
Oxygen is mixed from the surface to the lake bottom, allowing fish to roam further into the depths, out of anglers' reach, and nutrients are moved throughout the water column from the bottom to the surface, sometimes clouding the water and causing sulfurous odors for a short time.

Thus, the so-called "fall turnover" replenishes the lake just in time for winter. This is important for everything living in the lake, because, when ice forms a cap over the water sometime between November and January, there will be neither replenishment nor mixing of oxygen and nutrients until spring, when another seasonal lake turnover occurs.



Lake circulation patterns change as the seasons change.

## Looking for a Holiday Gift?



Are you searching for that perfect holiday gift for a fellow lake enthusiast? A NH LAKES gift membership, t-shirt, or our newest publication "Help Protect New Hampshire's Lakes" could be the perfect gift!

A 12-month gift membership can be purchased at one of these levels:

- \$50 - \$99 (Friend)
- \$100 - \$249 (Advocate)
- \$250 - \$499 (Conservator)
- \$500 - \$999 (Steward)
- \$1,000 - \$2,499 (Patron)
- \$2,500 - \$4,999 (Guardian)
- \$5,000+ (Leadership)



T-shirts are available in three attractive colors in many sizes at \$10 each, and the publication "Help Protect New Hampshire's Lakes" is available at \$5 each. For more information, and/or to purchase one of these items, contact NH LAKES at (603) 226-0299 or info@nhlakes.org.

# NH LAKES Board Update

At our annual meeting in June, Ted Kramer of Silver Lake graciously completed his two-year term as Chairman on a high note with the completion of an extremely successful LakeFest and Lakes Congress, while Patricia Sherman of Newbury kicked-off her inauguration as the new Chairman. Other NH LAKES Officers for 2008-2009 include: Carol Granfield of Meredith, Vice-Chair; Muriel Robinette of Gilmanton I.W., Secretary; and Fred Szmít of Spofford, Treasurer.

## New Directors

At the annual meeting, the membership was introduced to four new board members: Laurie Beeson, George Dana Bisbee, Kathleen DiFruscia and Patrick Griffin.

Laurie resides in Holderness and brings a strong background of nonprofit work in development and marketing to the Board. He currently serves on the Development and Membership Committee and the Marketing and Public Relations Committee.

Dana lives in Concord and brings a strong legal understanding to the area of policy and govern-

ment relations work to the board. He currently serves on the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee.

Kathleen resides in Windham and brings a unique understanding of law and the legal process of managing lakes, as well as a keen understanding of water quality to the board. She currently serves on the Education Committee.

Patrick lives in Manchester and brings a sharp knowledge of public policy and advertising to the board. He currently serves on the Marketing and Public Relations Committee.

Welcome Laurie, Dana, Kathleen and Patrick!



## Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, November 15, 2008**: Watershed Conference, Grappone Center, Concord.
- **February, 2009**: First annual NH LAKES IceFest.
- **Friday, June 26, 2009**: 2009 Lakes Congress, Colby Sawyer College, New London.
- **Thursday, July 23, 2009**: 2009 LakeFest, Inn at Church Landing, Meredith.

For more information on these upcoming events, contact NH LAKES at (603) 226-0299 or [info@nhlakes.org](mailto:info@nhlakes.org).

## Other Board Changes

We honor and thank departing board members Tom Deans of South Conway, Mark Rouvalis of Concord, Priscilla Gemmill of Hebron, and Alida Millham of Gilford. Thank you all for your service, and best wishes on your new endeavors!

*New board members Kathleen DiFruscia (left) and Laurie Beeson (right).*

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*Members dedicated to protecting lakes*

## Inside this issue

2008 Legislative Agenda

From the President

2008 Lake & Pond Issue Survey Results

The Lake Conservation Corps<sup>SM</sup> Helps Protect Lake Massasecum!

Ice!

Lakes Legacy Society

Membership Matters

Lakes in Fall

Looking for a Holiday Gift?

NH LAKES Board Update

Upcoming Events

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