

Local Funding is Needed to Support Your Local Lake Host™ Program!

Help protect your community and your local lakes and ponds from the spread of devastating exotic invasive aquatic plants!

LOCAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LAKE HOST™ PROGRAM IS CRITICAL FOR 2009!

- For the 2009 Lake Host™ grant program, it is anticipated that NH LAKES will have a level or reduced amount of grant funding compared to 2008 to support local Lake Host™ Programs and that more groups will apply for grant funding than have applied in previous years; therefore, local groups will likely receive *reduced* Lake Host™ Program payroll grant awards in 2009.
- If local groups plan to operate their local Lake Host™ Program at the same level as in previous years, or expand their program compared to previous years, securing local funding to supplement their payroll grant from NH LAKES to pay Lake Hosts will be necessary.



HOW YOUR GROUP CAN SECURE LOCAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LAKE HOST™ PROGRAM:

- Encourage your municipal budget committee to include funding for your local Lake Host™ Program in the municipal annual budget. Contact NH LAKES if you would like a letter of support to bring to your municipal officials. *(Refer to the talking points provided in this document.)*
 - In 2007, approximately 25% of the groups participating in the Lake Host™ Program received funding from their municipality to supplement their payroll grant from NH LAKES to pay Lake Hosts to staff ramps. Participating groups received funding ranging from \$200 to \$7,000 with the median level of funding being approximately \$2,000.
- Submit a warrant article requesting that the town voters at the annual town meeting approve the dedication of municipal funds to the local Lake Host™ Program.
 - Contact your municipal office to find out the requirements and deadlines for warrant article submission.
 - Refer to information provided by NH LAKES for example warrant article language.
 - In the months, weeks, days, and even the hours leading up to the town meeting, educate the voters about why they should support the local Lake Host™ Program. *(Refer to the talking points provided in this document.)*
 - Write letters of support to the local paper.
 - Display educational posters in support of the Lake Host™ Program in public meeting places.
 - Meet with local groups to discuss the importance of the local Lake Host™ Program. *(Contact NH LAKES if you are interested in receiving a Lake Host™ Program PowerPoint presentation.)*
 - At Town Meeting, distribute flyers and set up signs about the importance of the local Lake Host™ Program.



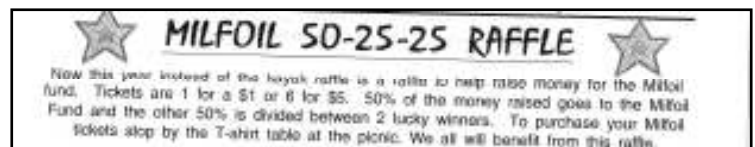
Members dedicated to protecting lakes

- Encourage local businesses owners, particularly those affected by lake-related tourism, to provide financial support to the local Lake Host™ Program. *(Refer to the talking points provided in this document.)*
 - Provide recognition to local businesses that support the program, perhaps with a “Thank You” ad in a local paper, and/or putting up a “Thank You” sign at the launch while your Lake Hosts are on duty.

- Encourage individual members of your lake or pond association to donate financially to the local Lake Host™ Program. *(Refer to the talking points provided in this document.)*
 - Some members of your association may not want to volunteer their time by staffing a ramp as a volunteer Lake Host but might want to donate financially so that paid Lake Hosts are able to staff the ramp for longer periods of time.
 - Suggest that individual association members sponsor a paid Lake Host for a shift.
 - Suggest that cove associations, road associations, or other groups of neighbors/ members sponsor paid coverage at a ramp for a weekend, or even a week.
 - Let individuals know that their financial contributions to the local Lake Host™ Program are tax deductible charitable contributions.
 - Provide recognition to individuals and groups that support the program.

- Raise awareness and funding for local Lake Host Program at community events.

- Include a Lake Host float in your annual lake association street parade or boat parade
- Staff a Lake Host booth at your town’s annual fair and include a donation jar.
- Have an association yard sale and donate a portion of the proceeds to the local Lake Host™ Program.
- Have a raffle at your annual association meeting and donate a portion of the proceeds to the local Lake Host™ Program.



