

2024 IMPACT REPORT

NHLAKES Working together for the lakes we all love.



NH LAKES

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A Note From Andrea

Dear Lake Friends,

Something unusual happened to me last year. While shopping at Market Basket, I bumped into an acquaintance who, to my surprise, congratulated me for saving pristine Conway Lake! She explained seeing on WMUR that one of our Lake Hosts had spotted zebra mussels on a boat about to launch into the lake. Not only did she understand this invasive animal could ruin the lake, but she also knew what I do for work. Being a lake-lover, she continued to share her deep appreciation for the Lake Hosts she's met around the state and the work you make possible with your investment in lake conservation here in New Hampshire.

The good news is that the work you and others are doing to restore and protect the health of New Hampshire's lakes is gaining traction. People are paying attention. And people are inspired to take action. Congratulations, and thank you.

The other big news this past year was not so positive. Lake Winnipesaukee experienced a lake-wide potentially toxic cyanobacteria bloom—TWICE. This information was picked up by **national** news outlets. Together, we're doing critical work to make our lakes more resilient to cyanobacteria blooms, and we know more needs to be done.

It is true. All news, good **and** bad, activates a growing community of lake conservationists. Thankfully, more and more people are rolling up their sleeves and learning how they can help the lakes they love.

The 2024 Impact Report highlights the critical work you accomplished this past year. Who you don't see counted in this report are the people who wanted to help their lake but couldn't. That's because of the limited capacity of both the LakeSmart Program and the 2024 Lakes Congress.

Challenge accepted!

Today, in preparation for the summer ahead, the NH LAKES team is redesigning the LakeSmart Program to improve the participant experience and exponentially increase the number of property owners learning to live lake-friendly lives.

We're also putting together the best Lakes Congress yet in a bigger venue, so we won't have to turn anyone away. Please save the date of June 5 for the 2025 Lakes Congress at the Grappone Center in Concord.

Committed to healthy lakes,

Undrea

Andrea LaMoreaux President and Policy Advocate



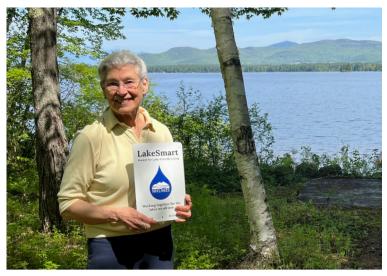
Hope is Contagious— See How Lake-Friendly Living is Spreading!

In 2024, more people than ever stepped up to protect New Hampshire's lakes—because of you. As our lakes show signs of stress, entire communities are embracing lake-friendly living through NH LAKES' LakeSmart program. And it's working!

Just a few years ago, Lake Kanasatka was in crisis. Overnight, a cyanobacteria bloom turned the water into a thick, green, smelly soup. But the people who love this lake refused to stand by and watch. They got LakeSmart. They reduced polluted runoff. They educated their neighbors. And in 2024, they earned NH LAKES' second-ever LakeSmart Community Award. They proved that when a community comes together, real change happens.

The lake conservation movement in New Hampshire is growing. Lake by lake, neighbor by neighbor, people see simple changes that add up to a big impact. This is what hope looks like. This is what your support makes possible. Because of you, New Hampshire's lakes have a fighting chance—not just today, but for generations to come.

LakeSmart 2024: By the Numbers		
383	CUSTOMIZED LAKE- FRIENDLY LIVING PLANS CREATED	1,209 SINCE 2019
198	SITE VISITS PROVIDING CUSTOMIZED LAKE- FRIENDLY IDEAS	728 SINCE 2019
46	LAKES VISITED THROUGHOUT NEW HAMPSHIRE	101 SINCE 2019
50	LAKESMART AWARDS PRESENTED TO PROPERTY OWNERS	227 SINCE 2019



Maria Gross of Conway Lake took action to protect her lake, saying, "The LakeSmart Team showed us how to truly care for our property and our lake, and we got serious about making it happen."



Thanks to your support, the Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association proudly received the LakeSmart Community Award—proof that together, we can restore and protect the lakes we love!

Thank you to our LakeSmart Partner Organizations!

Thanks to these incredible groups, more lakeside communities are learning how to protect the waters they love.



A Tale of Two Lake Host Heroes: Judy and Rena Save the Day!



