

Working together for the lakes we all love.

#### NH LAKES

17 Chenell Drive, Suite One Concord, NH 03301 603.226.0299 nhlakes.org\_info@nhlakes.org

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### A Note From Andrea

Dear Lake Friends.

Looking at some of the factors that most affected lake health in 2023, it's hard not to feel a little hopeless. What can any of us do to prevent another warm winter or more recordsetting flooding?



But, please take heart. The actions of the NH LAKES community over the past year, as in previous years, offered so many reasons for optimism. It is a testament to NH LAKES supporters, staff, volunteers, and partners that there is so much positive impact to report.

Communities at eight lakes are grateful for the Lake Hosts who prevented costly infestations of invasive species in their lake. Neighbors worked with neighbors to learn new ways to live lake-friendly. And, many people became the voice New Hampshire's lakes needed at the state house advocating for lake-friendly legislation

Our lakes are showing obvious signs of trouble-another recordsetting year of cyanobacteria advisories and the alarming discovery of the invasive spiny water flea in two of our largest lakes. These warning signs have served as a wake-up call for many and have fueled a response like I have never seen before.

This lake conservation movement in New Hampshire is not new but it is growing. It may not be obvious in the report you hold in your hand. But I see it-every single day.

There is still so much work to do and it will take everyone working together to make it happen.

NH LAKES has a bold vision. Our vision is a state where all lakes are clean and healthy and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, and governing.

I am pleased to provide you with this copy of our 2023 impact report. In it, you will see how the NH LAKES community, instead of feeling hopeless, is taking bold action for the lakes we all love.

Committed to healthy lakes,

andrea

Andrea LaMoreaux, President and Policy Advocate

# Lake-Friendly Living Becomes a Way of Life for Many

As our lakes show obvious signs of stress, more and more property owners are recognizing the role they play in lake health. They are learning about what they can do to help—they are becoming LakeSmart. Now in its fifth year in New Hampshire, LakeSmart is inspiring entire communities to embrace lake-friendly living as a way of life.

In 2023, the first LakeSmart Community
Award was presented to the Kezar Lake
Protective Association in North Sutton. The
beauty of Kezar Lake and its past struggles
with serious water quality problems inspired
over 50% of the property owners around the
lake to participate in the LakeSmart
program. Together, neighbor inspiring
neighbor, they are working to reduce the
polluted runoff water entering their fragile
lake.

Delivering the NH LAKES LakeSmart
Program statewide received some help this
year with two new partnerships: Newfound
Lake Region Association and Squam Lakes
Association. They join the Lake
Winnipesaukee Association in helping NH
LAKES deliver the tools and resources of the
LakeSmart Lake-Friendly Living Program in
their watersheds.

Cover: Mary Ropka and John Philbrick of Little Lake Sunapee proudly show off their LakeSmart Award, along with their dog, Scarlett!

Top Right: Members of the Kezar Lake Protective Association accept the first LakeSmart Community Award in New Hampshire!

Right: Chip and Gail Bull of Monomonac Lake were one of 50 property owners to receive the LakeSmart Award in 2023.

Thank you to our LakeSmart Partner Organizations!











# LakeSmart 2023: By the Numbers

316 FRIENDLY REPORTS

CUSTOMIZED LAKE-FRIENDLY LIVING REPORTS CREATED

1,044 SINCE 2019

**167** 

SITE VISITS PROVIDING CUSTOM LAKE-FRIENDLY IDEAS **553**SINCE 2019

49

LAKES VISITED
THROUGHOUT NEW
HAMPSHIRE

163 SINCE 2019

50

LAKESMART AWARDS
PRESENTED TO
PROPERTY OWNERS

180 SINCE 2019

# Lake Hosts SAVE the Day

Since 2002, boaters at popular boat ramps throughout the state have been greeted by Lake Hosts. And, every summer, these Lake Hosts remain vigilant as they do their part to prevent invasive hitchhiking plants and animals from making their home in lakes where they don't belong.

While 2023 will be remembered for some heroic saves at pristine lakes, it will also be remembered as the summer the invasive spiny water flea found its way to New Hampshire. This invasive species was found in Lake Winnipesaukee and Lake Winnisquam. Looking ahead, your NH LAKES Conservation Team is working with the state and other partners to develop new resources to prevent the spread of the spiny water flea to other lakes in the state.

### **2023 SAVES**

In 2023, 33% of the boats met by a Lake Host were last used in a waterbody infested with invasive species.

Lake Hosts-our heroes! Lake Hosts saw and removed these invasive species from boats headed into uninfested lakes—saving these communities from the costly burden of managing the inevitable infestations.