- When you send out your group’s annual membership renewal notices, include an option for members to donate specifically to the Lake Host™ Program at your lake.

Why Local Groups Should Support Their Local Lake Host™ Program

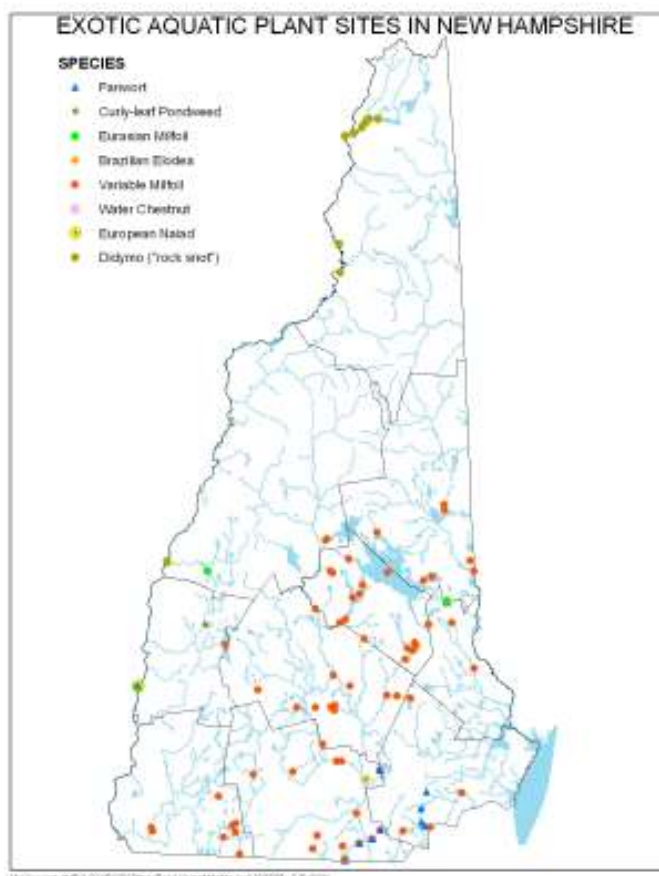
Talking points provided by NH LAKES (September 2008)

THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LAKES AND PONDS

- New Hampshire is home to approximately 1,000 lakes and ponds and these resources enhance the New Hampshire quality of life for its residents and its visitors in many ways.
- Lakes and ponds provide aesthetic, ecological, recreational, and economic values to the local community and to the overall state of New Hampshire.
- Recreational opportunities on New Hampshire's freshwater bodies (including lakes, ponds, rivers and streams) such as boating, fishing and swimming translate to millions of dollars in sales and income and thousands of full-time and seasonal jobs in the state. (Sources: *Estimates of Select Economic Values of New Hampshire Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Ponds, Phase II Report*, June 2003. *The Economic Impact of Potential Decline in New Hampshire Water Quality: The Link Between Visitor Perceptions, Usage and Spending, Phase IV Report*, May 2007. Available for download at www.nhlakes.org.)
- If visitors to New Hampshire's water bodies perceived declines in water clarity and purity (which includes the presence of exotic aquatic plant infestations), this would result in \$51 million in lost sales, \$18 million in lost income and 800 lost jobs overall in New Hampshire. (Source: *The Economic Impact of Potential Decline in New Hampshire Water Quality: The Link Between Visitor Perceptions, Usage and Spending, Phase IV Report*, May 2007. Available for download at www.nhlakes.org.)
- Waterfront property owners on lakes, rivers, streams and ponds pay an estimated \$247 million per year in property taxes which is a significant source of income to the local and statewide economy. (Source: *Estimates of Select Economic Values of New Hampshire Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Ponds, Phase II Report*, June 2003. Available for download at www.nhlakes.org.)

STATUS OF EXOTIC INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- 71 water bodies in New Hampshire are infested with exotic aquatic plants, some of these water bodies are infested with more than one exotic species. The status of water bodies with exotic infestations are as follows:
 - 63 with variable milfoil
 - 3 with Eurasian milfoil
 - 9 with fanwort
 - 3 with European naiad
 - 4 with curly-leaf pondweed
 - 1 with Brazilian elodea
 - 1 with water chestnut



(Source: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, May 2008.)



