

Lakeside

A Quarterly Publication of the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLA)

Vol. XVI, No. 1, June 2007

What Are You Doing to Celebrate Your Lake?

(Excerpts of this article were taken from the North American Lake Management Society website found at www.nalms.org/LakesAppreciationMonth)

What is Lakes Appreciation Month?

The surface area and number of lakes in North America far exceed those of any other continent. Yet, lakes are our nations most under appreciated natural resources. The public uses lakes for a variety of purposes: water supply for municipal, industrial and agricultural use; recreation including boating, swimming, and fishing; flood control; and aesthetic enjoyment. However, lakes are often considered as “free” resources by lake users and this can result in abuse and neglect.

To draw attention to the value and importance of lakes and reservoirs, the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) sponsors an annual Lakes Appreciation Month. This is a true North American event. The celebration typically coincides with Independence Day in the U.S. and with Canada Day (July 1) in Canada. Both of these holidays provide people with the opportunity to get out and enjoy lakes. In 2003, Lakes Appreciation Week was expanded to a full month in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Year of Clean Water Celebration, a year-long event commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

Ideas to Encourage Lake Appreciation

Here are a few ideas how you, your lake association, and your community can learn more about your lake, how to protect it, and how to celebrate it:

Plan an event for your lake association and surrounding community.

- ♦ Organize a lakeshore clean-up to collect trash.
- ♦ Organize a “Shrub Your Shores Day.” Ask a local nursery to sell native plantings at a reduced cost to shoreline property owners and encourage property owners to develop or add to existing vegetative buffers along shorelines.



Campers at Thorndike Pond in Jaffrey celebrate the pond by learning to sail. (Photo courtesy of the NH Dept. of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.)

- ♦ Initiate a storm drain stenciling program to advise people where storm water goes and to discourage the dumping of wastes into storm drains.
- ♦ Sponsor the Interactive Lake Ecology Program at a local school or camp. To learn more, contact Alicia Carlson at (603) 271-0698 or acarlson@des.state.nh.us, visit www.des.nh.gov/wmb/ILE/, or attend NHLA’s Fourteenth Lakes Congress (see page 8).
- ♦ Host a picnic, festival, ice cream social, or other event to get lake property owners and lake users together and involved with lake appreciation.
- ♦ Photograph community participation in lake activities and send the photo and related caption to a local newspaper.

Celebrate — to page 5

If you are 70½ or older, you may qualify for tax advantages under the Pension Protection Act while giving a gift to NHLA.

Please see page 6 for more details.

Protecting NH’s Lakes Through Education and Legislation.

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For information on sponsorship,
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From the President...

Summer seems to have arrived as quickly as winter left, as longer days and shorter nights bring warmer waters that beckon us to enjoy our lakes. It is with this sense of joyful recreation that I encourage all of you to celebrate your lake in July (see page 1)! Too often we take our wonderfully wet treasures for granted, believing that they will remain clean, clear and cool, even as we experience an ever-increasing supply of new challenges.

Often times, we see our first "challenge" in early spring, when invasive aquatic weeds begin to grow again. Thankfully, the NH Department of Environmental Services has begun developing long-term management plans (see page 4) for controlling invasive aquatic weeds like variable milfoil. Of course, this summer marks the sixth year of our highly effective Lake Host Program, with more organizations participating than ever before!

This June will conclude with an especially informative Fourteenth Lakes Congress (see page 8), with a focus on protecting lakes through *enforcement and action*. I hope you will plan on joining us at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire McLane Center in Concord on Friday, June 29, from 8 AM to 2:45 PM. It will be a great way to kick-off your July 4th weekend!

In addition, warmer weather often signals the end of the legislative session. As always, NHLA is making strides in the legislature to keep our lakes protected. See our update on page 2.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who stood by us in a time of transition. We had a tremendous Annual Appeal that helped defray the costs of moving our membership to an annual April renewal. Without your wonderful support, this past year would have been a struggle. As always, please call us or stop by with your questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued commitment to NHLA and have a wonderful summer.

The New Hampshire Lakes Association gratefully acknowledges the support of

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whose generous contributions underwrite this issue of Lakeside.