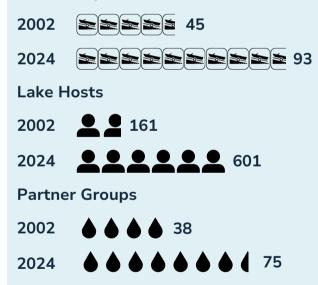
ZEBRA MUSSELS: STOPPED



CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED: REMOVED

Lake Hosts: Then and Now

Boat Ramps Covered



1,672 'Saves' at 61 Waterbodies **Since 2002**

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

- Fanwort (814) Variable Milfoil (668) Eurasian Milfoil (101) European Naiad (24) Mystery Snail (24)
- Water Chestnut (20) Curly-Leaf Pondweed (17) Zebra Mussel (2) Common Reed (1) Purple Loosestrife (1)

Judy Saved Conway Lake from Zebra Mussels

Thanks to you, Lake Host Judy Caprerella stopped a dangerous threat in 2024—zebra mussels. These invaders multiply by the millions, destroying boats, slicing feet, and choking the life from lakes. Because of your support, Judy stopped them from invading Conway Lake just in time. Your support keeps Lake Hosts like Judy on the front lines, stopping invasive species before they can hitchhike into and invade our pristine lakes.

Rena's Sharp Eye Saved Lake Sunapee from Invasion

Curly-leaf pondweed had secretly invaded Lake Sunapee last summer—but thanks to you, it didn't stand a chance of taking over. Lake Host Rena Connor spotted an invasive plant fragment on a boat trailer, triggering a rapid response that led to its discovery and removal before it could spread. This fast-growing weed can choke out native plants and disrupt the lake ecosystem, but trained divers removed them in time to prevent an infestation.

Seven Hidden Threats-Seven Heroic Saves by Lake Hosts!

Lake Hosts—our heroes! In 2024, Lake Hosts spotted and removed these invasive species from boats before they could spread to uninfested lakes. Their quick action saved these communities from the expensive and damaging effects of an infestation.

Conway Lake, Conway (Zebra mussels)

Pawtuckaway Lake, Nottingham (Variable Milfoil)

TWO

Lake Sunapee, Sunapee (Curly-leaf pondweed)

Spofford Lake, Chesterfield (Variable Milfoil)

Beaver Lake. Derrv (Chinese Mystery Snail) SAVES!

Ossipee Lake, Ossipee (Variable Milfoil) x2

COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS DURING SUMMER OF 2024

4,072

Over 1.6 million inspections since 2002

Seven Laws Stronger– Seven Ways Our Lakes Are Better Protected

Your efforts in 2024 made it a landmark year for New Hampshire's lakes at the State House! Your emails, phone calls, and advocacy made waves, helping pass critical new laws that protect New Hampshire's waters. Thanks to you, stronger rules are now in place to reduce polluted runoff, protect native plants, and safeguard shorelines from erosion. You spoke up—and the legislature listened.

Last year's victories also mean better protections against toxic cyanobacteria blooms and stricter septic system requirements to prevent pollution near our lakes. These new laws will have a lasting impact, ensuring our lakes stay safe for wildlife, recreation, and future generations. Your voice made all the difference—proving that when lake lovers take action, real change happens.

NH LAKES is committed to making lake-friendly governing the New Hampshire way, and 2024 showed just how powerful our community can be. Thank you for being part of this success! With your help, we'll keep fighting for policies that protect our lakes in 2025 and beyond.

Mark Your Calendar: Learn to Protect Our Lakes on June 5

Learn about our annual education and networking Lakes Congress conference at <u>nhlakes.org/lakes-congress</u>. Registration opens in April!

"I enjoyed how well-informed, qualified, and confident the speakers were. I truly felt like I was learning from experts in the field."

-2024 Lakes Congress attendee

Visit <u>nhlakes.org/annual-reports</u> to view full financial information.

PASSED!

HB 1304: vessel registration and boat decals

Protects federal funding for the New Hampshire Marine Patrol and provides a legal way for the state to collect boating fees that support critical programs, including aquatic invasive plant management and prevention activities.

HB 1554: cutting of native aquatic vegetation



Protects lakes from inadvertent consequences (such as algae and cyanobacteria blooms) from the unregulated cutting of native plants in lakes.

HB 1293: the use of certain fertilizers on turf



Establishes conditions when (during/before rain, on frozen ground) and locations where (near storm drains, on pavement) fertilizer cannot be applied.

HB 1103: revising the penalties of the Shoreland Protection Act



Strengthens NHDES' ability to enforce the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, which regulates the use, development, and vegetation management within 250 feet of lakes.