Conway Lake, Conway (Eurasian Water Milfoil)

Lake Potanipo, Brookline (Variable Milfoil)

Lake Winnisquam, Laconia (Water Chestnut Seed)

Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam (Eurasian Water Milfoil

**Newfound Lake, Bristol** (Eurasian Water Milfoil)

Nubanusit Lake, Hancock/Nelson (Variable Milfoil)

Pleasant Pond, Francestown (Variable Milfoil)





### 2023 Lake Host Season Data

**Boat Ramps Covered** 

2002

2023

**Lake Hosts** 

2002 👤 💆 161

2023 • • • • • • • • 754

**Partner Groups** 

**A A A A A A 7**6

## 1,665 'Saves' at 61 **Waterbodies Since 2002**

Ten different invasive species have been stopped from entering pristine lakes since 2002.

Fanwort (814) Eurasian Milfoil (101) **European Naiad (24)** 

**Mystery Snail (23)** 

Water Chestnut (20) Variable Milfoil (664) Curly Leaf Pondweed (16) Zebra Mussel (1) **Common Reed (1) Purple Loosestrife (1)** 

# A Million Thanks: Lake Advocates Make Waves for Lake Health

The NH LAKES Lake Advocates Network is a vital force in preserving New Hampshire's lakes. Composed of passionate individuals from lake-minded organizations, they stay current on the advocacy issues affecting our lakes and mobilize their communities to reach out to legislators.

Thanks to your support, the Lake
Advocates Network rallied during a
critical time for our lakes. Hundreds of
supporters just like you advocated for a
cyanobacteria mitigation fund to provide
lake associations, municipalities, and
water suppliers with grants to manage
and prevent cyanobacteria. Your impact
is evident—the motion passed, creating a
\$1 million Cyanobacteria Mitigation Fund
for our lakes!



Rep. Rosemarie Rung extends her heartfelt gratitude in front of the State House, thanking the incredible support that helped rally lawmakers and secure a \$1 million Cyanobacteria Mitigation Grant Fund to rejuvenate our precious lakes. Together, we're making a real difference for our environment and our communities. Thank you!

As a results of the bold actions of NH LAKES partners and supporters, NH LAKES was named the 2023 Champion in Action for Environmental Sustainability by Citizens and the New Hampshire Union Leader. This recognition gave NH LAKES a megaphone to help raise awareness of the statewide threats our lakes face.



# The Cyanobacteria Plan: A Coordinated Statewide Response

Thanks to your backing of House Bill 1066 last year, the Cyanobacteria Advisory Committee was established, with NH LAKES President and Policy Advocate, Andrea LaMoreaux, among its members.

This November, guided by the committee's insights, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services unveiled a strategy to combat cyanobacteria blooms in our cherished lakes and ponds, including:



Reducing Polluted Runoff



**Enhanced Monitoring** 



**Education & Outreach** 



**Drinking Water Safety** 

# Mark Your Calendar: Learn to Protect Our Lakes on June 6

Learn about our annual Lakes Congress conference at **nhlakes.org/lakes-congress.** Registration opens in April! "Great to see and meet people from all over the state interested in protecting our lakes."

-2023 Lakes Congress attendee

Visit
nhlakes.org/annualreports to view full
financial information.

# Restoring Lake Health: Your LakeSmart Successes!

Your unwavering commitment to preserving the beauty and health of our lakes is truly inspiring. Below you'll see the incredible transformations brought about by LakeSmart participants across New Hampshire. The images showcase the remarkable changes and improvements made possible through your support.

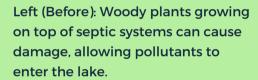
From shoreline plantings to erosion control measures, it's easy to see the positive difference we are making together in ensuring the long-term vitality of our cherished lakes. Your generosity has ignited a ripple effect of positive change, and we couldn't be more grateful for your partnership in this important endeavor. Thank you for helping us protect and enhance these natural treasures for generations to come!





Left (Before): This section of shoreline was allowing sediments and nutrients to flow into the lake.

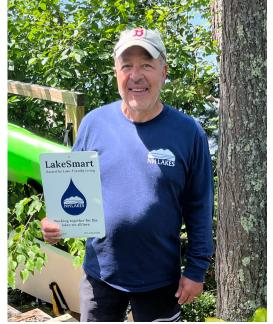
Right (After): With a few simple plantings, these homeowners were able to protect their shoreline from erosion and their lake from excess nutrients. Win win!



Right (After): Removing plants and tree roots protects septic systems. Healthy septic systems helps create healthy lakes!











# **Lakes Leadership Circle**

The Lakes Leadership Circle is comprised of NH LAKES supporters who annually contribute \$1,000 or more.

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# Meet Brea Arvidson!

Last November, Brea Arvidson joined NH LAKES as the new Director of Programs. Brea's connection to the Granite State and passion for lake science will help in our response to the urgent needs and threats our lakes face. With expertise in water quality monitoring and assessing the impact of nutrient loading and invasive species, Brea has become a driving force in the field of lake science.