Leasing of State-Owned Waterfront Property (HB 710)

- ◆ Establishes a commission to study and recommend changes to the process of leasing state-owned shorefront property.
- ◆ The state is leasing shorefront property far below its market value with no consideration for the long-term economic and ecological ramifications of doing so. The process is subject to abuse as there is an incentive for private individuals and corporations to lease the shorefront for a nominal fee, cut-off public access, and market their abutting land as “shorefront,” greatly increasing its value. It also opens the door to a number of different forms of development in and around the shorefront, including dock construction. These principles cannot be squared with the state’s smart growth policy and pose a significant threat to water quality.
- ◆ HB 710 passed the House of Representatives and is currently being reviewed by the Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee.

Licensing of Rental Agents of Motorized Watercraft (HB 714)

- ◆ Creates a licensing mechanism for rental agents of motorized watercraft.
- ◆ Currently, rental agents in NH are only required to initial a checklist stating that they understand state boating laws.
- ◆ HB 714 will require that rental agents of motorized watercraft also ensure that their renters have proper safety instruction and knowledge of NH boating laws and that they have a valid safe boating certificate in accordance with state law.
- ◆ HB 714 passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate and is awaiting the Governor’s signature.



Environmental Policy Director, Derek Durbin (left), addressing the Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee on the merits of NHLA-initiated House Bill 815.

Out-of-State Boater Education and Lake Maintenance (HB 815)

- ◆ Requires boaters that are exempt from registration requirements in NH, but benefit from use of the state’s public waters, obtain a \$20 decal from the Department of Safety or its agents. The money would then be directed to educating out-of-state boaters on NH marine laws and watershed issues and providing funding for lake maintenance measures, including dam repair and inspection, milfoil prevention and control, and public access.
- ◆ It is estimated that between 30,000 and 60,000 out-of-state boaters use NH waters each year.
- ◆ Considering the benefit that out-of-state boaters derive from using many of our pristine lakes and ponds, it is fair and equitable to require that this segment of the NH boating population contribute directly to the conservation of our public waters.
- ◆ HB 815 passed the House of Representatives and is currently being reviewed by the Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee.

Speed Limit (HB 847)

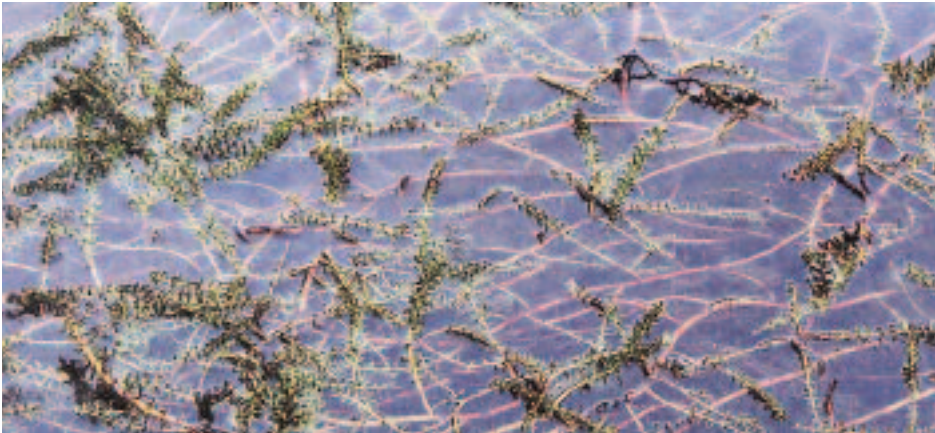
- ◆ HB 847 seeks to establish a 45/25 statewide speed limit for NH’s lakes and ponds, exempting tidal waters.
- ◆ This bill has been retained until 2008 by the Transportation Committee in the House of Representatives and will not be voted on during this legislative session.

Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (House Bills: 857, 663, 665 and 383)

- ◆ Four bills will be heard before the legislature relative to changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. The changes are aimed at clarifying many of the Act’s already-existing provisions, providing additional water quality protections and creating a much-needed funding mechanism for its enforcement.
- ◆ Some general changes in the CSPA you can expect to see:
 - The elimination of the basal area system for managing tree cuts in favor of a “point system;”
 - Limitations on impervious surface cover;
 - The establishment of a statewide permit for construction activity within the regulated shoreland zone.
 - A repeal of the “grandfathering clause” that allowed for certain municipalities to circumvent the 50-foot primary building setback requirements.
- ◆ These four CSPA bills have passed the House of Representatives and are currently being reviewed by the Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee. ■

Long-Term Management Plans for Exotic Aquatic Plants

Amy P. Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NH Department of Environmental Services



Exotic variable milfoil in flower. (Photo courtesy of the NH Dept. of Environmental Services Exotic Species Program.)

