

2022 Lakes Congress Session Descriptions – Thursday, June 2

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Evening Discussion

Celebrating New Hampshire's Freshwater Boating Heritage (Carriage House)

Presented by: *Martha Cummings, Executive Director, New Hampshire Boat Museum*

Explore the evolutionary history of boating on New Hampshire's fresh waterways—from muscle and wind-power to combustion engine-powered boats. Martha will include highlights from the New Hampshire Boat Museum's featured exhibits "Letting off Steam: Escaping to New Hampshire during the Golden Age of Steam" and "Who's in the Boat?"—a history of the sport of rowing.

2022 Lakes Congress Session Descriptions – Friday, June 3

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Keynote Address

Preparing for the New Normals in New Hampshire's Climate—The science behind the new Hampshire State Climate Assessment (Winnipesaukee Ballroom)

Presented by: *Dr. Mary Stampone, New Hampshire State Climatologist, Associate Professor of Geography, University of New Hampshire*

Warmer winters, recurrent droughts, and increased flooding are all signs that climate change is reaching New Hampshire. And, we know that our lakes are already being impacted by these events. Dr. Mary Stampone, New Hampshire State Climatologist and co-author of New Hampshire's most recent Climate Assessment Report will share an insider's view of past, present, and future climate trends in the Granite State. Mary will highlight changes in temperature, precipitation, and sea-level rise, and answer your questions about how we ought to prepare for what's next.

10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Concurrent Session I

A. Loons in the Face of a Changing Climate (Laker Room)

Presented by: *Harry Vogel, Senior Biologist and Executive Director, Loon Preservation Committee*

As air temperatures warm and precipitation patterns change, New Hampshire's wildlife are being impacted. Harry will discuss how the Common Loon is facing increased challenges in a warmer and wetter New Hampshire and what is being done to help loons cope with these challenges.

B. The State of Lake Advocacy in New Hampshire (Garwood Room)

Presented by: *Michelle Davis, Policy and Advocacy Program Manager, NH LAKES*

Wondering what happened in the 2022 legislative session that affects our lakes? Curious about the core issues NH LAKES advocates on? Attend this session and find out! Michelle will provide a summary of the 2022 legislative session and how NH LAKES participates in the legislative process—and how your group can join the Lake Advocates Network.

C. Septic Systems and Lake-Friendly Living (Waterfront Tent)

Presented by: Gary Spaulding, Advanced On-Site Wastewater Systems

At one time, waterfront property was the property no one cared about and a 50-gallon steel drum with holes in the side was the best way get grid of wastewater. Wastewater technology has changed a lot since then, and it continues to change each year. Gary will discuss the wastewater technology that is now available in New Hampshire and will highlight the pros and cons of the different systems available for waterfront properties.

D. Cyanobacteria—What You Need to Know About Toxic Blooms in Our Lakes (Carriage House)

Presented by: Kate Hastings, Harmful Algal Bloom Program Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Last year, more public health advisories for toxic cyanobacteria blooms in our lakes were issue than ever before. Attend this session and learn about the dangers of these blooms, how they are monitored, and what to do if you spot a bloom this summer. And, meet Kate Hastings, the new Harmful Algal Bloom Coordinator at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services!

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Session II

A. Warmer, Wackier Weather: Protecting New Hampshire's Wildlife in a Changing Climate (Laker Room)

Presented by: Haley Andrezzi, Wildlife Outreach Program Manager, University of New Hampshire, and Lisa Wise, Climate Change Adaptation Program Manager, University of New Hampshire

Have you been noticing more extreme weather, warmer temperatures, and more unpredictable seasons? Wondering how these changes in climate might impact wildlife? Hear examples of how wildlife species are being affected and learn about ideas for actions we can take to help wildlife in the face of warmer temperatures, more extreme precipitation, shifting seasons and habitats, and other changes.

B. Climate Adaptation & Watershed Management (Garwood Room)

Presented by: Laura Diemer, FB Environmental

Hear how FB Environmental has been participating in a multi-year grassroots effort with the Kezar Lake Watershed Association Climate Change Observatory (CCO) to identify and address climate change issues at the local level. This unique collaboration has created a powerful system for addressing concerns regarding climate change at Kezar Lake, located on the border of New Hampshire and Maine. Laura will highlight how the observatory is designed to guide long-term monitoring, assessment, and climate change adaptation efforts.

C. Creating a New "Norm" of Lake-Friendly Living on Your Lake (Waterfront Tent)

Presented by: Krystal Costa Balanoff, Conservation Program Manager, NH LAKES, and Bree Rossiter, Conservation Program Manager, Lake Winnepesaukee Association

Learn how communities are using the social science behind the LakeSmart Program to establish a new conservation ethic of lake-friendly living throughout the state. Krystal will explain how this education, evaluation, and recognition program has inspired property owners to take action. Bree will then highlight how the Lake Winnepesaukee Association has incorporated the LakeSmart Program into their Keep Winni Blue initiative.

