



LAKE SIDE

A SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF NH LAKES-FALL 2021

You're Making LakeSmart a Success

Thanks to you, LakeSmart is becoming the norm all across New Hampshire. In 2013, Bob Grazer and CJ Everson acquired a lot on Silver Lake in Madison. It's been a surprising dance with nature for Bob and CJ. The property had formerly been the site of a 120-year-old wood mill and pallet factory. Not afraid of a challenge, they set about transforming the industrial site into something more natural and in harmony with its location.

A big aha moment happened when their neighbor volunteered to mow their "overgrown weeds." After the "weeds" had been taken care of, Bob and CJ realized all the abundant pollinators and birds disappeared—the bees, butterflies, swallows, and American Goldfinches, all gone. At that point, all they could hear was the traffic noise on busy State Highway 113.

They looked for help online focusing on what they could do to help ensure



"The sounds of nature once again muffle out the traffic noise."

changes they made to their property would not harm the lake. Thanks to people like you who demanded NH LAKES do something to prevent polluted runoff water, Bob and CJ came across the NH LAKES LakeSmart program during the search and took the online LakeSmart self-assessment. The survey and follow-up visit provided some of the information they were looking for. As part of their discovery journey, Bob and CJ took master gardener training. They also joined the Ecological Landscape Alliance and discovered the Maine Wild Seed project.

With new information and resources, they set about designing a landscape for their lakefront property. "Our plan

focused on strategically locating meadows, garden plots, and adding shrubs along our 250 feet of lakefront to prevent runoff water from our lawn and driveway draining into the lake," Bob explained. "We planted clover wherever they had grass for the pollinators and butterflies. We learned about the importance of native plants, which we now grow from seed and add to our meadows. We had our best monarch butterfly summer yet with upwards of 40 to 50 butterflies. And the sounds of nature once again muffle out the traffic noise."

NH LAKES' Conservation Program Manager, Krystal Costa Balanoff, was delighted to award Bob and CJ the coveted LakeSmart Award this past summer. "Bob and CJ have transformed their property into something beautiful that soaks up runoff water and provides high-quality habitat. It's absolutely stunning."

You don't need to be a Master Gardener to become LakeSmart! What's great about LakeSmart is anyone can do it—whether you live along the lake or miles from it.

Are You LakeSmart?

Take the LakeSmart Start online survey. In 15 minutes, you'll get a personalized summary about simple lake-friendly things you can do to help keep the lake clean and healthy! lakesmart.nhlakes.org



(Above) Chick Mill on Silver Lake
(Header) Bob and CJ's View of Silver Lake today with meadows and gardens.

A Word from Our President



Your Voices Are Being Heard

This past May, I took the helm of NH LAKES as president. While I had helped sail the ship for the previous 13 years, I quickly realized there's so much more I can and must learn from you—our supporters who keep us afloat and on course.

Over the past five months, you've congratulated me on my new role. But, more importantly, you've shared with me your lake stories. I've learned what your favorite lake activities are and why you're concerned about pollution and alien plants and animals in our lakes. You've also candidly shared why you support NH LAKES and why it's important to you and your family to keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy and our lake traditions going strong.

You've humbly reminded me of the saying that goes something like, "With great power comes great responsibility." NH LAKES has been doing a good job the past 30 years—but, it's my job now to chart a more urgent course. Lake life as we know it is threatened today, more than ever.

You're among an exceptional group of people committed to ensuring all New Hampshire's lakes receive the critical care and attention they need so they are clean and healthy today, and for the future.

I look forward to continuing to learn from you.

Thank you.

Andrea LaMoreaux
President

What You Can Do Today!

- ❑ **Tune in to our free "Explore Lakes with NH LAKES" webinar series** to learn about ecology of lakes and how biologists, nonprofit organizations, and lake management professionals are working together to keep them clean and healthy. Thank you to our webinar series sponsor, Grappone Automotive Group! nhlakes.org/webinars



- ❑ **Visit our online "Article & Video Library"** for resources contributed by our staff and guests to learn about lake ecology and lake-friendly actions you can take.

nhlakes.org/article-library

- ❑ **Save the date for Lakes Congress 2022!** It's our hope to host an in-person event June 2 and 3, 2022, at the Inn at Church Landing in Meredith along beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee, and you're invited!