If you're thinking about managing that milfoil, fanwort, water chestnut, or any other exotic aquatic plant you've got growing in your waterbody, a new requirement must first be met: your lake must have a long-term management plan that outlines the problem, the goals of management, and what techniques will be used to achieve those goals.

In January 2006, the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) and the NH Fish and Game Department entered into a Memorandum of Agreement about how exotic aquatic plant control projects,

or any projects dealing with aquatic plant management, will be handled.

The purpose of these plans is to ensure that there is a strategic, well-organized process that is tailored to best manage growths of aquatic vegetation on a waterbody by waterbody basis. Most of these activities will employ concepts of integrated pest management (IPM). New Hampshire is not alone in this new method for coordinating activities associated with aquatic plant management. New York, Massachusetts and Vermont also incorporate systematic approaches such as this for planning purposes.

Once the waterbody specific management plans are created, they will lay the groundwork for ensuring that matching funds are earmarked for lakes scheduled for controls. They will also ensure that staff biologists have time allotted to work with individual lakes, and that all best management practices are being employed to reduce nuisance growths of exotic plant growth. It should be noted that the emphasis for control is still on exotic aquatic plants, and that matching funds will only be available for projects seeking to control exotic aquatic plants. Projects seeking to control native plants will still, however, need to have a management plan before any work is approved.

The DES will take the lead in drafting the management plans, but it will include input from the lake residents, municipalities, the Fish and Game Department, and other stakeholders in the health and integrity of the waterbody and its surroundings.

The management plans will include the following:

- ◆ The current status of the aquatic vegetation in the waterbody (Is it native, exotic, wide spread, localized, etc.).
- ◆ The chemical, physical, biological, and ecological characteristics of the waterbody.
- ◆ The designated uses of the waterbody.
- ◆ The goals of aquatic plant management for that waterbody.
- ◆ The desired outcomes of any management actions.
- ◆ The possible control mechanisms based on all of these above referenced criteria.
- ◆ The use of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies.
- ◆ The selected control strategies.
- ◆ The monitoring plan following implementation of control strategies.



Lake Winona, New Hampton. (Photo courtesy of the NH Dept. of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program.)

Continued on next page

Long-Term Plans cont.

- ◆ A schedule for control actions and monitoring.

In the spring of 2007, a total of 19 draft plans were prepared. To view these plans, visit the DES website at www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/exotic-species/waterbodies_with_draft_management_plans.htm.

A site visit by DES biologists is necessary to document land uses and special habitats around the specific waterbodies, in addition to gathering data on the plant communities, depth contours, shorefront uses, sediment composition, and other factors that will go into the plan.

If you are an individual that generally takes the lead for organizing exotic aquatic plant management on your waterbody, please contact Amy Smagula at (603) 271-2248 or asmagula@des.state.nh.us for more information on preparing a plan for your lake if you do not see your lake listed with the draft plans. ■



Akers Pond, Errol Kiosk: NHLA Lake Hosts will conduct courtesy boat inspections at Akers Pond, Errol this summer to prevent the spread of exotic species to the North Country.



Lake Umbagog, Errol: NHLA Lake Hosts will conduct courtesy boat inspections at Lake Umbagog, Errol this summer for the first time ever!

Celebrate — from page 1

Join an on-going lake monitoring program, if you haven't already.

- ◆ Become an active volunteer with one of the state's volunteer lake quality monitoring programs. To learn about the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, contact Sara Sumner at (603) 271-2658 or ssumner@des.state.nh.us. To learn about the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Lay Lakes Monitoring Program, contact Bob Craycraft at (603) 862-3696 or bob.craycraft@unh.edu.
- ◆ Participate in the Great American Secchi Dip-In to measure your lake's water clarity. Visit the Dip-In web site at dipin.kent.edu.
- ◆ Learn how to identify exotic aquatic plant species that threaten the enjoyment of lakes. Contact Amy Smagula at (603) 271-2248 or asmagula@des.state.nh.us

des.state.nh.us to become a volunteer Weed Watcher.

- ◆ Learn more about how to prevent the spread of exotic aquatic plants from lake to lake. Call NHLA at (603) 226-0299 to become a trained volunteer or paid Lake Host.

If you are already participating in an on-going lake monitoring program, consider publicizing your group's activities.

- ◆ Invite a local newspaper or television reporter to observe your group collecting water quality samples, conducting an aquatic plant survey, and/or conducting courtesy boat inspections.
- ◆ Film your monitoring group in action and show the footage at your annual lake association meeting, community meetings, and at career day events during the school year. Ask your local cable access channel to show the footage.

