

LAKESIDE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Lake Association!

by Glyn Green, Crystal Lake Association, Enfield



Members dedicated to protecting lakes

Volume XIX, No. 1, Spring 2010

Lake Association! These two words bring to mind different things for different groups. The lake association, be it a small group attempting to protect a single body of water or a larger statewide association of concerned citizens, is the single most influential tool we have to affect government regulation locally, or at the state or federal level. Speaking for myself, the local lake association represents both a population concerned with the protection of our lake and a social and communication network that is *essential* to the continued education and support of our residents.

Ours is an association that predates my involvement in the lake community by many years. Over time, the association had become less active and the membership less representative of the resident population. In the mid-1990s, a small group of new officers decided that it was time to evaluate the association's purpose and goals. Article II of the Association Bylaws states that;

The object of this Association shall be:

- 1. To encourage social activities among its members.*
- 2. To improve and protect the interests and the welfare of Crystal Lake, Enfield, and its environs.*

When I first read this I was puzzled at the order in which the objectives of the association were listed—it seemed to me that the lake and environs were the prime purpose of the association. Then, I realized that without the social aspect of the association the welfare of the lake would have few advocates. **You must involve the residents before you can accomplish the protection and improvement of the lake or its environs.** For this reason, we began to look into ways that we could appeal to the residents, both seasonal and permanent, to get them involved and interested in the association and its goals.



Games at the annual picnic keep the kids coming back.

We settled on an annual association picnic as the first step. In years past, the association had held a summer picnic each year, but, over time, it had atrophied and then died. In our effort to revive the celebration, we intended that this be a family-oriented gathering; thus, no alcohol consumption or animals were allowed. We provide a roasted pig, hot dogs and hamburgers. My wife, Shirley, and I provide ice cream sundaes and each family brings a side dish to share. The first year we had what we thought was a good turnout for the picnic—approximately 75 people attended. The second year we were pleased to find attendance increased twofold! Each year finds our group increasing in both size and enthusiasm—we now use about nine gallons of ice cream for sundaes! Over the past 12 years, we have added to our program—a brass band, organized games for the young folks (some are a little older than you might think!) and a white elephant swap table are among the many attractions we have added.

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From the President...

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Spring is in the air—and the water! With Lake Winnepesaukee 'officially' iced-out on March 24, we have enjoyed an early rejuvenation this year—various shades of green now dot the landscape and the blue ice-free lakes remind us that summer is just around the corner. Unfortunately, spring rains bring stormwater runoff and lake quality problems. With over 900 lakes and ponds located throughout New Hampshire, how can we possibly keep up? Well, we rely on you—our members. You are the local advocates, working tirelessly to promote and protect your favorite 'special' lake. Whether you volunteer with the UNH Lay Lakes Monitoring Program, the NHDES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (celebrating 25 years this summer!), the Auxillary Marine Patrol, or the NH LAKES Lake Host Program, your lake needs you.

The best way to give back to your lake is by joining your local lake association. Collectively, working together, we all have a common goal of keeping New Hampshire's lakes healthy and clean for ourselves, our children and grandchildren. NH LAKES has always had a strong commitment to helping individual lake associations: how to start one, where to obtain water monitoring equipment, how to reduce erosion and who to contact if there's a problem. While lake associations have concerns unique to their lakes, there are common statewide problems, too, such as preventing the spread of exotic aquatic plants and jet ski, mooring and speed limit issues. NH LAKES serves as a resource for both local and statewide issues.

No lake association on your lake?
No problem. NH LAKES has helped

create and mentor many local lake associations during the past 18 years. Perhaps it's the sense of giving back to the lake that calls you. What better way to celebrate with friends and neighbors than to get together at meetings to discuss lake issues—and solve problems.

And believe me, there are a plethora of lake problems. Here's a sampling: toxic algal blooms, invasive aquatic weeds, stormwater pollution, erosion and sedimentation, crowding, high or low water elevation, fisheries and wildlife impacts, and emerging contaminants like pesticides and personal care products.