HB 1113: shoreland septic systems



Strengthens assessment requirements for shoreland septic systems upon waterfront property sales, reducing nutrient and bacteria pollution to waterbodies.

HB 1360: relative to emergency authority on the public or coastal waters of the state



Allows the New Hampshire Department of Safety to establish an emergency maximum no-wake zone on public and coastal waters for up to 10 days due to weather or environmental conditions.

HB 1143: control of cyanobacteria blooms



Allows the NHDES to monitor, manage, and reduce the risk of cyanobacteria blooms and to develop a regulatory process for in-lake treatments.

Scan the QR code to see the full impact report or visit impact.nhlakes.org.



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Meet Hannah Coppola!

In January of 2025, Hannah Coppola joined NH LAKES as a **Conservation Program** Coordinator. Hannah earned her master's degree in Wildlife **Conservation and Management** from Unity College in Maine. She has led programs to stop invasive species in New York, including watercraft inspections and lake surveys. Now, she's excited to protect lakes and engage communities in New Hampshire. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her dog (Echo), kayaking, and gardening with native plants.

Please join us in welcoming Hannah!

She can be reached at **hcoppola@nhlakes.org** or at 603.226.0299.

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Bayard Tracy Awarded NH LAKES' 2024 Morten Award for Lake Stewardship

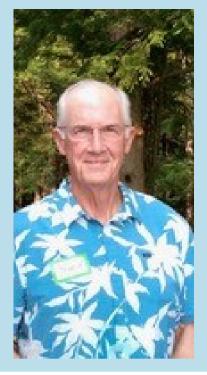
NH LAKES awarded the 2024 John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship to Bayard Tracy, Chesterfield resident and steward of Spofford Lake in New Hampshire.

Bayard has played a key role in water testing, grant writing, and the Lake Host program, while also uniting the Spofford Lake Association and the Town of Chesterfield to protect the lake's health. His efforts have extended statewide, helping other communities adopt lake conservation measures. Bayard, humbled by the recognition, expressed pride in working alongside others to protect New Hampshire's lakes.

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

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Elaine Lascher

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

In 2024, NH LAKES continued its ongoing commitment to safeguarding our state's precious waterbodies with the renowned CD3 unit. This mobile, solar-powered, waterless cleaning unit journeyed across New Hampshire, making stops at public boat ramps statewide.

Learn more about this unit at **<u>nhlakes.org/watercraft-</u>** <u>cleaning-station</u>.

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Our 2024 Webinar Series

In 2024, 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:

Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It – 2024!

Keeping the Lakehouse in the Family

Surviving the Cold: An Inside Look at Loons in Winter

Lakes & Legislation: Preview of the 2024 New Hampshire Legislative Session

Robert P. Volpe

Barbara Widger

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View all recordings on our YouTube channel here.

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Pup-lick Relations: Spreading the Word on Clean Lakes

At NH LAKES, we're not the only ones who love clean and healthy lakes—our office dogs do, too! These four-legged team members bring joy to our work and remind us why protecting our lakes matters. After all, every dog deserves a refreshing swim, a lakeside adventure, or a chance to chase sticks in crystal-clear water.

Just like you, they depend on clean lakes for fun, health, and happiness. And if they could talk, they would say "thank you!" and be wagging their tails in gratitude for your support!

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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.

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Representative Rosemarie Rung Receives the 2024 Reverend Sidney Lovett Memorial Award for Exemplary Lake Advocacy

NH LAKES recently named Representative Rosemarie Rung as the recipient of the 2024 Reverend Sidney Lovett Memorial Award for Exemplary Lake Advocacy. During NH LAKES' annual Lakes Congress conference on June 6, 2024, Peter Lovett (not pictured), son of Sidney Lovett, along with NH LAKES President Andrea LaMoreaux and NH LAKES Board Chair Bruce Freeman, presented the award.



This award is given every two years by NH LAKES to recognize an individual who exhibits extraordinary and selfless service at the local, municipal, and/or state level, bringing people together to advocate for the restoration and protection of New Hampshire's lakes through public policy.

Rung is completing her third term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. She has successfully passed legislation to strengthen penalties for environmental contamination, establish PFAS regulations for municipal wastewater facilities, address growing cyanobacteria blooms in lakes, and more.

For a listing of previous Lovett Award recipients or to learn more about this biannual award, please visit <u>nhlakes.org/awards</u>.