Spread the word.

- ◆ Tell others about Lakes Appreciation Month and share your enthusiasm for lakes with local media, family, friends, colleagues, and youth groups.
- ◆ Contact your local newspaper, radio, or TV station to prepare an article or editorial about how valuable your lake is to you and your community.
- ◆ Join your municipal conservation commission or planning board to become involved in the community planning process and encourage responsible lake and watershed stewardship.

And, most importantly, make sure you find time during Lakes Appreciation Month to relax and enjoy one of New Hampshire's lakes!

NHLA can help you implement events to celebrate Lakes Appreciation month with your lake association and community. Contact Andrea LaMoreaux, NHLA Education Outreach Director, at (603) 226-0299 for more information. ■

The Charitable IRA Rollover: A Time-Limited Opportunity

In the next few issues of *Lakeside*, we will discuss ways that you can donate to NHLA to ensure that the organization will be able to protect New Hampshire's lakes for many years to come. The **Pension Protection Act of 2006** provides an important flexibility that allows donors to maximize their giving, right now in 2007.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, allows individuals who will turn **70½ this year** to make direct tax-free contributions to qualified non-profit organizations from their traditional IRA or Roth IRA, up to \$100,000. If the donor's spouse is also 70½ or older and has an IRA, the couple can contribute up to \$200,000. Many donors are considering grouping together their donations for 2007 and 2008 into a 2007 donation to take advantage of the

Act since it expires December 31, 2007.

Although there is no charitable deduction for the gift, the donor does not have to pay income tax on the withdrawal as in the past and the amount withdrawn counts against the donor's required minimum distribution. The transfer of the funds to the charity must be made by the plan administrator.

The provision offers advantages, particularly for:

- donors who are required to take mandatory maximum withdrawals from their IRA but do not need the income;
- donors who choose not to itemize and want to exclude IRA withdrawals from their reportable income;

- donors who want to give more than 50 percent of their adjusted gross income; and
- donors with significant assets in their IRAs who wish to make a charitable gift during their lifetime.

The law also offers a benefit for younger people aged **59½ to 70½**. Funds may not be given directly to charity by this age group, but can be taken from an IRA or other retirement account and then donated to charity without the one percent penalty for early withdrawal.

NHLA can work with your financial advisors to enable a gift of this kind. If you have any questions, call Ted Gillan, Director of Development and Membership, at (603) 226-0299 or e-mail Ted at tgillan@nhlakes.org. ■

Rattlesnake Island, Lake Winnepesaukee, in early Spring. (Photo courtesy Debbie Kardaseski)



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Members — March 8, 2007 through May 3, 2007

Individuals

Jean Hansen • Mrs. Virginia Johnson • Stephan Nix • Mike Rice • Mr. and Mrs. John Sheehan

Lakes Legacy

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Stuligross • Mr. and Mrs. Randy Cail

Lake Associations

Kingston Lake Association

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NH Charitable Foundation (Development Director) • Otto Fund — Thomas Haas (Development Director)
John K. Gemmill Fund — Helen and Priscilla Gemmill (Membership) • The Schenk Family Fund (Membership)

EDUCATION UPDATES



Education Committee Member Shirley Green (right) at the Discover Wild NH Day helping children understand how polluted watersheds pollute lakes.

The NHLA Education Committee and Andrea LaMoreaux, Education Outreach Director, have been busy this spring!

On Saturday, April 21, Dave Birchenough, Shirley and Glen Green, and Andrea LaMoreaux represented NHLA at the Discover Wild NH Day at the NH Fish and Game Department. It was a gorgeous day and approximately two hundred children and their parents stopped by the NHLA booth to learn more about the organization and how watersheds affect lake quality by experimenting with the EnviroScope Watershed/Non-Point Source Pollution model.

In addition to planning the Lakes Congress (see page 8 for to learn what this year's Congress has to offer), the committee has been gearing up for the 2007 Lake Host Program. With 66 participating organizations scheduled to staff

82 ramps, including at least four ramps on Lake Winnepesaukee and three ramps in both Pittsburg and Errol (which is up from 57 organizations staffing 66 ramps in 2006) the 2007 Lake Host Program is sure to be a banner year for educating boaters and preventing the spread of exotic species from lake-to-lake and to the North Country.

If you haven't invited NHLA to come speak at your annual lake association meeting this summer, please contact us soon at (603) 226-0299 or info@nhlakes.org, as our schedules are booking-up! ■

Have You Ever Taken a Picture of Your Lake?