So, are you ready to volunteer and join your local lake association AND NH LAKES? If you're not sure, give us a call and we can talk about it. Together, we will ensure the long-term ecological, aesthetic, recreational and economic viability of New Hampshire's lakes while fostering the next generation of lake stewards. If you are not an NH LAKES member, please consider joining. If you are a member, please renew your support this spring through our annual membership drive and share your enthusiasm about NH LAKES with your friends and neighbors, perhaps by providing them with a gift membership.

Thank you for your continued commitment to NH LAKES and have a wonderful spring.

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Does Your Lake Have a Mooring Problem? Ours did!

by Kathleen Paine, Bow Lake Camp Owners Association

In 1987, the State of New Hampshire passed RSA 270:61, which is a law regarding the mooring of boats on public waters. This law, created to protect lakes from unregulated moorings, initially protected five of the largest lakes in New Hampshire. Those five lakes were Winnepesaukee, Winnisquam, Squam, Sunapee and Newfound Lake. In 1988, by amendment, the legislature added Ossipee Lake to the list of protected lakes.

The Problem

Bow Lake is located in the towns of Northwood and Strafford and is approximately 1,000 acres in size. Until 1998, there hadn't been many problems with moorings on Bow Lake, although the number of moorings seemed to be increasing. That year, a group from the Northwood side of Bow Lake asked the Bow Lake Camp Owner's Association (BLCOA) and the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) for help to regulate the growing number of moorings.

The number of complaints about moorings on Bow Lake was increasing along with the number of moorings. Some of these complaints included people swimming to get to their moored boats, congestion of boats within the coves, unsafe/non-regulation moorings, an increase in noise and an inability to locate the owner of a mooring.

The Strategy

Starting in 1998, the BLCOA and NH LAKES submitted several pieces of legislation that would have protected all bodies of water in New Hampshire from unregulated moorings, but these efforts did not achieve success.

A grassroots group, along with the BLCOA, organized to advocate moorings regulation on Bow Lake. This group held meetings to plan ways of building support for moorings protection and the BLCOA invited speakers from various state agencies to speak at their annual meetings to explain mooring issues.

The group spoke with the New Hampshire Department of Safety regarding the number of actual complaints they had received about moorings on Bow Lake and met with the Department to conduct an accurate count of existing moorings on the lake—this count was documented at 118.

The concerned parties attended and testified at legislative hearings and invited members of the New Hampshire legislature to cruise Bow Lake to see the moorings first-hand. After this cruise, a public hearing was held in the local Grange Hall to give the community an opportunity to speak with the legislators and have their voices heard.

The Solution

Finally in 2008, NH LAKES initiated and successfully passed RSA 270:61-a, Petitions to

Require Mooring Permits. RSA 270:61-a allows 25 property owners of affected towns to petition the Department of Safety for a hearing for mooring protection on their lakes.

Soon after the passage of the law allowing the petition process, people from the towns of Northwood and Strafford, with the help of NH LAKES, submitted their petition for a hearing to the Department of Safety. In November of 2009, a public hearing was granted and was held at the Bow Lake Grange Hall. The Department of Safety reviewed testimony, and, in January 2010, determined that Bow Lake met the criteria for moorings protections.

I am pleased to report that Bow Lake will be protected under RSA 270:61, effective October 2010, and will now benefit from a well-developed and organized moorings program run by the state of New Hampshire's Department of Safety!

If your lake has a mooring problem, or other problem that may require a legislative solution, contact Jared Teutsch, NH LAKES President and Policy Advocate, at (603) 226-0299 or jteutsch@nblakes.org.



Moorings on Bow Lake.