#### Please join us in welcoming Brea!

She can be reached at 603.226.0299 or barvidson@nhlakes.org.

# Supporters of NH LAKES

Calendar year January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

Categories listed reflect total unrestricted contributions to support operations. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please contact us to report errors and omissions.

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# Steve Wingate Awarded NH LAKES' 2023 Morten Award for Lake Stewardship

NH LAKES awarded the 2023 John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship to Steve Wingate, Lakes Region resident and steward of Mirror Lake in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire.

"Steve Wingate has had an enormous impact on educating lake residents about the importance of caring for the environment around us," explained Joanne Huyler, one of 16 individuals who nominated Steve. "He has not only set the example but has actively assisted a generation of people in following in his footsteps."

For a listing of previous Morten Award recipients, visit nhlakes.org/awards.



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# Traveling to a Lake Near You: The CD3 Mobile Cleaning Unit!

In 2023, NH LAKES continued its ongoing commitment to safeguarding our state's precious water bodies with the renowned CD3 unit. This mobile, solar-powered unit journeyed across New Hampshire, making stops at public boat ramps statewide.

Learn more about this unit at nhlakes.org/watercraftcleaning-station.

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### Our 2023 Webinar Series

In 2023, NH LAKES offered several captivating webinars that transported viewers into the heart of our lakes, offering insights into their ecology and the collaborative efforts of biologists, nonprofit organizations, and lake management professionals in their protection.

If you missed any of these presentations or want to view them again, you can access the recordings below:

**New England Ice Harvesting** 

<u>Dragonflies and Damselflies and New Hampshire's Waters</u>

<u>Weird and Wacky - New Hampshire's Lakes and the</u> Summer of 2023

Bringing the Lake Host Program to the Lake You Love

Otterly Amazing: Dive into the Fascinating World of Otters and Our Lakes

View all recordings on our YouTube channel here.

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# What's Next for New Hampshire's Lakes and NH LAKES?

With your continued support, together we will achieve the following for the lakes we all love:

#### **ADVOCACY**

A statewide network of lake advocates, lake-minded municipal leaders, and state representatives adopting public policies and laws to restore and preserve the health of our lakes.

#### **CONSERVATION**

A statewide community taking action to live, recreate, and do business in a lake-friendly way to protect our lakes from pollution, polluted runoff water, and invasive plants and animals.

#### **RESOURCES**

A statewide community investing in lake restoration and protection, ensuring local lake organizations and NH LAKES are able to respond to the threats of today and of the future.

New Hampshire has been home to some of the most pristine lakes in the country—until now. Statewide, our lakes face devastating threats. They deserve bold statewide solutions. Together, let's be BOLD.

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**Gilbert Verney Foundation** 

The Emily Landecker Foundation, Inc.

The French Foundation

**Houston Family Charitable Fund** 

**New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation** 

The Orchard Foundation

**Putnam Foundation** 

**TOSA Foundation** 

Town Fair Tire Foundation, Inc.

The Kathleen B. and Charles R. Walgreen III Foundation

#### **New Hampshire Charitable Foundation**

- Bea and Woolsey Conover Fund
- The Enlightenment Fund
- The Lawrence and Muriel Graham Charitable Fund
- · The Enlightenment Fund
- · Elizabeth and Hollis Harrington, Sr. Fund
- Bob and Jean Murphy Fund
- Ryder Life and Liberty Fund
- Bruce M. and Sarah T. Schwaegler Fund
- Thomas P. Wright Fund
- · The Wolfeboro Fund

### LakeSmart Service Provider Partners

Our LakeSmart Service Provider Partners understand the value of clean and healthy lakes to our environment, our personal well-being, and our New Hampshire communities and economy. They are committed to doing work in a way that supports clean and healthy lakes in New Hampshire and help property owners live in a lake-friendly way.

### **Bald Eagle Partners (\$5,000)**



Belknap Landscape Company, Inc.



Advanced Onsite Solutions

### Macroinvertebrate Partners (\$1,000)

Maxfield Real Estate
Phil's Tree Service - Seacoast

#### **Zooplankton Partners (\$500)**

Christopher P. Williams Architects, PLLC EH&P Green

Goffstown Green Thumb Landscaping, LLC Lakefront Living Realty - The Smith Group Norway Hill Home Inspections

Piscataqua Landscaping and Tree Service Septic Check Inspections

Stephen's Landscaping Professionals

# Meet our Partner Organizations Lake Associations, Camps, Commissions, and Other Groups

#### DIstinguished Partner \$1,000+

Eastman Lake Community Association Newfound Lake Region Association Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association

Pleasant Lake Protective Association Rockywold-Deephaven Camps Inc. Squam Lakes Association

