

NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION (NH LAKES) Lake Host™ Program

Goal: To prevent the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic plants (such as variable milfoil) in New Hampshire's lakes and ponds.

Target Audience: Resident and out-of-state recreational boaters and anglers who launch on public waters, all lake users, lawmakers and the general public.

Objectives: To place trained Lake Hosts at public motorized boat launch sites to: educate visiting boaters about exotic plants by distributing brochures, answering questions, and completing a brief boater survey; conduct courtesy boat and trailer inspections of vessels both entering and leaving public waters; show boaters where to look for hitch-hiking plant fragments on boats and trailers and encourage them to conduct self-inspections; remove and properly dispose of all plant material found, and; send samples of suspicious plants removed from vessels to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for identification.



Program Need: Exotic aquatic plant infestations make recreation in and on lakes and ponds dangerous and unpleasant, they disrupt the ecological balance of waterbodies, they reduce shoreline property values through the reduction of aesthetic and recreational uses of the water body, and they are difficult and expensive to control once they infest a waterbody. The main way exotic invasive aquatic plants spread in New Hampshire is through the transportation of plant fragments on boats and trailers from infested water bodies to uninfested water bodies.

Background: In 2002, NH LAKES received a two-year grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as a result of an appropriation secured by U.S. Senator Judd Gregg. The grant supported a comprehensive exotic aquatic plant education and prevention program involving the creation of two videos, the development of plant identification cards, and the staffing of public motorized boat ramps with trained Lake Hosts.

Also in 2002, state legislation was passed to raise boat registration fees by three dollars, effective January 1, 2003. The money collected by this increase, approximately \$300,000 per year, would fund milfoil and other exotic plant prevention and research activities through a grants program administered by NHDES. Up to two-thirds of this amount would be available annually as grants to support exotic aquatic species education and prevention activities (such as the Lake Host™ program). In the winter of 2003, NH LAKES applied for, and was awarded, a \$165,000 grant from NHDES to administer the Lake Host™ program that summer. Subsequent state grants for 2004 through 2011 are indicated below.

Lake Host Program Statistics 2002 – 2011 (as of 11/03/11)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of Participating Organizations	38	46	51	56	57	68	70	71	74	74
Number of Paid Lake Hosts	102	149	190	175	204	221	240	236	230	219
Number of Volunteer Lake Hosts	59	167	216	318	353	429	470	420	517	475
Number of Lakes and Ponds with Lake Hosts	37	45	50	56	56	64	70	71	74	74
Number of Ramps Covered	45	59	61	61	66	83	88	86	90	89
Number of Inspections Conducted	15,878	26,583	31,629	34,878	34,573	44,183	55,924	53,756	62,295	67,646
Number of "Saves" (exotic plants found)	4	7	16	54	54	157	224	297	267	39
Federal Funds	\$ 260,100	\$10,000	\$85,300	\$35,000	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$89,206	\$89,206	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$0	\$165,000	\$150,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$161,000	\$123,333	\$133,367	\$169,000
Private Foundations								\$4,000	\$22,000	24,000
Local Funds (hard cash and cash-equivalents)	\$37,155	\$112,382	\$151,238	\$200,756	\$183,179	\$292,017	\$334,061	\$341,535	\$393,273	\$404,751
NH LAKES Youth Employment Program Match								\$32,944	\$23,000	Still determining
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$297,255	\$287,382	\$386,538	\$420,756	\$485,179	\$594,017	\$584,267	\$591,018	\$571,640	\$597,751

Additional Funding Sources: State grants require a dollar for dollar match in hard cash and/or cash equivalents. Beginning in 2003, NH LAKES, as the grant recipient, required an increasing match each year from local groups participating in the program until 2005, and it has stayed level since 2005 (25% in 2003; 33% in 2004; 50% in 2005 through 2010, and 100% in 2011). "Local funds" indicated in the chart below include both hard cash to extend ramp coverage and cash-equivalents in volunteer time. In addition, the following supplemental funding has been secured since

the program began from the following sources: EPA New England Office (2003); NOAA (2004, 2006, 2008, 2009); Watershed Assistance Grant (319 Clean Water Program); EPA's Healthy Communities Grants Program (2005); Badger Monadnock Fund (2010, 2011); Saul O'Sidore Foundation (2010); TransCanada (2009, 2010, 2011); and an anonymous private foundation (2010). In 2009, the NH LAKES Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, provided students to work as Lake Hosts. In 2010 and 2011, the SYEP, funded by private foundations including the Wellborn Ecology Fund, the Byrne Foundation, the Samuel P. Pardoe Foundation, and the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund provided students to work as Lake Hosts. In 2011, the Alden Young Trust also funded the program.