Lake Association, continued from page 1

With our annual picnic moving forward and growing in attendance, we began to look for other ways to help build the community spirit we knew was essential to the health and growth of our association—what about an annual cleanup? In our small town there is a community organization, the Enfield Village Association (EVA), that holds a town-wide cleanup each Memorial Day weekend. The object is to clean up all the trash deposited along the town roadways during the winter months. We decided to incorporate a Crystal Lake cleanup day in conjunction with this to further foster the community spirit within our association. This event is now an anticipated social gathering—seasonal residents come up for the weekend just to be a part of the cleanup effort and to socialize. We begin the day with a gathering of our people for “coffee, pastries, and socialization.” For the past few years, the size of our group has been much larger than the rest of the town combined! To add to the attraction, EVA provides prizes for the most interesting or unique piece of trash found along the road. The large group of folks makes for fun and short work and everyone



The Crystal Lake Association cleanup crew is ready to go!

enjoys the day immensely and feels good about cleaning up their watershed.

We have recently instituted an Independence Day Boat Parade on the lake.

Permits for the parade are easy to apply for and we thought this would be fun, so we held our first parade a few years ago. The response was fantastic—not only did we have a lot of people out on the lake with boats taking part in the parade, we had a large number of residents along the shore viewing, waving, and taking photographs. And, even though we were inundated by rain and hail in 2009, everyone is looking forward to 2010 and another opportunity to parade around the lake!

Each year we hold a raffle of donated items from local people and businesses. We sell tickets from late June until early August culminating in a prize drawing at our annual meeting. We have many talented and artistic people in the community and we typically receive exciting donations ranging from woodwork pieces to amazing oil paintings and watercolor prints. Our local merchants are always generous and provide gift certificates and gifts. With the drawing held at our annual meeting the attendance is always great.

We communicate with our members regularly. We have instituted an extensive email list so we



Here's the lead boat in a recent Boat Parade.

can contact our neighbors regarding lake news, missing or found items, and forward items of interest to all. This has been a great communication tool for us and we continue to increase the number of people on our list.

We participate in statewide lake protection programs and organizations. The Association is involved in the NH LAKES Lake Host™ Program, the University of New Hampshire Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Weed Watchers Program. Our association is a NH LAKES member and we are continually recruiting our members to become NH LAKES individual members as well. And, we actively monitor our resident Loons and are pleased to report that they raised two chicks in the summer of 2009!

The Crystal Lake Association of Enfield has developed into an active group of lakeside residents who truly care for each other and the interests and welfare of Crystal Lake and its environs. And, we are always looking for new ways to have fun and become better friends—if you have any suggestions, please let NH LAKES know!

It's time to renew your membership with NH LAKES

Please remember to renew your membership in NH LAKES this spring during our membership drive. The first round of letters went out in late-March. You can return your renewal information in the remittance envelope enclosed with your letter or in this newsletter, or you can renew online at www.nhlakes.org. When you renew your membership, you help promote and invest in lake protection, becoming an integral part of our highly successful programs like Lake Host.

With your renewed support, NH LAKES will continue to work toward a shared goal of keeping our lakes and watersheds healthy and protected.

2010 Legislative Session Update

NH LAKES offers information through its publications to educate and advocate for lake issues. The following bills reflect our, and your, proactive efforts to help manage and protect our lakes and ponds through key legislation this session. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.nhlakes.org.

Creation of a Septic System Commission (House Bill 1298)

This bill would have established a commission to review all the issues relating to septic systems in New Hampshire, including new technology that would provide smaller, more efficient alternatives. Due to legislative rules, HB 1298 was voted 'Inexpedient to Legislate' by the New Hampshire House of Representatives. NH LAKES will bring this bill back in 2011.

Restricting Phosphorus in Residential Lawn Fertilizer (House Bill 1299)

This bill would have prohibited the sale and distribution of residential lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus. Phosphorus has a significant detrimental impact to lakes and rivers, often acting as a fertilizer for aquatic vegetation, leading to overabundant plant and algal growth. Unfortunately, HB 1299 was defeated in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. NH LAKES is committed to this issue and will continue to work to reduce phosphorus in lawn fertilizers.

Establish Purchasing Alliances for Affordable Insurance (Senate Bill 408)

This bill would allow nonprofits and small businesses to form purchasing alliances to bring down costs associated with health insurance. Nonprofits provide many of the services to New Hampshire citizens, but the rising costs associated with health insurance have been a burden that is preventing some organizations from fulfilling their mission. This bill will help alleviate those costs by establishing more affordable insurance premiums. This bill passed the New Hampshire Senate and, at the writing of this article, was before the House of Representatives.