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- The main way exotic invasive aquatic plants spread from lake-to-lake in New Hampshire is through the transportation of plant fragments from infested water bodies to uninfested water bodies on boats and trailers.

EXOTIC AQUATIC PLANT INFESTATIONS CAUSE MANY PROBLEMS

- Exotic aquatic plant infestations make recreation in and on lakes and ponds dangerous and unpleasant.
- Exotic aquatic plant infestations disrupt the ecological balance of lakes and ponds.
- Exotic aquatic plant infestations reduce shoreline property values through the reduction of aesthetic and recreational uses of the water body.
 - The presence of exotic milfoil on an average-sized New Hampshire lake of 2,036 acres would reduce shoreline property values of an average house by approximately 16%. (Source: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services funded University of New Hampshire study.)
- The reduction of shoreline property values caused by an exotic plant infestation is not just a problem for shoreline property owners; it is a serious problem for all non-shoreline property owners in a municipality.
 - As tax revenue generated from shoreline property values decreases with an exotic infestation, tax revenue from non-shoreline property may need to increase.
 - Non-shoreline property owners who recreate on the lake or pond via public access sites will have less pleasant/reduced recreational experiences in/on the infested water body.
- The cost of managing and controlling an exotic invasive aquatic infestation in a water body quickly becomes a local problem.
 - There is currently no method to completely eradicate an exotic invasive aquatic plant infestation.
 - The control of exotic invasive aquatic plant growth and spread is a continual time, labor, and financially-intensive management process.
 - Presently, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) pays for the first year of the management of a newly discovered exotic invasive aquatic plant infestation.
 - After the first year of management, DES relies on local groups (lake association, municipality) to apply for limited grant funding to manage the infestation. The demand for DES grant funding typically exceeds the amount available.
 - Local groups (municipality, tax payers, lake associations) typically end up paying for a substantial portion of the management after the first year of management.
 - The cost, frequency, and type of management activities depend on the infestation size and certain water body characteristics. *(Estimated costs are provided in the table below.)*



Estimated Costs of Exotic Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Techniques *(per treatment event)*

Management Technique	Estimated Cost
Hand-pulling	Depends on contractor costs or DES staff availability
Mechanical Harvesting	\$350 - \$1,500 per acre
Hydro-raking	\$350 - \$2,500 acre
Bottom Barrier	\$0.61 - \$1.22 per square foot or \$25,000 - \$50,000 per acre
Chemical Treatment	\$200 - \$1,000 per acre
Dredging	\$16,000 - \$32,000 per acre

(Source: NH Department of Environmental Services at www.des.nh.gov/wmb/exoticspecies/management.htm)

THE NH LAKES LAKE HOST™ PROGRAM PROTECTS YOUR LOCAL LAKES AND PONDS FROM THE SPREAD OF EXOTIC INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES!

- NH LAKES Lake Host™ Program Background:
 - The NH LAKES Lake Host™ Program is a courtesy boat inspection program created and administered by NH LAKES in cooperation with local groups through which trained paid and volunteer Lake Hosts staff public motorized boat access sites to:
 - Educate visiting boaters about the problem of exotic aquatic plants.
 - Conduct courtesy boat and trailer inspections to remove all plant fragments.
 - Show boaters where to look for plant hitchhikers and encourage them to always conduct self-inspections before and after leaving a water body.
 - Send suspicious plants to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for identification.
 - NH LAKES Lake Host™ Program Successes (2002 – 2008)
 - 237,888 courtesy boat inspections conducted (as of 9/7/08).
 - 515 “saves” made (as of 9/1/08). (A “save” is made when a piece of exotic aquatic plant is removed from a boat or its trailer before entering or after leaving a water body).
 - No new lakes participating in the Lake Host™ Program have been listed as being infested with an exotic aquatic plant.
- The ultimate goal of each local Lake Host™ Program should be to have every boat ramp in every municipality staffed by a Lake Host seven days a week during daylight hours during the entire boating season.
- “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!”



**For more information, contact:
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