

# NH LAKES 2008 Lakes Congress

## Concurrent Session Descriptions

### 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.: Concurrent Session I

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#### **A. Advanced Onsite Wastewater Treatment Technologies to Protect Lake Quality**

*George Loomis, Research and Extension Soil Scientist, New England Onsite Wastewater Training Center*

Many advanced onsite wastewater treatment technologies are available today to help protect and maintain ground and surface water quality. This talk will help you understand the main similarities and differences between the commonly available advanced treatment systems used in the New England region, and show you how these systems may be designed to fit into the home landscape.

#### **B. Understanding Indicators Stored in Lake Sediments: The Key to Future Lake Quality**

*Jody Connor, Limnology Center Director, NH Dept. of Environmental Services*

Land use changes and human global interference with lake watersheds from pre-development circa 1700 to the present can teach society many lessons from mistakes made in the past. Lessons we can learn from the past can help us all change our ecosystem destructive habits to provide some protection for the future. A paleolimnology core was extracted from Beaver Lake, located in Derry, New Hampshire, a lake which was impacted early by development and continues to be impacted from high watershed disturbance. The watershed's developmental history will be examined and lake quality trends will be related to watershed and surrounding area disturbances.

#### **C. The Economic Value of New Hampshire's Surface Waters**

*Jacquie Colburn, Lakes Coordinator, NH Dept. of Environmental Services*

*Derek Durbin, Policy Director, NH LAKES*

It is widely known that New Hampshire's surface waters are valuable natural and economic resources. However, until recently, the economic importance of our surface waters had not been quantified. In 2007, the "Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Ponds Partnership" completed a multi-year study consisting of several phases to assess the economic value of the State's surface waters. The goals of this benchmark study were to: 1) describe the economic value of some uses of our surface waters, 2) determine how real-time users of New Hampshire's lakes and rivers will react if they perceive a deterioration in water quality, and 3) estimate the extent to which the tourism-based economy of New Hampshire would be affected by a decline in water quality. The study results indicate that there is a link between user perceptions about the quality and quantity of water available for recreation purposes and the extent to which negative perceptions might affect visitation and spending patterns throughout the state of New Hampshire. The presenters will focus on discussing the methodology and results of this economic study and illustrate its value in influencing state policy.

### 11:15 – 12:00 noon: Concurrent Session II

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#### **A. Integrated Stormwater Management: Standard or Practice?**

*Jamie Houle, Outreach Coordinator/Program Manager, University of NH Stormwater Center*

Stormwater treatment device selection is largely governed by regulatory compliance. Often stormwater management strategies are selected to comply with regulatory performance requirements rather than being designed based upon actual performance characteristics of the systems. While technical performance evaluation of stormwater treatment devices is an evolving science, regulatory guidelines struggle to keep in step with regional demands for information. This presentation will discuss the need to integrate stormwater designs into the building blocks of regional watershed improvement strategies with careful attention to altered hydrology by implementing innovative best management practices.

**B. Watershed Management – A Collaborative Process**

*Randy Eifert, Volunteer Member, Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee*

*Bonnie Ireland, Vice-Chair, Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee*

In May of 2004, a group of concerned citizens from the five watershed communities within the Waukewan Watershed met for the first time to begin the process of implementing a watershed management plan. This presentation will highlight the collaborative process that was undertaken to produce the Waukewan Watershed Management Plan which has won multiple awards. Learn about the challenges, successes, and pitfalls, of creating and implementing a watershed plan; and share your questions and experiences with the group.

**C. What's New in the World of Weeds? – NH Exotic Species Update**

*Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NH Dept. of Environmental Services*

From new methods of plant mapping to new or improved methods of exotic plant control, updates abound from the NH Exotic Species Program. Amy will discuss new species of concern, spread of exotics and the current list of infested waters, and other important updates.

**A. The Social Dynamics of Efforts to Reduce Salt Loading**

*Steven Whitman, Planning Consultant, Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates*

*Brian W. Eisenhauer, Environmental/Natural Resource Sociologist, Associate Director of the Center for the Environment, Plymouth State University*

Dr. Brian Eisenhauer and Steve Whitman are currently part of a consultant team working with the NH Department of Environmental Services, the NH Department of Transportation and a newly formed Salt Reduction Workgroup as part of a comprehensive research and facilitation project that will identify existing barriers and possible solutions to reducing salt usage on roadways and parking lots in New Hampshire. The project was designed to identify approaches that could potentially reduce the use of chlorides and the negative impacts associated with their use on the I-93 corridor. To achieve these goals, multiple social research methods were employed. Dr. Eisenhauer and Mr. Whitman will explain the scope of the project, the social research methods used, and the preliminary findings for the watershed studied within the I-93 corridor.

**B. Building a Watershed Community**

*Boyd Smith, Executive Director, Newfound Lake Region Association*

The Newfound Lake Region Association and partners have embarked on a journey to provide useful and exciting tools to watershed residents that will help protect the balance between environmental quality and economic growth. Science-based results critical to sound policy development are being generated as part of a 30-month watershed master plan program. Various public forums and information outlets are being used to increase awareness among residents and visitors alike. Boyd will present an overview of the project to-date, including the methods used to engage the decision makers and results of these efforts. A question and answer period will help to shed light on how best to implement a master plan that spans local boundaries.

**C. The Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act – Investment in the Future**

*Arlene Allen, Shoreland Protection Outreach Coordinator, NH Dept. of Environmental Services*

In June 2007, the NH Legislature enacted significant changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act which became effective April 1, 2008. This presentation will provide an overview of these changes, information on the new permitting requirements, impervious surface allowances, the standards that apply in the waterfront buffer, and the grid and points system for managing trees and saplings.

**D. Getting to Know Aquatic Plants**

*Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NH Dept. of Environmental Services*

Are you feeling like you need a little bit of a plant refresher to ease you into your summer Weed Watching activities, or would you just like to peruse the shoreline of Meredith Bay and see what types of plants it holds? Well then, spend some time outdoors! In this workshop, we will meander along Meredith Bay, looking around the town docks and near the tip of the bay to see what kind of aquatic plants we can spot. Please bring along plant specimens from your own lake or pond to share with the group and to have them identified. **(This outdoor session runs until 3:25 pm.)**