Improve Funding for Exotic Aquatic Weed Prevention Programs (like Lake Host™) (Senate Bill 442)

This bill revises language to include a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the of the funds raised through boater registration fees for exotic plant management go toward prevention grants, recognizing that a total of \$4 for every boat registration goes toward prevention now (up from \$3 before). This bill passed the New Hampshire Senate and, at writing of this article, was before the House of Representatives.

If you have any questions regarding these bills, or if you would like to become a NH LAKES legislative volunteer, please contact Jared Teutsch, NH LAKES President and Policy Advocate, at jteutsch@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299.

You won't want miss Lakes Congress 2010!

Make sure you save the date of **Friday, June 25, 2010**—you won't want to miss NH LAKES' 2010 Lakes Congress! This annual all-day educational conference and networking event will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, in Holderness, just steps away from the beautiful, and famous, Squam Lake.

This seventeenth Lakes Congress, with the theme "Lake Management and Protection in Action," offers an excellent opportunity for up to 200 lake enthusiasts, lake association members, state agency personnel, researchers, lake and watershed management professionals, and political leaders to exchange information, ideas, and experiences and introduce new approaches, products, and services to help better manage and protect lakes and watersheds.

The plenary session will feature a renowned sociologist/anthropologist who recently published a book about his PhD research conducted at Squam Lake involving the importance of preserving old camps and open spaces. Senator Judd Gregg, one of NH LAKES' most dedicated supporters, has been invited to speak at lunch.

More concurrent sessions and topics will be offered at this Congress than ever before! Among the approximately 20 session choices, two different educational boat tours on Squam Lake, a hands-on Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act session about vegetation requirements and limitations, and a Geographic Information Systems and Global Positioning Systems for lake monitoring and watershed management session will be offered.

Don't miss the 2010 Lakes Congress—it will be the best Congress yet!

For a flyer with registration information, keep an eye on your mail, call (603) 226-0299, or visit our website at www.nhlakes.org.



The 2010 Lakes Congress will be held at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center at beautiful, and famous, Squam Lake.

Photo courtesy of Bill Hemmel, www.lakesregionaerials.com.

“So, what can I do about the geese on my shoreline property?”

by Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES Education Director

“So, what can I do about the geese on my shoreline property?” This is one of the most common questions I am asked during the summer when I travel around the state to talk with lake associations about how they can better protect, and improve, the health of their lake.

It seems that Canada Geese are becoming a more and more common sight around New Hampshire's approximately 1,000 lakes and ponds. While these beautiful birds typically migrate in the fall, isolated populations may reside along New Hampshire's shorelines year-round. In the spring, usually in March and April, these birds nest near the shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers and streams, and lay approximately three to six eggs per nest. It has been reported that a single goose can live more than 24 years and can weigh approximately 12 pounds!

Canada Geese can pollute the lake and can make you sick!

Believe it or not, biologists have discovered that one goose can consume up to four pounds of grass per day, creating about three pounds of fecal matter daily! This fecal matter makes grassy areas and beaches along the shoreline unappealing and, even worse, pollutes nearby waterbodies by accelerating the growth of plants and algae blooms. In addition, this fecal matter can make those who recreate in the polluted waterbodies sick by introducing the swimmer's itch organism



While Canada Geese are beautiful birds, they can pollute lakes and ponds and make swimmers sick.

and *E.coli* bacteria into the water and by possibly causing toxic cyanobacteria blooms in the waterbody to become more frequent and severe. For these reasons, you should avoid contact and ingestion of water in areas frequented by geese.

If you have a goose problem, here is what you should do.