As a result of the program, the following 'saves' have been made of exotics entering, or leaving, a waterbody:

- **Beaver Lake** (Derry): Fanwort (2008, 2009), Variable milfoil (2008, 2011)
- **Bow Lake** (Northwood): Variable milfoil (2003, 2005), Eurasian milfoil (2005, 2009)
- **Clough Pond** (Loudon): Variable milfoil (2005)
- **Connecticut River** (Hinsdale): Eurasian milfoil (2010), European naiad (2010)
- **Conway Lake** (Conway): Variable milfoil (2011)
- **Crescent Lake** (Acworth): Eurasian milfoil (2003), Fanwort (2003)
- **Crystal Lake** (Enfield): Water chestnut (2005), Eurasian milfoil (2010)
- **Eastman Lake** (Grantham): Eurasian milfoil (2010)
- **Gilmore Pond** (Jaffrey): Water chestnut (2005)
- **Goose Pond** (Canaan): Eurasian milfoil (2007), Variable milfoil (2009)
- **Granite Lake** (Nelson/Stoddard): Curly leaf pondweed (2009, 2011); Eurasian milfoil (2011); Variable milfoil (2011)
- **Great East Lake** (Wakefield): Eurasian milfoil (2006, 2008), Fanwort (2010), Variable milfoil (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)
- **Highland Lake** (Stoddard): Eurasian milfoil (2005)
- **Jeness Pond** (Northwood): Variable milfoil (2005)
- **Lovell Lake** (Wakefield): Variable milfoil (2006, 2007)
- **Lake Monomonac** (Rindge): Eurasian milfoil (2004); Curly leaf pondweed (2004), Variable milfoil (2004, 2005, 2007, 2008)
- **Lake Ossipee** (Ossipee): Eurasian milfoil (2010), Variable milfoil (2009, 2011)
- **Lake Potanipo** (Brookline): Fanwort (2010), Variable milfoil (2010, 2011)
- **Lake Sunapee** (Sunapee): milfoil (2005), Eurasian milfoil (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), variable milfoil (2007)
- **Lake Waukegan** (Meredith): Eurasian milfoil (2003), Variable milfoil (2007, 2008)
- **Lake Wentworth** (Wolfeboro): Variable milfoil (2008)
- **Lake Wicwas** (Meredith): Variable milfoil (2010)
- **Lake Winnepesaukee** (Meredith, Alton, Gilford, Moultonborough, Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro): Fanwort (2003, 2007); Variable milfoil (2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)
- **Lake Winnisquam** (Laconia): Variable milfoil (2008)
- **Little Lake Sunapee** (New London): Variable milfoil (2011)
- **Merrymeeting Lake** (New Durham): Variable milfoil (2007, 2010)
- **Newfound Lake** (Bristol): Eurasian milfoil (2006, 2009, 2010, 2011), Fanwort (2003, 2006), Variable milfoil (2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), Water Chestnut (2009, 2010)
- **Northwood Lake** (Northwood): Curly leafed pondweed (2007), Eurasian milfoil (2007), Variable milfoil (2008, 2010, 2011)
- **Nubanusit Lake** (Nelson): Curly leaf pondweed (2009), Eurasian milfoil (2002, 2004), Variable milfoil (2007, 2008)
- **Ottarnic Pond** (Hudson): Fanwort (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008), Variable milfoil (2006, 2007, 2010, 2011)
- **Pawtuckaway Lake** (Nottingham): Common reed (2007), Curly leaf pondweed (2010), Eurasian milfoil (2009, 2010, 2011), Fanwort (2009, 2011), Variable milfoil (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010), Water chestnut (2008)
- **Pleasant Lake** (Deerfield): Eurasian milfoil (2011); Variable milfoil (2004, 2007)
- **Pleasant Pond** (Francestown): Curly leaf pondweed (2009), Eurasian milfoil (2006); Variable milfoil (2011)
- **Robinson Pond** (Hudson): Fanwort (2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011); Variable milfoil (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)
- **Silver Lake** (Madison): Variable milfoil (2002, 2004, 2006)
- **Lake Skatutakee** (Harrisville): Eurasian milfoil (2005)
- **Spofford Lake** (Chesterfield): Eurasian milfoil (2002, 2005, 2008, 2011)
- **Squam Lake** (Holderness): Curly leaf pondweed (2009), Eurasian milfoil (2007)
- **Suncook Lake** (Barnstead): Variable milfoil (2009)
- **Swanzy Lake** (Swanzy): Variable milfoil (2011)
- **Webster Lake** (Franklin): Eurasian milfoil (2011), Fanwort (2010), Variable milfoil (2009)

For More Information: To participate in the Lake Host program, or to become a program sponsor, contact NH LAKES at (603) 226-0299, or info@nhlakes.org. More information can also be found at www.nhlakes.org.