D. Microplastics and Forever Chemicals in Our Lakes (Carriage House)

Presented by: Jill M. Emerson, MB (ASCP) CM, Water Quality Coordinator, Green Mountain Conservation Group, and Dr. Jonathan Petali, Toxicologist, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Just when we think we know about the challenges our lakes face, new challenges are emerging! Microplastics and manmade chemicals known as PFAS are being detected in our lakes. Jill will provide an overview of how the Green Mountain Conservation Group has been studying microplastics in the Ossipee Lake system and what it means for water quality and food webs. John will then talk about PFAS and their health effects, including a recent fish consumption advisory that was issued in five lakes in New Hampshire for PFAS.

12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. Lunch – Tent & Winnepesaukee Ballroom

Enjoy lunch provided by the Lakehouse Grille, a member of the Common Man family of restaurants, while sharing your stories and challenges with others like you! Visit our exhibitor tables and make connections with professionals who can help you accomplish the goals you have in mind for your favorite lake.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Session III

A. Paleolimnology: Studying the Past to Conserve Our Lakes into the Future (Laker Room)

Presented by: Lisa Doner, Associate Professor, Plymouth State University

Paleolimnology is the study of physical, chemical, and biological information preserved in lake sediments to track past changes in watersheds. Lisa and her team have studied the sediments of several New Hampshire lakes. Attend this session and find out what they have learned and how this information can be used to help conserve our lakes going forward.

B. Taking the Lead: Lake Associations Going Above and Beyond (Garwood Room)

Presented by: Joan Gorga, Gregg Lake Association; Laura Colcord, Tucker Pond Improvement Association; Forrest Bell, FB Environmental; and Tim Baker, Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association. Moderated by Sara Steiner, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program Coordinator, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Join this discussion to hear from three different lake associations on ways they have tackled threats to their lakes, the obstacles they have overcome, and the differences between working with all volunteer groups, state and local agencies, and private businesses to accomplish their goals.

Talk 1: Harnessing Local Expertise to Develop a Watershed Management Plan on a Small Budget

Gregg Lake in Antrim hosts a popular public beach, boat launch, and clusters of mostly seasonal homes scattered along its shores. The Gregg Lake Association is open to all who have an interest in the lake's future, but dues are low and money is scarce. In 2016, concerns about unprecedented algal blooms led to stepping up water quality monitoring and proposing development of a watershed management plan. Those who volunteered to join the effort represented many levels of local government, as well as lake homeowners, with varied levels of expertise. Joan Gorga will explain that they soon realized the more they did themselves, the better they would understand how to protect the lake—but, they also realized they needed some professional guidance. And, they needed to learn how to balance strong desires to act immediately with composing a manageable long-term plan to protect Gregg Lake's water quality.

Talk 2: Tucker Pond's Cyanobacteria Committee is Taking Action—Volunteers Making a Difference

In 2019, Tucker Pond, a small pond with a relatively undeveloped watershed located in Salisbury, started blooming with cyanobacteria. With climate change already changing New Hampshire's weather patterns, the Tucker Pond Improvement Association knew more cyanobacteria blooms may be on the way. They wanted to be armed with as much knowledge as possible to stave off the worst effects. In September 2020, the association commissioned a Cyanobacteria Committee. Laura Colcord will explain how the committee is working with the community to generate understanding and taking action to reduce the frequency and impact of cyanobacteria blooms.

Talk 3: Community Engagement Helps to Inform Voting on Funding

Lake Kanasatka, located in Moultonborough, is home to many private properties, Camp Quinebarge (a traditional, co-ed overnight camp), and the Kilnwood Homeowners Association development. The lake has experienced numerous cyanobacteria blooms in the past few years, sparking a movement throughout the communities within its watershed. Hear from Forrest Bell of FB Environmental and Tim Baker of the Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association about how the association pulled together a Watershed Advisory Committee, and requested funding from the town to work on a watershed management plan. After the first vote came back as a "no," a public outcry in Moultonborough helped overturn a vote by the selectmen after realizing how important this issue was to their constituents.

C. Lake-Friendly Landscaping Workshop (Waterfront Tent)

Presented by: The NH LAKES Conservation Team; Belknap Landscape Company; and the Lake Winnepesaukee Association Keep Winni Blue Team

Join the NH LAKES Conservation Team along with the Belknap Landscape Company and the Lake Winnepesaukee Association to learn just what lake-friendly landscaping means. During this hands-on session, you'll walk around neighboring Hesky Park to observe landscaping techniques and discuss what makes an outdoor space beautiful, and functional, while also protecting our lakes. Bring your walking shoes and dress for the weather!

D. Municipal Enforcement of Lake-Friendly Policy: A Community Conversation (Carriage House)

Presented by: Michelle Davis, Policy and Advocacy Program Manager, NH LAKES; Barbara Richter, Executive Director, New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions; Jack Kutner, Save Lake Sunapee Watershed; and local conservation commission members

This session is for local lake group leaders to share experiences and learn from each other on how to work with their municipality for clean and healthy lakes. The session will kick off with a brief overview of how municipalities can enforce state and local regulations protective of lakes and even adopt more protective standards. A panel discussion will follow with representatives from the Save Lake Sunapee Watershed and several local conservation commission members. Panelists will share case studies of how groups have mobilized in an effort to get their towns to enforce existing lake-friendly ordinances and what work still needs to be done. Attendees will then be invited to share their success stories and challenges with the group through a facilitated discussion. This is both an informational session and a listening opportunity for NH LAKES to determine ways to best support municipalities, local groups, and individuals in enacting and enforcing lake-friendly policies.