#### Supporting Partner \$500+

Beaver Lake Improvement Association
Camp Deerwood
Canaan Lake Association
Crystal Lake Improvement Association
Deering Lake Improvement Association
Gilford Islands Association
Granite Lake Association
Great East Lake Improvement Association
Gregg Lake Association
Lake Massasecum Improvement
Association

Langdon Cove Association
Little Sunapee Protective Association
Millville Lake Protective Association
Monomonac Lake Property Owners
Association

Northwood Lake Watershed Association Nubanusit Lake Association Pine River Pond Association Pleasant Lake Preservation Association Province Lake Association Silver Lake Association of Chesham & Nelson

Silver Lake Association of Madison Sunset Park Campground, LLC Swanzey Lake Protective Association Wentworth Watershed Association

#### Partner \$300+

Blaisdell Lake Protective Association, Inc.
Partridge Lake Property Owner's
Association
Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance
Angle Pond Lake Association
Balch Lake Improvement Association
(BLIMP)
Clough Pond Association
Country Pond Lake Association
Crescent Lake Association Inc. of
Acworth/Unity NH
Crystal Lake Association
Dublin Conservation Commission

#### Partner \$300+

Freedom Tri-Town Milfoil Committee Garden Club of Dublin Gilmore Pond Association Goose Pond Lake Association Half Moon Lake Association Harrisville Pond Association Harvey Lake Watershed Association Highland Lake Unified Association Hillsborough Conservation Commission Island Pond Association Jenness Pond Shoreowners Association Kezar Lake Protective Association Kingston Lake Association Kolelemook Lake Protective Association Lake Armington Association Lake Horace Land Owner's Corporation Lake Skatutakee Association Inc. Lake Tarleton Association Lake Warren Association Lake Wicwas Association. Inc. Lake Winnipesaukee Association Lake Winnepocket Conservation Association Lake Winona Improvement Association

Lake Winona Improvement Association
Laurel Lake Association
Lee's Pond Association
Lempster Long Pond Protective
Association

Lovell Lake Association
Mascoma Lake Association
Messer Pond Protective Association
Millen Lake Association
Mountain View Lake Protective
Association

Perkins Pond Protective Association
Pleasant Pond Association
Pool Pond Protective Association

Rocky Bound Pond Owners Association
Sand Pond Association

Spofford Lake Association Stinson Lake Association, Inc. Suncook Lakes Association Sunset Lake Association Swain's Lake Association

Ossipee Lake Alliance

Thorndike Pond Conservation

Commission

Association
Three Ponds Protective Association
Town of Belmont
Town of Brookline
Town of Deering Conservation

#### Partner \$300+

Town of Hudson Conservation
Commission
Town of Meredith
Town of Moultonborough Conservation
Commission
Town of Ossipee
Town of Tuftonboro
Town of Wolfeboro
Webster Lake Association
White Oak Pond Watershed Association
Windy Waters Conservancy
Winnisquam Watershed Network

#### Contributor \$100+

Bearcamp Pond Association
Berry Bay Association
Big Pea Porridge Pond Preservation
Association
Black Cat Island Civic Association

Broad-Leavitt Bay Association
Brown's Pasture Road Association
Canobie Lake Protective Association
Chocorua Lake Conservancy
Christian Camps & Conferences Inc.
Contoocook Lake Area Preservation

Association
Duncan Lake Association
Echo Shores Association
Forest Lake Improvement Association
Friends of Big Island Pond
Georges Mills Boat Club
Grey Rocks Protective Association
Highland Lake Protective Association
Island Marina Association
Kingswood Camp
Kingswood Lake Public Association
Laconia Conservation Commission
Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association

Lake Opechee Preservation Association
Lake Todd Village District
Lake Winnisquam Drive Association
Little Island Pond Association
Loon Lake of Freedom Association
Meredith Conservation Commission
Mirror Lake Estates Association
Mirror Lake Protective Association
Otter Pond Protective Association
Pearly Pond Association
Places Point Homeowners Association
Powwow Pond Council

#### Contributor \$100+

Rust Pond Association
Spindle Point Association
Sutton Conservation Commission
Town of Northwood Conservation
Commission

Tucker Pond Improvement Association Waukewan and Winona Watershed Protective Association

Wentworth Park Association Winter Harbor Way Community Association

Woodlands Shores Association, Inc.

# **Business and Corporate Sponsors**

Aquarion Water Company
BCM Environmental & Land Law,
PLLC
Belknap County Conservation
District
Bridge & Byron Printers/Speedy
Printing and Copying
Cormack Construction

Management Inc.

**AES Northeast** 

FB Environmental Associates
Grappone Automotive Group
Loon Preservation Committee
Meredith Village Savings Bank
New Hampshire Boat Museum
New Hampshire Rivers Council
NH Rocks/Sereno
Roche Realty Group
Rural Home Tech
SOLitude Lake Management



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