

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.

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, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 are indicated below.

Other 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; and 50% in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008). "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: EPA New England Office (2003); NOAA (2004, 2006, 2008); Watershed Assistance Grant (319 Clean Water Program) and EPA's Healthy Communities Grants Program (2005).

Lake Host Program Statistics

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of Participating Organizations	38	46	51	56	57	68	70
Number of Paid Lake Hosts	102	149	190	175	204	221	240
Number of Volunteer Lake Hosts	59	167	216	318	353	429	470
Number of Lakes and Ponds with Lake Hosts	37	45	50	56	56	64	70
Number of Ramps Covered	45	59	61	61	66	83	88
Number of Inspections Conducted	15,878	26,583	31,629	34,878	34,573	44,183	55,924
Number of "Saves" (exotic plants found)	4	7	16	54	54	157	224
Federal Funds	\$ 260,100	\$10,000	\$85,300	\$35,000	\$117,000	\$117,000	\$89,206
State Funds	\$0	\$165,000	\$150,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$161,000
Local Funds (hard cash and cash-equivalents)	\$37,155	\$112,382	\$151,238	\$200,756	\$183,179	\$292,017	\$334,061
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$297,255	\$287,382	\$386,538	\$420,756	\$485,179	\$594,017	\$584,267

As a result of the program, the following "saves" were made of exotics either entering, or leaving, the waterbody:

Beaver Lake: fanwort (2008), variable milfoil (2008); **Bow Lake:** variable milfoil (2003, 2005); Eurasian milfoil (2005); **Clough Pond:** variable milfoil (2005); **Crescent Lake** (Acworth): Eurasian milfoil (2003); fanwort (2003); **Crystal Lake** (Enfield): water chestnut (2005); **Gilmore Pond:** water chestnut (2005); **Goose Pond** (Canaan): Eurasian milfoil (2007); **Great East Lake:** Eurasian milfoil (2006, 2008), variable milfoil (2007, 2008); **Highland Lake** (Stoddard): Eurasian milfoil (2005); **Jeness Pond:** variable milfoil (2005); **Lovell Lake:** variable milfoil (2006, 2007); **Lake Monomonac:** Eurasian milfoil (2004); curly leaf pondweed (2004); variable milfoil (2004, 2005, 2007, 2008); **Merrymeeting Lake:** variable milfoil (2007); **Newfound Lake:** Eurasian milfoil (2006); variable milfoil (2002, 2006, 2007, 2008); fanwort (2003, 2006); **Northwood Lake:** Eurasian milfoil (2007), variable milfoil (2008), curly leafed pondweed (2007); **Nubanusit Lake:** Eurasian milfoil (2002, 2004), variable milfoil (2007, 2008); **Ottarnic Pond:** fanwort (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008); variable milfoil (2006, 2007); **Pawtuckaway Lake:** common reed (2007), variable milfoil (2007, 2008), water chestnut (2008); **Pleasant Lake** (Deerfield): variable milfoil (2004, 2007); **Pleasant Pond** (Francestown): Eurasian milfoil (2006); **Robinson Pond:** fanwort (2004, 2006, 2007, 2008); variable milfoil (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008); **Silver Lake** (Madison): variable milfoil (2002, 2004, 2006); **Lake Skatutakee:** Eurasian milfoil (2005); **Spofford Lake:** Eurasian milfoil (2002, 2005, 2008); **Squam Lake:** Eurasian milfoil (2007); **Lake Sunapee:** milfoil (2005); Eurasian milfoil (2006, 2007, 2008), variable milfoil (2007); **Lake Waukewan:** Eurasian milfoil (2003), variable milfoil (2007, 2008); **Lake Wentworth:** variable milfoil (2008); **Lake Winnepesaukee:** fanwort (2003, 2007); variable milfoil (2004, 2007, 2008); **Lake Winnisquam:** variable milfoil (2008).

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