- ❑ **Sign up for Advocacy Alerts!** The 2022 Legislative Session will be starting soon and our lakes need you! nhlakes.org/e-news



**NH LAKES' operations are funded
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Leave a Legacy

Please remember NH LAKES in your will. To do this, simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner:

I bequeath \$___ or ___% of my estate to:
New Hampshire Lakes Association, Inc.,
17 Chenell Drive, Suite One, Concord, NH 03301.

Our tax identification number is 22-2668396. If you have chosen to include NH LAKES in your estate plans, please let us know.

Thank you!

Doing Work That Makes You Feel Good

Every year, NH LAKES invites you and others to nominate someone who is doing amazing work for our lakes for the John F. Morten Memorial Award. Meet Ann Scholz, 2021 John F. Morten Award Recipient. Ann grew up in the Midwest swimming in lakes and ponds that were muddy or green from agricultural land use—nothing like the beautiful crystal-clear lakes in New Hampshire.

Before moving to New Hampshire, Ann lived in Connecticut and saw firsthand what shoreline development can do to a lake. There, she witnessed a beautiful lake lose its clarity. “My brother lives near a lake in western Connecticut. Back in the mid-1990s my mother accidentally dropped her dentures into the lake while peering down off a dock. Because the lake was so clear, I was able to see it and dive in and retrieve it from a substantial depth. Today, that lake doesn’t come close to that clarity and has a lot of lake weeds.” Ann said. “I wanted to do my part in making sure that never happens to the lakes in New Hampshire that I spend time swimming in, and kayaking, snowshoeing, ice skating, and x-country skiing on. I’ve lived in New Hampshire for 12 years with eight here at Pleasant Lake and I’ve already seen unfortunate changes occurring.”

So, she reached out to the Pleasant Lake Preservation Association (PLPA) near her home in Northwood to see if she



“Volunteering with PLPA has created some of my closest friendships and has given me a purpose.”

could help make a difference. Ann has had a long career in runoff water management. She attended UNH to receive her Masters Degree as a Professional Civil Engineer. It was during her work with the UNH Stormwater Center when she grew passionate about polluted runoff water treatment. She realized more needed to be done to protect our lakes from the polluted water that flows off the landscape. That landscape is known as the watershed, and it helps filter all the water that ends up in a lake.

She wanted to help PLPA develop a watershed management plan—a plan she knew would be required to secure funding to complete the restoration work

needed to prevent polluted runoff from entering the lake. She worked with staff at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services who helped develop that and many other funding applications.

It’s because of her volunteer work with the PLPA that Ann was awarded the 2021 John F. Morten Memorial Award for Exemplary Lake Stewardship this past summer. And it’s easy to see why! Nine individuals submitted nominations for Ann citing the countless hours she has volunteered over the past seven years preparing grant applications, meeting with town officials, and working with state agencies to implement projects to protect the lake from polluted runoff water. Congratulations, Ann, and thank you for all your hard work to keep Pleasant Lake clean and healthy!

Nominate Someone Today!

The John F. Morten Memorial Award was created in honor of the late John F. Morten. It was Mr. Morten’s lifelong work to give generously of his time, talents, and financial resources to help protect New Hampshire’s lakes and ponds that he loved so much. **If you know someone, who, like John and Ann, is dedicated to keeping our lakes clean and healthy, nominate them by June 1, 2022, at nhlakes.org/awards.**

2021 Supporter Survey Results

Thank you for sharing your thoughts

In August, we asked each of you to tell us a little about yourselves, by answering questions like, “Why exactly do you care about our lakes?” Almost 750 of you answered our second annual Supporter Survey to tell us your reasons. That’s 25% more than last year!