If you answered "yes," then picture this!

Your photos could be used in the New Hampshire Lakes Association's quarterly newsletter, presentations, displays, and brochures.

NHLA is looking for photos from your lake and its watershed to create new education outreach materials. Please consider sharing your photos that show the beauty of your lake and its watershed and how people and wildlife enjoy your lake. We are also looking for photos that show development along your lake's shoreline and within its watershed. And, yes, we even want your "ugly" photos, including those showing overcrowding on the lake, algae blooms, exotic aquatic plant infestations, and examples of irresponsible lake and watershed stewardship.

Please email your photos to alamoreaux@nhlakes.org. Be sure to include your contact information and photo title and/or lake name, in the text of the email.

Or, snail mail your photos printed on photographic paper to: NHLA, 3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 03301. Please put your name, contact information, and photo title and/or lake name on a piece of paper and tape it to the back of each photo. Do not write on the back of the photos as writing impressions and some inks may come through the front.

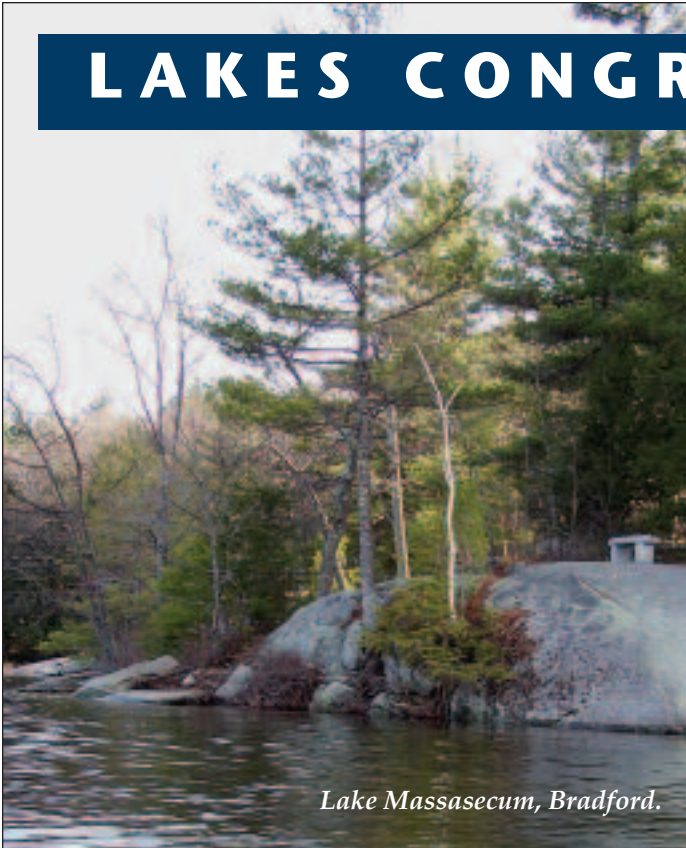
If we use your photo in one of our presentations or materials, we will be sure to provide credit to you and your subject. Your photos will help NHLA to protect New Hampshire's lakes, including YOUR lake, through new and improved educational outreach materials.

THANK YOU! ■



Sunrise over Lake Sunapee in George's Mills.

LAKES CONGRESS REMINDER!



Lake Massasectum, Bradford.

Join us on Friday, June 29, 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. for the Fourteenth Lakes Congress, to be held at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire McLane Center in Concord, NH. The theme of this year's congress is "Protecting Our Lakes Through Enforcement and Action."

During the plenary session, Robert Varney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England Administrator, will speak about lake protection initiatives in New England and Tom Burack, NH Department of Environ-

mental Services (DES) Commissioner, will discuss DES enforcement activities that relate to the protection of the state's lakes, ponds, and shorelines. And, Governor Lynch has been invited to speak at lunch!

Ten different workshops will be offered this year. Topics include:

- ◆ Conducting effective outreach.
- ◆ Protecting eagles and osprey.
- ◆ The Marine Patrol.
- ◆ Landscaping to protect water quality.
- ◆ The Interactive Lake Ecology Program.
- ◆ Land and watershed protection.
- ◆ Nuisance waterfowl management.
- ◆ Advocating for lake protection.
- ◆ Studying lake sediment to protect future lake quality.
- ◆ Exotic species enforcement and other updates.

New this year, vendors will be present to explain lake-related services that they can provide to you and your association.

The NHLA Annual Meeting and an Open House will be held after the Lakes Congress.

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

We look forward to seeing you there! ■



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