You need to make your property less attractive to geese. Luckily, the most simple and most effective thing you can do is also the healthiest thing you can do for your lake—plant a vegetated buffer consisting of native shrubs and bushes on your property along the entire shoreline. Geese love a mowed, lush lawn that leads right up to the edge of the lake. They prefer to hang out on the lawn and eat grass while having easy access to the water in case a predator (such as yourself or your dog!) comes down the hill. This vegetation will not only obstruct the bird's view of the lake from your property, its roots will reduce the amount of soil erosion occurring along the shoreline and will reduce the amount of storm-water runoff from your property which pollutes the lake. If you need help constructing a vegetated buffer contact NH LAKES—our Lake Conservation CorpsSM Program may be able to help!

If you must have grass, keep it at least six inches high. If you find any nesting material on your property, as long as it isn't being actively used, remove it. (You'll need a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to tamper with an active nest with eggs or young in it. For more information, visit www.fws.gov and/or call the Concord, NH, office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at (603) 223-6832.)

And, of course, if you are feeding the geese, you must stop!



Canada Geese like to munch on grassy lawns that lead right down to the shoreline of waterbodies.

Other things you can do.

In addition to creating vegetative buffers, implement two or more of the strategies listed below to make your property unattractive to geese:

- Create barriers between the grass and the water. The barrier can be as simple as a piece of string that they can not step over or walk under. Snow fences also work well.
- Spray your lawn with methyl anthranilate (a registered chemical that is a derivative of grape-juice and acts as a bird repellent); the chemical will give the grass an unpleasant taste making the grass undesirable to eat.
- Install an overhead grid wire to prevent the geese from landing and nesting in that area.
- While many agencies recommend using noise harassment (propane canons, starter pistols, air horns, recorded predator noises), unless your neighbors live very far away, NH LAKES does not recommend this management technique. Instead, consider using a solar powered flashing light which simulates the eye reflection of predators and disrupts the geese's ability to sleep. Geese may no longer consider the area “safe” and may move to another suitable area.
- Dogs may also deter geese from landing or roosting on your property. A barking dog guarding the property may be effective.

For more information.

Visit the following websites: www.awaywithgeese.com, www.canadagoosemanagement.com and www.canadageese.org/nlcontrol.html.

Call for Nominations: 2010 Morten Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship



In September 2002, a special award was created in honor of the late John F. Morten (1914-1989), in recognition of his lifelong work to protect New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. It was his vision and grassroots efforts that helped create the Lakes Region Federation, which later

became the NH Lakes Association upon its merger with the NH Lakes Legislative Coalition. It was John Morten who saw the value of a statewide umbrella organization to represent lake interests with both the legislature and state agencies.

Mr. Morten exemplified selfless dedication to the lakes he loved so much, giving generously of his time, talents, and financial resources to help protect them. He was a person who made things happen—at once the creative idea man, leader, and activist who was organized, determined, and persistent in the achievement of any task. It is in tribute to his vision, dedication, commitment and vigor that NH LAKES established the John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lakes Stewardship.

If you would like to nominate an individual for the 2010 Morten Award, please visit the NH LAKES website at www.nhlakes.org to download a nomination form. All nominations must be submitted by May 21, 2010.



Enjoy your favorite lake this summer!



Who to contact:

Boater education classes: 267-7256.

Boater safety concerns:
NH Marine Patrol Bureau at 293-2037.

Dam failures: DES* at 271-3406.

Exotic plant concerns:
DES* at 271-2248.

Lake Host volunteering: NH LAKES at 226-0299 or info@nhlakes.org.

Shoreland concerns:
DES* at 271-2147.

Water quality concerns:
DES* at 419-9229 or 271-3414.

Water quality monitor volunteering:
DES* at 271-2658; UNH at 862-3696.

Weed Watcher volunteering:
DES* at 271-2248.

Wetlands concerns:
DES* at 271-2147

DES* = NH Dept. of Environmental Services

Upcoming Events:

June 25: NH LAKES 17th Lakes Congress, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness.

July 8: NH LAKES 3rd Annual LakeFest, The Inn at Church Landing, Meredith.

July 16, 17, 18: Lakeside Living Expo, Gunstock Resort, Gilford.

For more information or assistance call NH LAKES at 226-0299.



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Membership Matters

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