Most of you enjoy our lakes by swimming, paddling, or socializing with friends and family. A majority of you also have deep ties to the lake, often stretching back generations. Because of

this connection, you realize each person’s role in protecting New Hampshire’s lakes—your comments



reflected that. We heard that “care for our lakes is critical to future enjoyment” and that “our environment depends on all of us.” You’re also sensitive to the threats facing our lakes. “Milfoil makes boating ugly.” “Cyanobacteria blooms are a grave concern.”

Thank you to all those who completed the survey! If you missed it, visit supportersurvey.nhlakes.org to tell us your thoughts.

Lake Hosts – Making a Difference for the Lakes We Love

Because of you, the Lake Host program celebrated its 20th year this past summer. That's 20 years of Lake Hosts protecting our lakes from aquatic invasive species. If you live on Bear or Pine Islands on Lake Winnepesaukee, then you know Frank Raffaele. Frank has been greeting boaters who launch at Lovejoy Sands Boat Ramp for over ten years. He is there to make sure only clean, drained, and dry boats find their way into the lake. He knows it only takes one dirty boat to change the lake so many love, forever.

Frank is one of nearly 700 Lake Hosts throughout the state who serve as our lakes' frontline of defense against the spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals. Most of the boaters he encounters know the drill. They understand why he is there and they appreciate his service, too.

Occasionally, an uncooperative boater will arrive at the ramp. This is when Frank can really shine. This past summer, one



“I was bit by a bug called ‘Lake Life.’”

boater was reluctant to have his boat inspected, but Frank knew what to do. He was able to find common ground with that boater through their shared military service—after a nice chat, the boater allowed Frank to inspect his boat.

What is it about this work that keeps Frank coming back every summer for

over a decade? Why is he giving up beautiful summer days away from family and friends to stand watch at a boat ramp? Frank explains it this way:

“I was bit by a bug called ‘lake life’ years ago. It attached to my red blood cells and never left,” Frank recalled. “It’s like a pheromone!”

Frank is just one of the many special people, like you, who understand our lakes can’t take care of themselves. The NH LAKES community is full of people who know we must act today so we can enjoy our lakes tomorrow.

Lake Host Heroes!

The summer of 2021 saw 15 saves made of aquatic invasive species going into or out of our lakes by Lake Hosts. See the list of saves and learn more about the Lake Host program and how you can get involved at nhlakes.org/lake-host.

You Can Make the Legislature Listen! Give Your Lake a Voice at the State House

Was your summer impacted by a cyanobacteria bloom in the lake? Were your plans to vacation at the lake or have guests over to the lake curtailed because of a toxic bloom? Did you, your kids, or your dog get a rash, get nauseous, or worse, after swimming in the lake? If ‘no,’ are you concerned these types of blooms might plague your favorite lake in the future? If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, here’s what you can do...



Cyanobacteria is becoming more common in New Hampshire’s lakes.

This coming 2022 legislative session, the New Hampshire Legislature will be considering whether or not toxic cyanobacteria blooms in our lakes are a serious enough problem to be investigated by a special study commission. NH LAKES will support this bill and you can help build our case. **There are three easy things you can do to make a difference:**

1. Sign up to receive the NH LAKES Advocacy Alerts at nhlakes.org/e-news.
2. Share your cyanobacteria experiences and concerns with Michelle Davis, NH LAKES Policy and Advocacy Program Manager—just email mdavis@nhlakes.org or call 603.226.0299.
3. When the time comes, write or call your legislators in support of the bill and join us at the State House to tell your story at a public hearing. Watch the Advocacy Alerts for this Call to Action.

You can help NH LAKES advocate for other critical lake issues starting in January when the legislative session opens. And don’t forget, out-of-state supporters can participate in the legislative process (even if they can’t vote in the state) by calling/emailing legislators, submitting testimony, and signing in remotely. Identify yourself as a property owner and taxpayer in the state representatives’ district and express your opinions.

Our lakes need YOU. Thank you, in advance, for helping inform our legislators that toxic cyanobacteria blooms pose a serious threat to our lakes, our health, and our statewide economy.

To see what you helped accomplish, as well as the issues that still plague our lakes, visit nhlakes.org/2021-legislative-session.